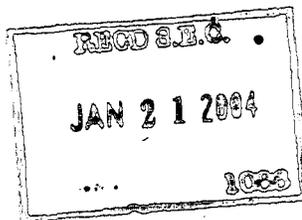




1-13533

January 21, 2004

Mr. Brian Johnson
Branch Chief
Securities and Exchange Commission
Branch of Filer Support 2
Room 1004 -- STOP/1-4
450 Fifth Street, NW
Judiciary Plaza
Washington, DC 20549



Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, NOVASTAR FINANCIAL, INC., 8.90% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share and requests immediate acceleration of registration. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A/A received on January 21, 2004. Tentative listing date – January 23, 2004.

Sincerely,