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April 12, 2004

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary of the Commission Missouri Public Service Commission PO Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Sprint's Comments in Case No. TX-2003-0379

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Sprint has reviewed the Chapter 3.545 Proposed Rules pertaining to Filing Requirements and provides the following comments.

Section (7)

Sprint submits that in many cases the "issuing officer" has designated responsibilities to a qualified representative. As such, Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (7) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(7) The name, title and address of the issuing officer <u>COMPANY</u> <u>DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE</u> shall appear in the marginal space at the bottom of the sheet. The marginal space at the bottom of the sheet shall also include the notation "Issued, _____20___; effective, ____20___."

Section (9)

Sprint notes that the proposed language ("First revised sheet canceling original sheet") differs very slightly from the language currently in use by Sprint and making a compliance filing would be burdensome without any benefit. Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (9) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(9) All original sheets and each subsequent sheet added to a tariff must be designated as an original sheet. All changes to tariffs must be designated "First revised sheet (OR PAGE) canceling (OR CANCELS) original sheet," "Second

revised sheet canceling first revised sheet," etc., and must contain reference marks denoting changes.

Section (12)

Sprint strongly opposes expanding the current cover letter requirements to include the proposed detailed analysis of each and every price change. In many cases telephone companies make multiple changes in the same tariff filing. Including the (a) current rate, (b) proposed rate (c) an increase/decrease indicator, and (d) percent change will potentially expand the cover letter summary well beyond the 100 word target. Furthermore, Sprint does not believe this information will aid Staff in its review of the proposed tariff as Staff would still be required to verify the current rate in the existing tariff. Sprint supports the requirement that the cover letter provide a clear and concise summary of the proposed tariff changes; however, this can readily be accomplished without the excessive and burdensome analysis that is part of the proposed rule.

Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (12) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(12) Subject to Missouri Revised Statutes and Commission Rules, all telecommunications companies shall file with the Commission any changes in rates, charges or rules that affect rates or charges. A proposed change shall be submitted in the form of a revised tariff accompanied by a cover letter and a copy of any customer notice sent or required to be sent as a result of the proposed change. The cover letter should be limited to approximately one hundred (100) words or less. A copy of the cover letter and any proposed change shall be filed with the Commission or submitted electronically through the Commission's electronic filing and information system (EFIS), shall be served on the Office of the Public Counsel, and shall be made available for public inspection and reproduction at the company's principal operating office or on its website.

The cover letter shall identify each proposed change, <u>OR EACH</u> <u>CATEGORY OF PROPOSED CHANGE</u>, provide a brief summary of each proposed change <u>OR EACH CATEGORY OF PROPOSED CHANGE</u>, and provide the requested effective date of the revised tariff. The summary shall identify each product or service that will be affected by the proposed change and shall identify the change in the terms and conditions that the company proposes for that product or service, including any change or adjustment in the price or fee for that product or service. For each change or adjustment in prices or fees, the summary shall identify:

(A) The current price or fee;

(B) The proposed price or fee;
(C) Whether the change or adjustment results in an increase or decrease in price; and,
(D) The percentage change in price.

Section (14)

Sprint understands that the requirement to submit separate tariff filings for different tariffs is due to an EFIS limitation. While Sprint does not oppose this rule, Sprint points out that in certain cases it is necessary to link multiple tariff filings together for common Commission action. For example, if a price-cap carrier proposes a revenueneutral rate rebalance, under this rule the company would be required to submit two separate tariff revisions: (1) reduction to its Access tariff and (2) increase to its General Exchange tariff. In order to maintain the required revenue-neutrality, both tariffs would need to be approved together (or suspended together). As such, a company should be allowed the ability to link common tariffs together.

Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (14) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(14) All telecommunications companies are required to submit revisions to each PSC MO No. as a separate filing to be assigned a separate tracking number in EFIS. <u>AT THE COMPANY'S REQUEST, RELATED</u> <u>TARIFF FILINGS IMPACTING MULTIPLE PSC MO NO. TARIFFS MAY BE</u> <u>LINKED TOGETHER FOR COMMISSION ACTION.</u>

Section (15)

Sprint notes that certain tariff filings are submitted to the Commission before customer notification occurs. Consequently, the requirement to provide the Commission with a copy of the customer notification that <u>was</u> sent is not feasible. For instance, Sprint traditionally submits its annual CPI-TS filing 45 days in advance of the effective date; however, customer notification generally does not start until 30 days prior to the effective date.

Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (15) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(15) All telecommunications companies are required to submit to the Commission with the tariff filing, a copy of the notification of rate increases sent <u>OR WILL BE SENT</u> to customers pursuant to 4 CSR 240 - 33.040(3) + 4 CSR 240 - 33.040(3) + 4 CSR 240 - 33.040(3) + 30.040(3)

<u>33.040(4)</u> and a positive affirmation in writing that the notice was sent <u>OR WILL</u> <u>BE SENT</u> to customers at least 10 days in advance of the rate's effective date.

Section (16)

Sprint submits that a 30 day advance filing for new, optional products and services is excessive and proposes a seven day advance notice requirements instead. Allowing competitors a full month to study the new offering and develop its competitive responses may severely hamper the introduction of new services. Many states allow the introduction of new products and services with a one day tariff filing requirement.

Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (16) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(16) Missouri statute 392.500, provides that the Commission shall be notified at least ten (10) days in advance of proposed rate increases to competitive telecommunications services and that the Commission shall be notified at least seven (7) days in advance of proposed decreases to competitive telecommunications services. The seven/ten (7/10)-day tariff filings for rate decreases and increases are for changes to existing rates only, <u>EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL BE NOTIFIED AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS IN ADVANCE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW SERVICES</u>. No other additional tariff changes, except as directed by Commission order or as allowed under Section 19 below, are permitted on seven (7) or ten (10) days notice. For example, changes to the terms and conditions of existing services, the introduction of new services, or the elimination of existing services still require a thirty (30)-day tariff filing.

Section (19)

Sprint's ILEC operations (Sprint Missouri, Inc) recently received competitive classification for a number of its services and exchanges in Case No. IO-2003-0281. As such, Sprint's ILEC operations should be entitled to equal treatment as competitive carriers for competitive services. As currently proposed, section (19) would prohibit ILECs with competitive services equal treatment.

Sprint recommends the following changes to proposed section (19) (additional language is underlined and in uppercase):

(19) Promotions are those service offerings that provide a reduction or waiver of a tariffed rate for a limited period of time. Promotions are allowed to

go into effect after seven (7) days prior notice to the Commission for competitive <u>SERVICES</u> companies and after ten (10) days prior notice to the Commission for non-competitive <u>SERVICES</u> companies (i.e., incumbent local exchange-carriers). Promotions must be offered under tariff, and prior notification to the Commission via a tariff filing is required. Promotions must have established start and end dates and must be offered in a non-discriminatory manner.

Section (20)

Sprint has two minor points regarding name changes. First, any requirements to notify customers should be at the company discretion. Companies are self-motivated to provide its own message for significant name changes (such as when United Telephone changed its name to Sprint). At other times, name changes are only legal in nature and have no impact to the general public and customer notification may create customer confusion. Second, Sprint notes that this entire section deals with tariff filings and any customer notification requirements are best addressed on other applicable rules.

Sprint recommends the following change to proposed section (20):

(20) In the case of a change of name, the telecommunications company shall issue immediately and file with the Commission an adoption notice substantially as follows: "The (name of telecommunications company) hereby adopts, ratifies and makes its own, in every respect as if the same had been originally filed by it, all tariffs filed with the Public Service Commission, State of Missouri, by the (name of telecommunications company) prior to (date) or the telecommunications company shall file a new tariff under the new name." Specific requirements for filings regarding company name changes are contained in Chapter 2 of the commission's rules in rule 2.060. In addition to filing the items in 4 CSR 240 2.060, applicant-must notify its customers at or before the next billing cycle of a name change and file a copy of that-notice with the adoption-notice.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself if you have any questions.

Sinceré 141