

NOAA's Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs

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Facts & Figures

FY 2019 So Far

➤ Licensing

- 31 Initial Inquiries for License Determination
- 10 New Licenses Issued
- Total Actions Completed: 16

➤ Ground Stations

- Currently: 196 Licensed Sites
- 132 Active Sites

➤ Satellites

- ~ 323 licensed satellite systems on orbit



Licensing Activities

➤ 2017 Interagency Memorandum of Understanding

- Success in decreasing processing time for licenses:
 - Average Time for License Issuance by year

2015 – 210 Days

14 Licenses Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 1 License Completed On Time

2016 – 140 Days

7 Licenses Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 5 Licenses Completed On Time

2017 – 91 Days

2 Licenses Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 14 Licenses Completed On Time

2018 – 70 Days...MOU escalation 3 times

No Licenses Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 10 Licenses Completed On Time

2019 – 57 Days ...MOU escalation 2 times (so far)

No Licenses Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 8 Licenses Completed On Time



Licensing Activities

➤ NOAA Licensing In Process

- 21 Actions are under review
- Currently: 49 licensees holding 71 licenses

➤ 15 CFR Part 960 Regulation Re-write

- Provide inputs to NOAA General Counsel based on experience with the licensing functions such as:
 - New Technologies
 - University Licenses
 - Constellations



FY- 2019 Compliance Activities

➤ 2017 Interagency Memorandum of Understanding

- NOAA applies the MOU review process & escalation timelines to the review of Data Protection Plans (DPP) in addition to licensing actions
- Success in decreasing processing time for data protection plans
 - Average Time for Data Protection Plan Review & Approval

FY 2017 – 232 Days

16 DPPs Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 0 DPPs Completed On Time

FY 2018 – 128 Days

8 DPPs Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 9 DPPs Completed On Time

FY 2019 – 61 Days

3 DPPs Over the 120 Day Time Limit; 12 DPPs Completed On Time

- Invoked the MOU to escalate 0 actions that we were able to move forward



FY-2019 Compliance Activities

➤ NOAA Compliance has so far

- Completed Fourth Quarter FY 2018 Quarterly Audit Reviews
- Completed First Quarter FY 2019 Quarterly Audit Reviews
- Completed 30 Compliance and Monitoring Inspections
- Completed 22 Pre-launch Reviews
- Number of active sites to be inspected 226

➤ Launches

- To date: 25 launches for 76 satellites
 - Total Projected Launches in FY - 2019: 35



Topics of Concern

Compliance Reporting

➤ Audit Reporting vs. Amendment Request

- Audit Purpose: Ensure compliance with laws, regulation, and license
- License Amendment: Request a change to the approved conditions for operation
 - *Includes: change in license holder, change in operational control, and deviation from operational technical parameters*

➤ Increase in violations

- Compliance has conducted approximately 5 investigations this year
- Greater reliance on annual and quarterly audits and other reporting mechanisms, which means it's increasingly important that licensees take the audits seriously and fill them out accurately and in a timely manner



New Technologies

- Live Motion Video
- Multi-sensor platforms
- Ride-Share
- Multi-country Missions



Office Goals

- Full Staff
- Lower Timelines
- Adept to new regulations
- GEA review tools
- Inspected new ground stations





Questions?

