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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Drifting Satellite Could Interrupt Cable TV Signals

A TV communication satellite drifting out of control thousands of miles above earth may interfere with some cable TV programming signals, including those received by AMU Cable TV. Communications company Intelstat lost control of the Galaxy 15 satellite in early April due to the satellite's systems being knocked out by a solar storm. Intelstat cannot remotely steer the satellite to remain in its orbit so Galaxy 15 is creeping toward the adjacent path of another TV communications satellite, AMC 11, that serves U.S. cable companies. While there is no danger the satellites will collide, they do operate on the same frequency so if Galaxy 15 floats close to AMC 11, it could interrupt signals to the AMC 11 satellite. AMC 11 is most at risk from now until Jun 7th with the peak risk period being between May 31st through June 1st.

According to Algona Municipal Utilities Information Director, Bob Jennings, AMU is in the same situation as most U.S. Cable TV providers. The situation with the Galaxy 15 satellite is out of AMU's control and there is a chance that AMU Cable TV customers could experience some reception problems.

Cable TV networks that could be affected include the MTV networks, Nickelodeon, the VH-1 networks, Comedy Central, TV Land, CMT, Spike, Discovery Channel, Discovery Health, Discovery HD Theater, TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, A & E, History, HGTV, Food Network, DIY, G4, Versus, Biography, Lifetime, Lifetime Real Women, Lifetime Movie Network, C Span, Hallmark, The E Network, The Weather Channel, the Showtime and Movie Channel networks, Chiller, and Bravo.

Intelstat believes the Galaxy 15 satellite will eventually lose power, ending any satellite interference.

Algona Municipal Utilities
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