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DATE: January 12, 2006

TO: Director, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services (Bayó)

FROM: Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement (Watts) *WTA*
Office of the General Counsel (Scott) *KS PKW* *JMS*

RE: Docket No. 050916-TP – Joint petition for waiver of carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, F.A.C., to allow Sprint Communications Company, Limited Partnership to transfer competitive local exchange customers served via unbundled network element platform (UNE-P) to Trinsic Communications, Inc.

AGENDA: 01/24/06 – Regular Agenda – Proposed Agency Action – Interested Persons May Participate

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

PREHEARING OFFICER: Administrative

CRITICAL DATES: None

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: None

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMP\WP\050916.RCM.DOC

Case Background

On December 14, 2005, Sprint Communications Company, Limited Partnership (Sprint) and Trinsic Communications, Inc. (Trinsic), both competitive local exchange companies (CLECs) and intrastate interexchange companies (IXCs), submitted a joint request for a waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. The purpose of filing for the waiver is so Sprint can transfer its customers that are currently provided service via the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P) to Trinsic without Trinsic having to obtain each customer's authorization. The Sprint CLEC UNE-P customers have Sprint IXC

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Docket No. 050916-TP

Date: January 12, 2006

service bundled with their local plan. After the transfer, customers will receive bundled CLEC and IXC services from Trinsic.

Without this waiver, Trinsic would be required to obtain signed letters of agency (LOAs) or third party verifications (TPVs) from each customer being transferred prior to providing service to protect itself from possible complaints of unauthorized carrier changes. In that case, customers for whom Trinsic did not have valid LOAs or TPVs prior to the transfer would be subject to a loss of service on the date of transfer. Thus, this recommendation addresses the waiver of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, for both local and intrastate interexchange telecommunications services.

The Commission is vested with jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Sections 364.02, 364.336, 364.337, and 364.603, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

Discussion of Issues

Issue 1: Should the Commission approve the waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, in the transfer of Sprint Communications Company, Limited Partnership's customers, served via unbundled network element platform, to Trinsic Communications, Inc?

Recommendation: Yes, the Commission should approve the requested waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. (M. Watts, Scott)

Staff Analysis: Pursuant to Rule 25-4.118(1), Florida Administrative Code, a customer's carrier cannot be changed without the customer's authorization. Rule 25-4.118(2), Florida Administrative Code, provides that a carrier shall submit a change request only if one of the following has occurred:

- (a) The provider has a letter of agency (LOA) . . . from the customer requesting the change;
- (b) The provider has received a customer-initiated call for service . . . ;
- (c) A firm that is independent and unaffiliated with the provider . . . has verified the customer's requested change . . .

Pursuant to Rule 25-24.475(3), Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is incorporated into Chapter 25-24, and applies to IXCs.

Rule 25-24.455(2), Florida Administrative Code, states:

An IXC may petition for a waiver of any provision of this Part. The waiver shall be granted in whole, granted in Part or denied based on the following:

- (a) The factors enumerated in Section 364.337(4), Florida Statutes;
- (b) The extent to which competitive forces may serve the same function as, or obviate the necessity for, the provision sought to be waived;
- (c) Alternative regulatory requirements for the company which may serve the purposes of this part; and
- (d) Whether the waiver is in the public interest.

Pursuant to Rule 25-24.845, Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is incorporated into Chapter 25-24, and applies to CLECs.

Section 364.337(2), Florida Statutes, states in pertinent part;

A certificated competitive local exchange telecommunications company may petition the commission for a waiver of some or all of the requirements of this chapter, except ss. 364.16, 364.336, and

subsections (1) and (5). The commission may grant such petition if determined to be in the public interest.

The authority for Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is found in Section 364.603, Florida Statutes, which is a section the Commission is authorized to waive.

Trinsic has attested that it will provide for a seamless transition while ensuring that the affected customers understand available choices with the least amount of disruption to the customers. The customers should not experience any interruption of service, rate increase, or switching fees.

In addition, Trinsic stated in its sample letter to customers that it will be responsible for any outstanding complaints from the affected former Sprint customers after the date of the transfer.

Further, neither Sprint nor Trinsic has any outstanding regulatory assessment fees, penalties or interest associated with its IXC registration or CLEC certification.

Staff believes that in this instance it is appropriate to waive the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. If prior authorization is required in this event, customers may fail to respond to a request for authorization, neglect to select another carrier, and lose their local and long distance services. Furthermore, staff believes that granting this waiver will avoid unnecessary slamming complaints during this transition.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission approve the waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, in the transfer of Sprint Communications Company, Limited Partnership's customers, served via unbundled network element platform, to Trinsic Communications, Inc.

Docket No. 050916-TP
Date: January 12, 2006

Issue 2: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. **(Scott)**

Staff Analysis: If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.