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DATE:

State of Florida

March 23, 2006

TO:

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

FROM:

Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement (Maduro, Bulecza-Banks, Casey,

Mann)X

Office of the General Counsel (Teitzman)

RE:

Docket No. 050889-TX – Petition for designation as eligible telecommunications

carrier (ETC) by Nexus Communications, Inc. d/b/a Nexus Communications TSI,

AGENDA: 04/04/06 - Regular Agenda - Interested Persons May Participate

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED:

All Commissioners

PREHEARING OFFICER:

Isilio Arriaga

CRITICAL DATES:

None

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This recommendation should immediately follow the recommendation for Docket No. 050542-TX, Petition for

designation as eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC)

by Ganoco, Inc. d/b/a American Dial Tone.

FILE NAME AND LOCATION:

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Case Background

On November 21, 2005, Nexus Communications, Inc., d/b/a Nexus Communications TSI, Inc. (Nexus) petitioned the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC or Commission) for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the State of Florida. Specifically, Nexus requested that it be granted ETC status in certain exchanges of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth), Sprint-Florida, Inc. (Sprint) and Verizon Florida MBER-DATE

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(Verizon) for purposes of receiving federal universal service support. This is the fourth Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) ETC petition to be brought before the Commission for consideration.¹

Nexus is a FPSC-certificated CLEC which provides a combination of local exchange, exchange access services and wireless services in certain BellSouth, Sprint, and Verizon service areas. Nexus has indicated that it has the ability to provide services utilizing a combination of facilities obtained through a commercial facilities agreement (CFA) and resale services provided by BellSouth. Upon designation as an ETC, Nexus indicates that it will participate in and offer Lifeline and Link-Up programs to qualified low income consumers. Additionally, Nexus has committed to publicize the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up services in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for those services.² Nexus has stated that it is not planning to seek high-cost universal service funding if it is designated as an ETC in Florida.

Nexus is an Ohio corporation which is authorized to conduct business as a foreign corporation in the State of Florida. Nexus is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and was formed in 2000 to provide telecommunication services. Nexus has approximately 20 authorized agent locations and payment centers in the State of Florida. Nexus is currently seeking eligible telecommunications carrier status in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. Nexus indicates that its accounts with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) are current. Nexus is not aware of any outstanding complaints or violations from the FCC.

Nexus is requesting that it be granted ETC status in 103 Sprint, 27 Verizon and 94 BellSouth wire centers. Staff is recommending that Nexus be granted ETC status in the requested BellSouth non-rural wire centers. However, because Nexus has not consummated a CFA with Verizon nor Sprint, and because Sprint's service is considered rural for universal service support purposes, and no public interest showing has been made for Sprint's territory as required by law,³ staff is not recommending that Nexus receive ETC status in Verizon nor Sprint's service area at this time.

¹ By Order PSC-05-0324-PAA-TX, issued March 21, 2005, Docket No. 041302-TX, <u>In Re: Petition for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier by Knology of Florida, Inc.</u>, the Commission granted Knology of Florida, Inc. (Knology) Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status. Knology is a certificated CLEC which provides telecom service over its broadband network. By Order PSC-05-1255-PAA-TX, issued December 27, 2005, Docket No. 050483 TX, <u>In Re: Petition for designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier by Budget Phone, Inc.</u>, the Commission granted Budget Phone ETC status in the requested Verizon and BellSouth wire centers, and approved ETC status in non-rural areas of Sprint provided Budget Phone consummates a UNE or equivalent agreement with Sprint. American Dial Tone, the third ETC petition, is scheduled for consideration at the April 4, 2006 agenda.

² See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.401-54.417 – Universal Service Support for Low Income-Consumers

³ For purposes of universal service support, Sprint-Florida, Inc. is considered a rural carrier. In accordance with Section 214(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act, "Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the State Commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest."

The Commission has authority under Section 364.10(2), Florida Statutes (2005), to decide a petition by a CLEC seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier pursuant to 47 C.F.R. s. 54.201.

Discussion of Issues

Issue 1: Should Nexus be granted ETC status in the State of Florida?

Recommendation: Staff recommends that Nexus be granted ETC status in the BellSouth non-rural wire centers identified in Attachment A. However, Nexus should not be granted ETC status in Verizon's non-rural wire centers unless it consummates a CFA with Verizon. Nexus should not be granted ETC status in Sprint's service area unless a CFA is consummated between Nexus and Sprint, and Nexus makes a showing to the Commission that granting it ETC status in Sprint's rural wire centers is in the public interest. Should Nexus decide to seek universal service high cost funds, it should be required, at the time of annual ETC recertification, to demonstrate how it has used the universal service funds within Florida, and be required to adhere to the new certification and reporting requirements as detailed in staff's analysis. (Maduro, Mann, Casey, Bulecza-Banks)

<u>Staff Analysis</u>: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules provide that carriers designated as ETCs shall, throughout the designated service area: (1) offer the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms either using their own facilities or a combination of their own facilities and the resale of another carrier's services and, (2) advertise the availability of such services and the related charges therefore using media of general distribution. See CFR §54.201(d).

Nexus has identified a total of 224 wire centers (103 Sprint, 27 Verizon and 94 BellSouth) in which it wishes to offer the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms.

ETC Certification Requirements

CFR Rule 54.201(c), addresses a state commission's responsibilities related to ETC designation, stating:

Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the state commission may, in the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the state commission, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section. Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the state commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

To qualify as an ETC, telecommunications carriers must provide nine services identified in CFR Rule 54.201(d)(1).

(1) <u>Voice grade access to the public switched network</u> Voice grade access is defined as a functionality that enables a user of telecommunications services to transmit voice

communications, including signaling the network that the caller wishes to place a call, and to receive voice communications, including receiving a signal indicating there is an incoming call;

- (2) <u>Local Usage</u> Local usage indicates the amount of minutes of use of exchange service, provided free of charge to end users;
- (3) <u>Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent</u> Dual tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") is a method of signaling that facilitates the transportation of signaling through the network, thus shortening call set-up time;
- (4) <u>Single-party service or its functional equivalent</u> Single party service is telecommunications service that permits users to have exclusive use of a wireline subscriber loop or access line for each call placed, or in the case of wireless telecommunications carriers, which use spectrum shared among users to provide service, a dedicated message path for the length of a user's particular transmission;
- (5) Access to emergency services Access to emergency services includes access to services, such as 911 and enhanced 911, provided by local governments or other public safety organizations;
- (6) Access to operator services Access to operator services is defined as access to any automatic or live assistance to a consumer to arrange for billing and/or completion, of a telephone call;
- (7) Access to interexchange service Access to interexchange service is defined as the use of the loop, as well as that portion of the switch that is paid for by the end user, or the functional equivalent of these network elements in the case of a wireless carrier, necessary to access an interexchange carrier's network;
- (8) Access to directory assistance Access to directory assistance is defined as access to a service that includes, but is not limited to, making available to customers, upon request, information contained in directory listings; and
- (9) <u>Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers</u> Toll limitation or Blocking restricts all direct dial toll access.

In addition to providing the above services, ETC's must advertise the availability of such services and the associated charges using media of general distribution.

New Certification and Reporting Requirements

The FCC's rules currently require all ETCs to make an annual certification, on or before October 1, that high-cost universal service support will be used for its intended purposes.⁴ By

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314.

Order No. FCC 05-46, the FCC maintained and augmented this requirement. The FCC now requires every ETC designated by the FCC who desires high cost support to submit the following information on an annual basis starting October 1, 2006:

- (1) progress reports on the ETC's five-year service quality improvement plan, including maps detailing progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much universal service support was received and how the support was used to improve signal quality, coverage, or capacity; and an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled. The information should be submitted at the wire center level;
- detailed information on any outage lasting at least 30 minutes, for any service area in which an ETC is designated for any facilities it owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect at least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area, or that potentially affect a 911 special facility (as defined in subsection (e) of section 4.5 of the *Outage Reporting Order*). An outage is defined as a significant degradation in the ability of an end user to establish and maintain a channel of communications as a result of failure or degradation in the performance of a communications provider's network. Specifically, the ETC's annual report must include: (1) the date and time of onset of the outage; (2) a brief description of the outage and its resolution; (3) the particular services affected; (4) the geographic areas affected by the outage; (5) steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and (6) the number of customers affected;
- (3) the number of requests for service from potential customers within its service areas that were unfulfilled for the past year. The ETC must also detail how it attempted to provide service to those potential customers;
- (4) the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets or lines;
- (5) certification that the ETC is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules;
- (6) certification that the ETC is able to function in emergency situations;⁵
- (7) certification that the ETC is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in the relevant service areas; and
- (8) certification that the carrier acknowledges that the Commission may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event

⁵ If an ETC had not previously submitted a plan demonstrating how it will remain functional in an emergency, it should do so with its first reporting compliance filing.

that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the service area.

This newly required information will initially be due on October 1, 2006, and thereafter annually on October 1 of each year, at the same time as the carrier's certification that the universal service funds are being used consistent with the Act. However, if the ETC does not seek high cost funding, this additional information filing is not required.

By Order No. PSC-05-0824-FOF-TL, issued August 15, 2005, Docket No. 010977-TL, In Re: State certification of rural telecommunications carriers pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314, the FPSC adopted these new high-cost annual certification and reporting requirements established in Order No. FCC 05-46 for all FPSC designated ETCs desiring high cost support. In the Order, the Commission noted that to the extent a Florida ETC believes that it has already submitted a report or information to us that would comply with the list above, it may certify in its annual letter which proceeding and on what date such report or information was provided to us, in lieu of resubmitting the required information. However, if a company is not seeking high cost reimbursement, this additional information filing is not required.

<u>Definition of "Rural" for Universal Service Purposes</u>

Based on a Joint Board recommendation, in 1997, the FCC adopted for universal service purposes, a definition of rural carrier that mirrored the definition of "rural telephone company" found in section 3(37) of the Telecommunications Act (Act). Pursuant to this definition, a rural telephone company is a local exchange carrier operating entity to the extent that the entity:

- (A) provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study area that does not include either--
 - (i) any incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more, or any part thereof, based on the most recently available population statistics of the Bureau of the Census; or
 - (ii) any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census as of August 10, 1993;
- (B) provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines;
- (C) provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines; or
- (D) has less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The FCC required carriers serving study areas with more than 100,000 access lines to file rural self-certifications in 2000 explaining how they met the criteria in subsections 3(37)(A) or

⁶ See e.g., 47 C.F.R. §54.313; 54.314.

(D). Thereafter, such carriers were required to file only in the event of a change in their status. On July 26, 2000, Sprint-Florida self-certified to the FCC as a rural carrier for purposes of universal service under subsection 3(37)(D) of the Act (See Attachment B). Sprint explained that it serves three communities in Florida with populations greater than 50,000, Cape Coral, Deltona, and Tallahassee. Sprint indicated that the total number of access lines served by Sprint in Florida was 2,160,161, and only 12.01% of Sprint's Florida access lines were located in communities of more than 50,000.

The FCC is examining whether it should continue to use the statutory definition of "rural telephone company" to determine which carriers are rural carriers for high cost universal service purposes. As noted in a October 7, 2004 Briefing Memorandum to Commissioners, the Joint Board sought comment on whether the statutory definition of "rural telephone company" should still be used. To date, the FCC has received comments and reply comments, but no Order has been issued.

Since Sprint is presently classified as a rural carrier for purposes of universal service, any carrier requesting ETC status within Sprint's territory must make a showing that it is in the public interest to do so. CFR Rule 54.201(c) states that "Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the state commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest."

Congress did not establish specific criteria to be applied under the public interest tests. The public interest benefits of a particular ETC designation must be analyzed in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the Act itself, including the fundamental goals of preserving and advancing universal service; ensuring the availability of quality telecommunications services at just, reasonable, and affordable rates; and promoting the deployment of advanced telecommunications and information services to all regions of the nation, including rural and high-cost areas.⁷

When initiating a public interest test for an ETC designation in a rural area, the FCC considers a variety of factors in the overall ETC determination, including a cost-benefit analysis of the benefits of increased consumer choice, and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the competitor's service offering. They also perform an examination to detect the potential for creamskimming effects if the applicant requests ETC status below the service area level. The potential for creamskimming arises when an ETC seeks designation in a disproportionate share of the higher-density wire centers in an incumbent LEC's service area. By serving a disproportionate share of the high-density portion of a service area, an ETC may receive more support than is reflective of the rural incumbent LEC's costs of serving that wire center because support for each line is based on the rural telephone company's average costs for serving the entire service area unless the incumbent LEC has disaggregated its support. The FCC also considers if the designation of an ETC will affect the size and sustainability of the fund. The

⁷ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Order, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order FCC 05-46, Released March 17, 2005.

FCC strongly encourages state commissions to consider the same factors in their public interest reviews.⁸

Annual ETC Certifications

By Order No. PSC-05-0824-FOF-TL, issued August 15, 2005, Docket No. 010977-TL, <u>In</u> Re: State certification of rural telecommunications carriers pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314, the FPSC certified to the FCC that ALLTEL Florida, Inc., Frontier Communications of the South, Inc., GTC, Inc., ITS Telecommunications Systems, Inc., Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc., d/b/a NEFCOM Communications, TDS Telecom, and Smart City Telecom will be using interstate high-cost universal service support in 2006 in a manner that complies with Section 254(e) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Facilities Requirement

As of March 11, 2006, UNEs are no longer available to meet the statutory requirement of Section 54.201(d), Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.). The Commission's prior granting of ETC status to Budget Phone, Inc. was based on UNEs meeting the statutory requirement of "own facilities," which it did since it was granted prior to March 10, 2006.

In November, 2005, staff spoke with FCC staff to request a clarification of what would occur with the ETC facilities requirement after March 10, 2006 for carriers which were using UNEs to meet the facilities requirement for universal service purposes. On March 13, 2006, staff received a call from FCC staff stating that the FCC has no official position on the issue, has no plans to act on the issue, and that states should do what they believe is appropriate.

In order to decide what course of action would be most practical and effective, staff reviewed and relied heavily on the FCC's Commissioners comments pertaining to the FCC's Order 97-157 - Report & Order In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. It is evident from the comments in the FCC order that the Commissioners were attempting to create a policy that would foster true competition in the telecommunications industry. They wanted to devise a system that would not undermine the Federal-State Joint Board recommendations in terms of distinguishing carriers who were ineligible to receive universal service support because they provided service strictly through resale, and those who attempted to provide services through facility oriented mechanisms. Accordingly, the Commissioners interpreted the term "facilities" to mean, "any physical components of the telecommunications network that are used in the transmission or routing of the services designated for support under section 254 (c)(1)." Additionally, the Commissioners agreed that carriers who offered federally supported services through the use of UNEs, in whole or in part would satisfy the facilities requirements as prescribed in 214(e).

Specifically, the Commissioners stated that it's unlikely that Congress intended to deny designation as eligible telecommunications carriers to carriers who relied on UNEs in whole or in part, since UNEs were one of three primary paths for entrance into local markets. The Commissioners commented that when a requesting carrier obtains UNEs in accordance with

⁸ See id.

Section 214(e)(1)(A), assuming it adheres to the "facility" definition, the Commission deemed the carrier to have "exclusive use of that facility for a period of time."

Staff also researched the FCC Rule as to what would meet the "facilities" requirement after March 10, 2006, for universal service purposes.

Section 54.201(d), Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) provides that carriers designated as ETCs shall, throughout the designated service area: (1) offer the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms either using their own facilities or a combination of their own facilities and the resale of another carrier's services and, (2) advertise the availability of such services and the related charges therefore using media of general distribution.

Section 54.201(f), C.F.R., states that "For the purposes of this section, the term "own facilities" includes, but is not limited to, facilities obtained as unbundled network elements pursuant to part 51 of this chapter, provided that such facilities meet the definition of the term "facilities" under this subpart.

Section 54.201(e), C.F.R., states that "For the purposes of this section, the term *facilities* means any physical components of the telecommunications network that are used in the transmission or routing of the services that are designated for support pursuant to subpart B of this part."

Although carriers, as of March 11, 2006, no longer are using UNEs to meet the facilities requirement under Section 54.201(d) C.F.R., they are using the same physical components of the network for the transmission and routing of services. Staff notes that although Section 54.201(f), C.F.R. states that facilities obtained as UNEs meet the facilities requirement, that Section also provides that the term "own facilities" is not limited to UNEs.

Staff believes that the leasing of the physical components of the telecommunications network for the transmission or routing of services, whether as UNEs or through commercial agreements, meet the statutory definition of "own facilities" for universal service purposes. Carriers are using the same physical components of the telecommunications network for the transmission or routing of services on March 11, 2006 as they used on March 10, 2006, only the terms between the two carriers have changed.

An opposite argument could be made that a narrower interpretation of the rules could be made regarding the facilities requirement. Under this view, when the CLEC previously obtained UNEs under an interconnection agreement, it exercised insufficient dominion or control over the network elements to satisfy the ordinary meaning of the term "own facilities." In other words, the ILEC's UNEs were never the CLEC's "own facilities" as a matter of fact. Rather the Telecommunications Act created the legal fiction that these UNEs were the CLEC's own facilities. Thus the UNEs were defined to be the CLEC's own facilities as a matter of law.

Continuing with this view, on March 11, 2006, the legal fiction was ended for an array of UNEs. This change could be interpreted to mean that UNE equivalents now obtained under commercial agreement are no longer defined to be the CLEC's own facilities as a matter of law.

This interpretation would suggest that the Commission should rule that the petitioner has not established that it qualifies for the ETC designation.

This narrower view takes a legalistic, definitional approach to determining which CLECs may receive the ETC designation and which may not. The result of this approach is to define the term "own facilities" more narrowly than before and this will limit the number of CLECs in Florida designated as an ETC.

This may be an approach in responding to the change that occurred March 11, 2006. Nevertheless, it is not the best approach in staff's view. Staff believes that the term "own facilities" may and should be interpreted more expansively to accomplish the legislative purposes of the ETC designation. To embrace a narrower approach would defeat those purposes, while embracing the more expansive and flexible approach would serve those purposes, maintain continuity with past decisions, promote competition, and provide choices for consumers.

Staff is aware of one state which granted ETC status to two carriers which were leasing UNEs prior to March 11, 2006, and are now leasing the components of the network through commercial agreements. The California PUC granted ETC status to Budget Phone, Inc. (Resolution T-17000) and Nexus, Inc. (Resolution T-17001) on March 15, 2006.

Conclusion

The Commission has authority under Section 364.10(2), Florida Statutes (2005), to decide a petition by a CLEC seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier pursuant to 47 C.F.R. s. 54.201.

Nexus is a CLEC that offers local exchange, exchange access services and wireless services and does not own any facilities in the State of Florida. However, as discussed in staff's analysis, staff believes that Nexus meets the statutory facilities requirement by leasing the physical components of the telecommunications network necessary to provide the nine services identified in CFR Rule 54.201(d)(1) through its CFAs.

Nexus has the ability to meet the nine-point list of services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and the resale of another carrier's services. Nexus provided data to staff indicating that less than ten (10) of its customers are being provided service through Commercial Facilities Agreements (CFAs). Nexus indicated that it has consummated a CFA with BellSouth and is in the process of completing agreements with Verizon and Sprint. Since Nexus has not completed agreements with Sprint and Verizon to serve customers in those areas, it cannot meet the FCC's requirement of using its own facilities in Sprint's and Verizon's territory, making it ineligible to receive ETC status in these respective areas. Notwithstanding, should Nexus consummate a CFA with Verizon, it should be granted ETC status in the requested Verizon non-rural wire centers. If Nexus consummates a CFA with Sprint, it should be granted ETC status in the requested Sprint rural wire centers provided it makes a showing to the Commission that granting Nexus ETC status in Sprint's service area is in the public interest.

Nexus has acknowledged the requirements of the Florida Lifeline program and has agreed to adhere to the program which provides qualified customers a total of \$13.50 in Lifeline assistance credits consisting of: \$6.50 in federal subscriber line charges, \$1.75 in federal support for states that have approved the credit, and \$1.75 which is a 50% match of federal support for having a state lifeline program requiring a \$3.50 credit under the Florida eligibility criteria. Nexus indicates that it will provide the \$3.50 credit to qualified clients, advertise the availability of Lifeline, and begin offering these services within 60 days of receiving ETC status.

Nexus commits to use federal universal support only for the provision and maintenance of facilities used for telecommunications services. Staff believes that Nexus should be required, at the time of annual ETC recertification, to demonstrate how it has used the universal service funds within Florida. Additionally, Nexus has indicated that it will abide by all Florida Statutes, Rules, and Commission Orders regarding ETCs.

Based on the above, staff recommends that Nexus be granted ETC status in the BellSouth non-rural wire centers identified in Attachment A. However, Nexus should not be granted ETC status in Verizon's non-rural wire centers unless it consummates a CFA with Verizon. Nexus should not be granted ETC status in Sprint's rural wire centers unless a CFA is consummated between Nexus and Sprint, and Nexus makes a showing to the Commission that granting it ETC status in Sprint's service area is in the public interest. Should Nexus decide to seek universal service high cost funds, it should be required, at the time of annual ETC recertification, to demonstrate how it has used the universal service funds within Florida, and be required to adhere to the new certification and reporting requirements as detailed in staff's analysis.

Issue 2: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: Yes. If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a protest to the Commission's Proposed Agency Action within 21 days of the issuance of the Commission Order, this docket should be closed upon issuance of a consummating order. (A. Teitzman, P. Wiggins)

<u>Staff Analysis</u>: If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a protest to the Commission's Proposed Agency Action within 21 days of the issuance of the Commission Order, this docket should be closed upon issuance of a consummating order.

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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	ARCHER	ARCHFLMARS0
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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BROOKSVL	BKVLFLJFDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BALDWIN	BLDWFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BELLEGLADE	BLGLFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BUNNELL	BNNLFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BRONSON	BRSNFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	BOYNTONBCH	BYBHFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	COCOABEACH	
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	CEDAR KEYS	CDKYFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	CHIEFLAND	CFLDFLMARS0
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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	CANTONMENT	CNTMFLLEDS1
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	COCOA	COCOFLMEDSO
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	CROSS CITY	CSCYFLBARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	DEBARY	DBRYFLMARS1
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	DELAND	DELDFLMADSO
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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	DELEON SPG	DLSPFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	DUNNELLON	DNLNFLWMRS0
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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	DAYTONABCH	DYBHFLPODS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	EAU GALLIE	EGLLFLIHDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	EASTORANGE	EORNFLMARSO
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	FLAGLERBCH	FLBHFLMARS0
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BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	FORTPIERCE	FTPRFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	GREENCVSPG	GCSPFLCNDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	GRACEVILLE	GCVLFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	GENEVA	GENVFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	GULFBREEZE	GLBRFLMCDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	GAINESVL	GSVLFLNW33E
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HAVANA	HAVNFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HOBE SOUND	HBSDFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HOLLEYNVRR	HLNVFLMADS1
BEL! SOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	FTLAUDERDL	HLWDFLPEDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HOLLYWOOD	HLWDFLWHDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HOMESTEAD	HMSTFLNARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	HAWTHORNE	HWTHFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	JAY	JAY FLMARSO
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	JACKSOLBCH	JCBHFLMA24E
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	JUPITER	JPTRFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	KEYSTN HTS	KYHGFLMARS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	LAKE CITY	LKCYFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	LYNN HAVEN	LYHNFLOHDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MICANOPY	MCNPFLMAROO
RELI SOUTH TELEGOMM ING DOA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MIDDLEBURG	MDBGFLPMDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MIAMI	MIAMFLWMDS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MELBOURNE	MLBRFLMADS0
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MILTON	MLTNFLRADSO

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MNDRFLLODS0 MNDRFLLWRS0 MNSNFLMARS0 MXVLFLMARS0 NDADFLOLDS0 **NSBHFLMADSO NWBYFLMARSO OKHLFLMARSO OLTWFLLNRSO** ORLDFLSADS0 ORPKFLRWDS0 PACEFLPVRS0 **PAHKFLMARSO PCBHFLNTDS0** PLCSFLMADS0 **PLTKFLMADSO** PMBHFLCSDS0 PMBHFLTADS0 PMPKFLMARS0 **PNCYFLMADSO** PNSCFLWADS0 **PNVDFLMADSO** PRRNFLMADS0 PRSNFLFDRS0 PTSLFLSOCG0 SBSTFLMADS0 SGKYFLMARS0 SNFRFLMADS0 SNFRFLMADS0 STAGFLSHRS0 STAGFLWGRS0 STRTFLMADS0 STRTFLMADS0 SYHSFLCCRS0 TRENFLMARSO TTVLFLMADS0 **VERNFLMARSO** VRBHFLMADSO WELKFLMARSO WPBHFLRPDS0 WWSPFLSHDS0 YNFNFLMARSO YNTWFLMARS0 YULEFLMARSO ALFRFLXARSO **BAKRFLXADSO** BNFYFLXARSO. **CFVLFLXADS0** CFVLFLXADS0 CHLKFLXARS0 CRVWFLXADS0. CTDLFLXARS0

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SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		KENANSVL	KNVLFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		REEDYCREEK	KSSMFLXBDS1
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WKISSIMMEE	KSSMFLXBDS1
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		KISSIMMEE	KSSMFLXDRS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		LA BELLE	LBLLFLXADS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WEIRSDALE	LDLKFLXAPS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		LADY LAKE	LDLKFLXARS0
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SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA	1 1	LAKEPLACID	LKPCFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		LEESBURG	LSBHFLXADS1
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SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		MOOREHAVEN	MRHNFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		MOUNT DORA	MTDRFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		MONTVERDE	MTVRFLXARS0
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		OCKLAWAHA	OKLWELXAPSO
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SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA	7 ± 1 ±	PUNTAGORDA	PNGRFLXADS1
		PINEISLAND	PNISFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		PTCHARLOTT	PTCTFLXADS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		SEBRING	SBNGFLXADS1
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		FORT MYERS	SCPKFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA	100	SPRINGLAKE	SLHLFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		SANANTONIO	SNANFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		SNCPVISNDS	SNISFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		SALT SPG	SSPRFLXARSO
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		ST CLOUD	STCDFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		OCALA	SVSPFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		SLRSPGSHRS	SVSSFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA	Section 1	TRILACOCHE	TLCHFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		TAVARES	TVRSFLXADS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		UMATILLA	UMTLFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WAUCHULA	WCHLFLXAPS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WILLISTON	WLSTFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		MILDWOOD	WLWDFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WINDERMERE	WNDRFLXARS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA	<i>a</i> .	WINTERGRON	WNGRFLXADS0
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		WINTERPARK	WNPKFLXADS1
SPRINT-FLORIDA, INC. DBA UNITED TEL OF FLORIDA		ZOLFO SPG	ZLSPFLXARPO
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		BARTOW	BRTWFLXA53H
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		ENGLEWOOD	ENWDFLXA47H
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		FROSTPROOF	FRSTFLXA63H
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		INDIANLAKE	INLKFLXARSA
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.	5	LAKELAND	LKI DEI XNASH
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		LAKE WALES	LKWLFLXERSA
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		TAMPANTH	LNLKFLXA99H
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		MULBERRY	MLBYFLXARSA
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.		HUDSON	MNLKFLXA85H

Attachment A

Docket No. 050889-TX March 23, 2006

VERIZON FLORIDA INC.
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.
VERIZON FLORIDAING.
VERIZON FLORIDA INC.

MYAKKA	MYCYFLXA32H
NORTH PORT	NRPTFLXA42H
TAMPAWST	OLDSFLXA85H
POLK CITY	PKCYFLXARSA
BRADENTON	PLSLFLXA79H
HAINESCITY	POINFLXARSA
PALMETTO	PRSHFLXARSA
PLANT CITY	PTCYFLXA75H
STPETERSBG	SPBGFLXS86H
TAMPA	TAMPFLXA1JB
CLEARWATER	TAMPFLXAW44
NWPTRICHEY	TAMPFLXAW44
SARASOTA	TAMPFLXAW44
TAMPACEN	TAMPFLXEDSD
TARPON SPG	TRSPFLXA93H
VENICE	VENCFLXSDS0
WINTER HVN	WNHNFLXC29H
ZEPHYRHILS	ZPHYFLXA78H

Florida

🔷 Sprint

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Jay C. Keithley Vice President

Federal Regulatory Affai #1) 9th Street Northwest Strite Washington, D.C. 20044 Voice 202 585 1920 Fits 202 585 1896 in Cokeithley @ mail sprint con:

HECEIVED

Ms. Sheryl Todd
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

JUL 2 6 2000

CC: 96-45

RE: Self-Certification as a Rural Telephone Company

Dear Ms. Todd:

In its Tenth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, (released November 2, 1999), the Commission settled several outstanding questions regarding the proper determination of a carrier's rural status for purposes of receiving universal service funds. Among the issues the Commission resolved were how to define a 'local exchange company' and how to define a 'community' as those terms are used in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

47 U.S.C. 153(37) outlines the circumstances under which a local exchange carrier is deemed to be a 'rural telephone company'. The Commission has directed that a carrier seeking to be classified as a rural telephone company file a letter certifying itself to be rural. A carrier seeking certification pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 153(37)(D) (i.e., carriers having less than 15 percent of their access lines in communities of more than 50,000), must include in its certification letter the following information: a list of all communities of more than 50,000 to which the carrier provides service; the population of those communities; the number of access lines serving those communities; and the total number of access lines the carrier serves.

In accordance with the language of the statute, and pursuant to the Commission's findings regarding the definition of 'local exchange carrier' and 'community', Sprint-Florida, Inc. ("Sprint") herein certifies that it is a rural telephone company in the state of Florida for purposes of 47 U.S.C. 153(37)(D).

According to 1990 Census data, Sprint serves three communities in Florida with populations greater than 50,000. Those communities are Cape Coral, Deltona, and Tallahassee. Based on 1995 estimates, Cape Coral has a population of approximately 86,945. Sprint serves approximately 65,809 in Cape Coral. Deltona's population is estimated to be 55,524; Sprint serves 15,752 access lines within the city limits of Deltona. Finally, Tallahassee has a population of 135,510 with 177,823 Sprint access lines in the area.

The total number of access lines served by Sprint in its Florida territories is 2,160,161. When considering the access lines serving Cape Coral, Deltona, and Tallahassee, this equates to 12.01% of Sprint's Florida access lines being located in communities of more than 50,000.

It is on the basis of this information that Sprint certifies that it is, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 153(37)(D), a rural telephone company in the state of Florida.

No. of Copies rec'd 2 List A B C D E Sincerely,

Lay C. Kirtheling