

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³

MAR 22 2002

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Petition of the North)
American Numbering Plan Administrator)
on Behalf of the Missouri Telecommunications)
Industry, for Approval of NPA Relief Plan for)
the 314 and 816 Area Code)

Case No. TO-2000-374

**RESPONSE OF SPRINT REGARDING COST ALLOCATION AND COST
RECOVERY FOR STATE NUMBER POOLING TRIALS**

COMES NOW Sprint Communications Company, L.P. and Sprint Missouri, Inc.,
d/b/a Sprint (herein collectively referred to as "Sprint") pursuant to the December 18,
2001 Order of the Public Service Commission of the State of Missouri ("Commission")
and hereby submit the following.

1. In its December 18, 2001 Order in this docket the Commission, among
other matters, directed the industry to file proposal(s) reflecting recommended cost
recovery procedures for carrier specific costs related to the Missouri state specific
number pooling trials that have been mandated by the Commission for the 314 and 816
NPAs. In that order the Commission directed that the industry submit a proposal for
recovery of carrier specific costs, including joint costs allocated to a specific carrier, by
no later than March 22, 2002.

2. Subsequent to the Commission's December 18 Order, the Federal
Communications Commission (FCC) issued its *Third Report and Order and Second
Order on Reconsideration* in CC Docket NO. 96-98 and CC Docket NO. 99-200 (FCC
01-362)¹. This FCC order addressed further refinements of numbering administration

¹ *Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in the Matter of Numbering Resource
Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, 96-98, adopted December 12, 2001 and released December 28, 2001
FCC 01-362 (2001).

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policies and procedures as well as provisions inherent in the Federal Cost Recovery Mechanism in Section 251(e)(2) of the Act, which requires that the cost of establishing telecommunications numbering administration arrangements and number portability will be borne by all telecommunications carriers on a competitively neutral basis. Included in the *Third Report and Order*, the FCC addressed federal cost recovery mechanisms for national number pooling and generally concluded that national cost recovery is appropriate when thousands-block number pooling is extended nationwide.

3. The FCC reiterated that states, such as Missouri, who have already implemented number pooling in advance of the national rollout, should proceed with implementation of competitively neutral cost recovery mechanisms.² The FCC provided additional guidance as to how the identification of both shared industry and carrier-specific costs incurred for the provision of thousands-block number pooling would occur. Specifically, for price cap carriers such as Sprint, the FCC's *Order* states that final determination of exactly what and how number pooling costs will be recoverable under those procedures will not be known until later this year.³ Sprint has already taken steps to file its national number pooling costs with the FCC and is currently reviewing the FCC procedures and may need to seek further clarification. However, in the interim, because these costs at the national level and the associated recovery mechanisms are not yet known, Sprint submits that the carrier specific state cost recovery procedures cannot be addressed with certainty at this time.

² *Id.* At ¶ 28.

³ *Id.* Beginning at ¶ 39, recovery mechanisms and procedures of costs for price cap carriers are addressed by the FCC and will occur via an exogenous increase in price cap ceilings that apply to interstate access charges. This process is currently in progress and final results are, as yet, unknown.

4. Given the current uncertainty at the FCC, Sprint respectfully requests that the Commission delay the date for the Missouri industry to submit a final proposal for recovery of carrier specific costs, including joint costs allocated to a specific carrier. Until such time as the FCC has finalized the cost allocation and recovery procedures at the national level, individual carriers are not in the position to address state specific, compatible cost recovery mechanisms. In the interim, Sprint recommends that carriers continue to identify and track their specific costs related to number pooling so that subsequent recovery may occur. In this way, no party will forgo recovery of legitimate state-specific pooling costs nor will state specific procedures implemented in Missouri potentially conflict with or duplicate the FCC's cost allocation or recovery procedures.

5. WHEREFORE Sprint respectfully requests the Commission delay the date for the industry to submit final proposals until the FCC has finalized the cost allocation and recovery procedures at the national level.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned does hereby certify that on this 22nd day of March, 2002, a copy of the above and foregoing was served by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid to each of the following:

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