

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Time Warner Cable Information)	
Services (Missouri), LLC for a)	
Certificate of Service Authority to)	Case No. LA-2004-0133
Provide Local and Interexchange)	
Voice Service in Portions of the)	
State of Missouri and to Classify)	
Said Services and the Company as)	
Competitive)	

**RESPONSE OF SPRINT
TO STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION**

COMES NOW Sprint Missouri, Inc. and Sprint Communications, L.P. (collectively "Sprint"), and hereby files its response to the Staff's Recommendation and Memorandum that has been filed in this proceeding.

1. On November 24, 2003, the Staff of the Commission filed a Recommendation and associated Memorandum ("Staff's Recommendation") that addressed pertinent issues in this proceeding. Staff's document also made specific recommendations related to the Time Warner Cable Information Services (Missouri), LLC ("Time Warner") Application for Certificate of Service Authority to provide local and interexchange voice services in portions of Missouri and for competitive classification, filed September 12, 2003. On November 26, 2003, the Commission issued an Order stating that parties wishing to do so should file comments by December 12, 2003. Sprint hereby offers its comments related to Staff's Recommendation.

2. Sprint concurs with Staff's Recommendation to proceed with addressing the Time Warner certification without further hearings. Specifically, Sprint fully concurs

in the recommendation that no hearing is required in order to merely address Time Warner's certification as a competitive carrier for provision of services in Missouri at this time. As stated previously in its comments, however, Sprint submits that a broad investigation of VoIP services in general, and the related regulatory issues, is needed. However, such an investigation should not be held in the context of a docket such as this one that concerns the application of a single carrier. This is even more evident given the fact that Time Warner has already stated that it will abide by current Missouri rules and statutes applicable to competitive carriers¹ in the provision of telecommunications services.

3. Sprint submits that there is very real need for the Commission to hold a general investigation of the issues surrounding VoIP services and feels such a proceeding should be conducted at this time in order to address and resolve several fundamental issues. This should be done so that a template can be developed which may be used in the future when other carriers, such as Time Warner in this case, seek Commission approval to serve customers in Missouri. The technological evolution of VoIP services continues and the proliferation of computer-to-phone, phone-to-computer, and computer-to-computer VoIP services being offered by carriers begs that the Commission take proactive measures to address them from a regulatory perspective. Only by conducting a generic, thorough investigation wherein all affected parties may participate and build a solid evidentiary foundation, can the Commission then objectively evaluate and resolve the myriad of issues surrounding VoIP. For this to occur, the Commission should move forward and deal with the instant certification issues related to Time Warner's case in this

¹ See Time Warner's Application for Service Authority, Case No. LA-2004-0133, September 12, 2003, ¶ 8; Also, Time Warner's Motion For Rehearing or Reconsideration, November XX, 2003, ¶ 2 and ¶ 5.

proceeding, without further hearing on those matters, and then move to address VoIP telephony matters in a generic investigation.

WHEREFORE, Sprint respectfully asks the Commission to consider its position on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the above and foregoing was served on each of the following parties by first-class/electronic/facsimile mail this 11th day of December, 2003:

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