

**Iridium Satellite LLC Testimony**  
**Federal Communications Commission Open Meeting**  
**September 15, 2005**  
**Greg Ewert, Executive Vice President**

At the outset, I would like to express my thanks to Chairman Martin, the Commissioners, and the staff of the FCC. Your tireless efforts have greatly assisted our efforts in supplying critical telecommunication resources to the Gulf Coast Region.

Further, I greatly appreciate your kind invitation to discuss our efforts in the Gulf Coast and our hopes for the future. As the Executive Vice President of Iridium Satellite, I have seen first hand the critical function that networks such as ours play in emergency planning and disaster relief.

As the tragic events in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi have played out over the past two weeks, one element that has been dramatically clear is the critical importance of immediate and universal communications following a catastrophic event such as Hurricane Katrina. In the days, hours and minutes after such a disaster, telecommunications give emergency personnel the vital ability to respond, react and coordinate their efforts. It is during these critical 'golden hours' that this ability to communicate literally determines whether or not victims are saved and entire communities survive. More than at any other time, the value of a functioning communications network is crystal clear.

Unfortunately, the very events that can so adversely affect our communities – whether they be natural or man-made, hurricanes and floods, or bombs and bullets – also disrupt the basic systems with which we communicate.

Hurricane Katrina triggered catastrophic infrastructure collapse in the City of New Orleans when levees protecting entire communities failed. The storm also caused another infrastructure breach: The entire telecommunications network for a broad swath of the Southern United States was, in the space of a few hours, eliminated. Telecom switching stations were submerged; cell phone towers tore from their moorings; wires blew down; network servers flooded; electrical power grids failed. Along the entire Gulf Coast, the communications systems residents depend on in their daily lives and turn to in times of emergency were dramatically and definitively removed from service.

In the weeks since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, telecom crews across the South have been working diligently to repair and rebuild this broken infrastructure. However, this effort takes time. Even temporary solutions such as fixed-line phones on vehicular platforms, trucked-in cell towers and hastily-wired

emergency shelters take days and sometimes weeks to deploy. And of course there is never enough equipment for all affected communities.

In the midst of this catastrophe Iridium has provided, and continues to provide, an immediate and unwavering solution. Within minutes of the disaster, those with satellite phones along the coast turned to Iridium for immediate telecom access. As those minutes turned to hours and then to days, more and more first responders found that Iridium provided dial tone and data access when other networks simply could not [Explain slides here].

As a result, over the past few weeks, we have seen our traffic increase exponentially across the area affected by the hurricane. This is not, of course, something we take comfort in. The human tragedy and the manifold destruction sadden all of us. But we do take pride in the vital role that our network serves when so many are in such great need.

The reason for this role is clear. Our network floats several hundred miles above the planet, where it is always on and always ready. We do not rely on ground infrastructure for switching, routing, or call completion. We are fault redundant to the most extreme degree conceivable. Widespread and catastrophic damage on the ground simply does not impact our network in the sky.

Iridium's reliability is by design, and our design is unique: Inter-satellite links seamlessly route calls across the constellation. Connections between our phones require no ground stations for communication. And, of course, the Iridium system is the only truly global network in existence. This means that every state, territory, and protectorate is covered by Iridium, as is, for that matter, every landmass and body of water on the planet. No matter where disaster occurs, Iridium is immediately and unquestionably available for the most critical communications. This ensures that America is served by Iridium whether disaster strikes her citizens at home or abroad. And it assists American efforts to help others in need when crisis hits on the far reaches of the globe.

This role in disaster management mirrors the one Iridium has so successfully played in military operations around the globe. The Department of Defense has seen the value of a network that can be accessed from anywhere and deploys everywhere, as rapidly as any front line forces. A large volume of US military traffic is reliably and immediately transported across the Iridium constellation each day and brought to Earth at our secure gateway in Hawaii. These calls -- like all made over the Iridium network -- are routed without relying on any foreign ground stations. This proven reliance was recognized by the Commission's recent decision to grant Iridium additional spectrum.

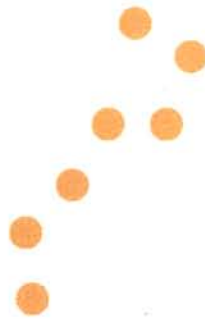
As you, the expert agency, participates in the process of reviewing communications networks in this tragedy and in preparing plans and offering advice to the Administration, Congress, State and Local Officials, I would ask that you take into account the critical role that satellite played. The larger the installed base of satellite telephones, the faster recovery operations can begin.

Chairman Martin, Commissioners, FCC Staff: I can assure you that each Iridium employee takes seriously this vital role that we play as the piece of the nation's communication infrastructure that never goes down. To that end, we continue to add additional functionality based on the lessons learned from each disaster recovery and military operation.

# The Role of Mobile Satellite Networks in Disaster Management



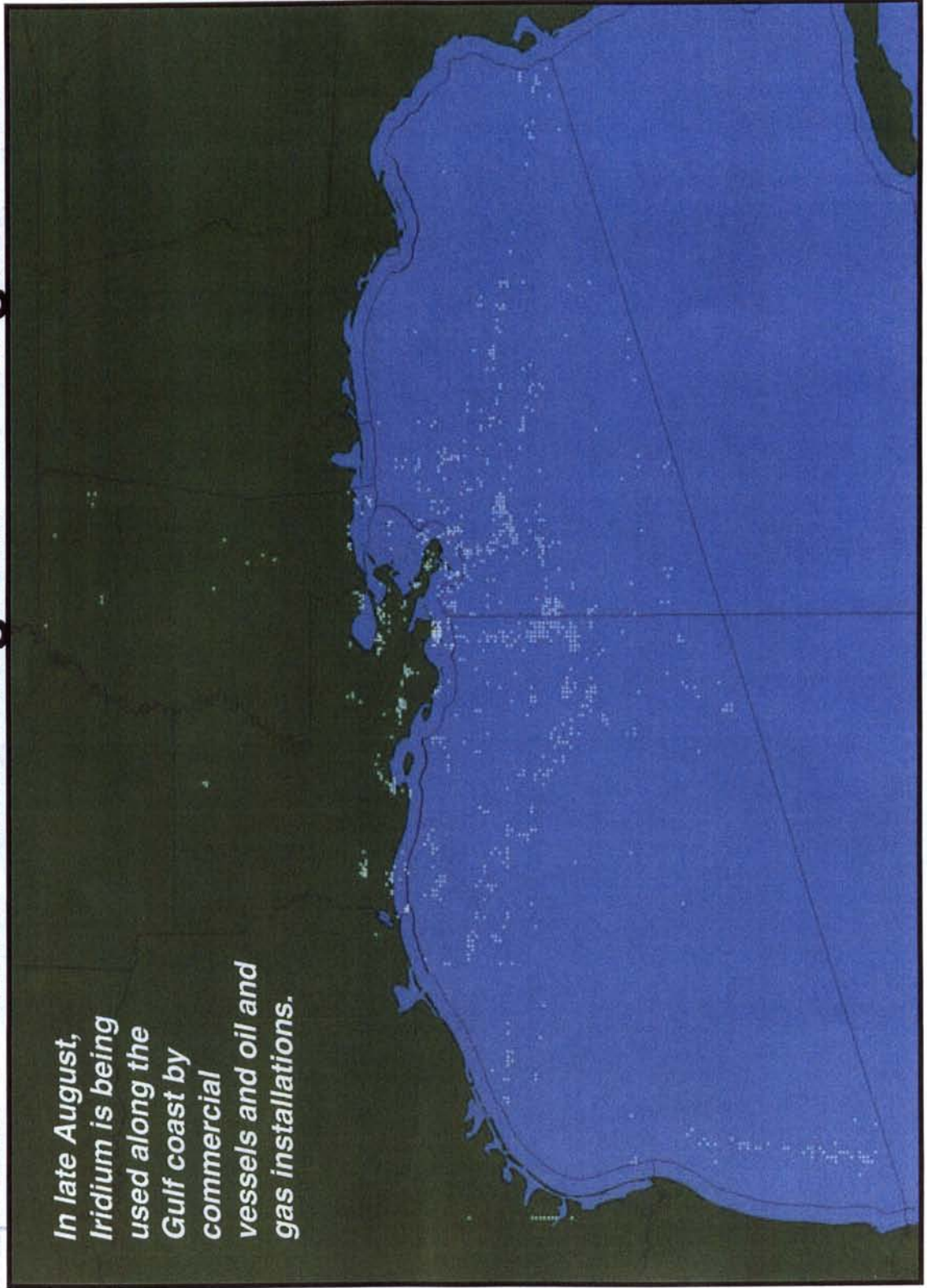
**Greg Ewert**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Iridium Satellite LLC**



**IRIDIUM**

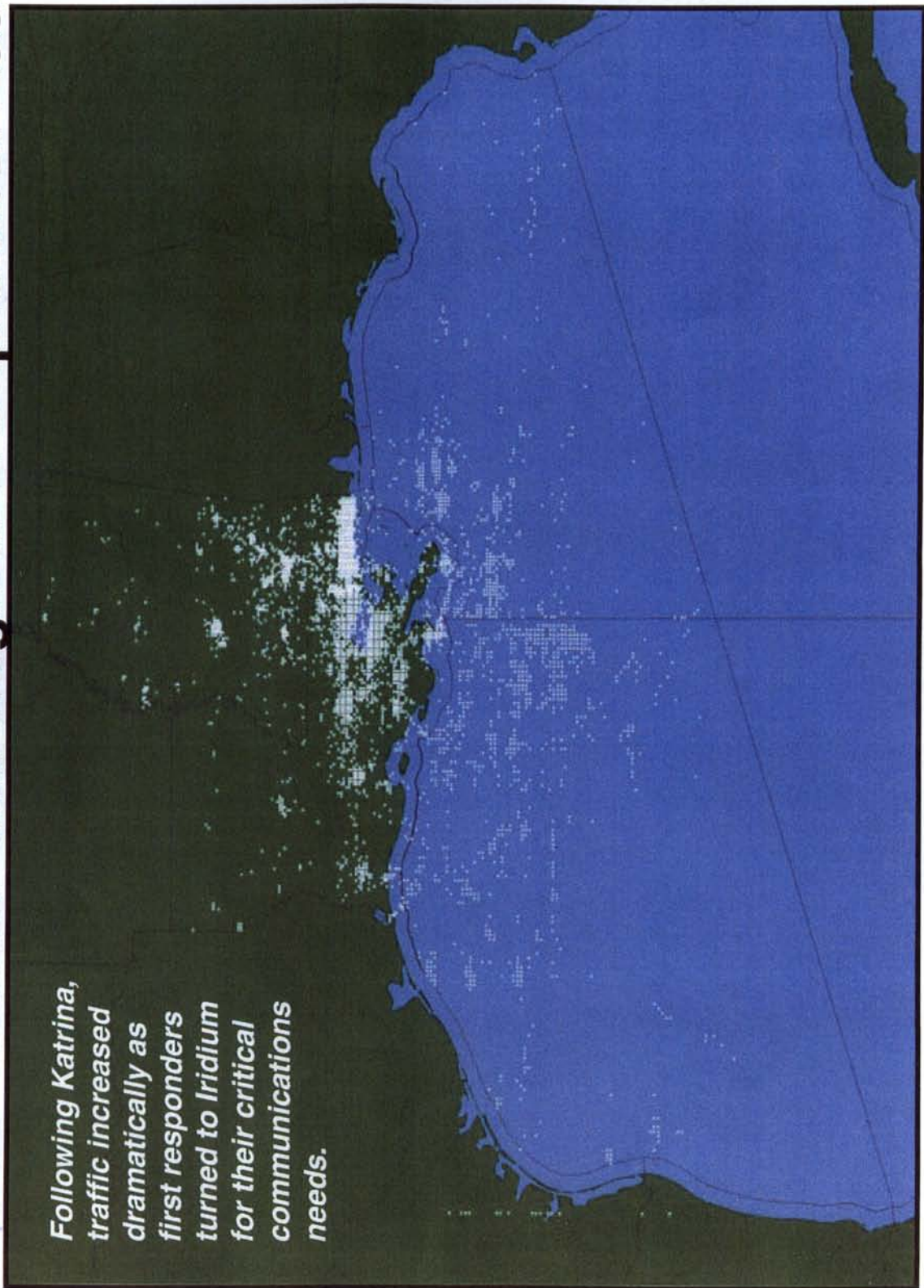
# Iridium Voice Traffic: Gulf Region: 19 August 2005

*In late August, Iridium is being used along the Gulf coast by commercial vessels and oil and gas installations.*



# Iridium Voice Traffic: Gulf Region: 2 September 2005

*Following Katrina, traffic increased dramatically as first responders turned to Iridium for their critical communications needs.*



# Iridium Satellite LLC

- Ready for immediate deployment anywhere

