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May 7, 1997

*Benjamin W. Fincher*  
Attorney, State Regulatory

**VIA FED EX**

Ms. Blanca S. Bayó  
Director, Records and Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

970551-TC

In Re: Petition of Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership for Exemption From Orders, Rules and Regulations Prohibiting Termination of Conversations After Ten Minutes on Calls Placed From Pay Telephones Located in Confinement Institutions..

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing, is the original and fifteen (15) copies of a Petition for Waiver on behalf of Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership as captioned above.

We are enclosing an extra copy of this transmittal letter. We ask that you please acknowledge receipt thereon and return to the undersigned in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin W. Fincher

BWF:lk

cc: Everett Boyd  
Parties of Record

11 2 1997 2-201 15

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
**04561 MAY-7 97**  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In Re: Petition of Sprint Communications )  
Company Limited Partnership for Exemption )  
From Orders, Rules and Regulations Prohibiting ) Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Termination of Conversations After Ten Minutes )  
on Calls Placed From Pay Telephones ) Filed: May 7, 1997  
Located in Confinement Institutions. )

PETITION FOR WAIVER

Comes now Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership, ("Sprint"), pursuant to Commission Rule 25-24.505(3), Florida Administrative Code, and petitions the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") for exemption from those Orders, Rules and Regulations of the Commission prohibiting Sprint from terminating conversation after ten minutes on calls placed from pay telephones located in confinement institutions within the state of Florida. In support of its petition, Sprint states as follows:

1. Petitioner's name and address are:  
Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership  
3100 Cumberland Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339  
Telephone: (404) 649-5144  
Facsimile: (404) 649-5174
2. All notices, orders or documents regarding this petition should be directed to:  
Benjamin W. Fincher  
Attorney, State Regulatory  
Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership  
3100 Cumberland Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30339  
Telephone: (404) 649-5145  
Facsimile: (404) 649-5174

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3. Sprint, a Delaware Limited Partnership, filed its application with the Commission for Certificate to Provide Pay Telephone Service on April 4, 1997. Sprint's application is pending under Docket No. 970426-TC.
  
4. Upon Commission approval of its application for Certificate to Provide Pay Telephone Service, Sprint proposes to offer pay telephone services to inmates of confinement institutions within the state of Florida, similar to services it currently offers in other jurisdictions. Sprint plans to install sophisticated premises equipment in confinement institutions that will permit inmates to place outbound, collect-only calls without the assistance of a live operator. Sprint's services will be provided through telephone instruments connected to a centralized call processing unit with store-and-forward capability.

This equipment will provide a number of controls and restrictions that serve to reduce or eliminate fraudulent use of telephone services. These restrictions also provide the confinement institution with increased control over the use of the telecommunications services used by inmates of the institution.

A. The Florida Department of Corrections has awarded Sprint a contract valued at up to \$65 million to provide long distance telephone services for inmates at 53 correctional facilities, including work camps and road facilities, throughout the State of Florida. The contract provides for an initial term of three years service, with two one-year renewal options.

B. Pursuant to the Florida Department of Corrections contract, Sprint will install telephones, provide call monitoring and other security measures and equipment. Sprint will provide staff members to operate all elements of the service.

C. To ensure security, the Sprint system allows the State of Florida to assign a personal identification number ("PIN") to each inmate in order that calling can be

tracked, restricted to specific numbers, or prohibited at certain times, as may be appropriate. The system also can record or monitor live calls, and can automatically alert the called party that the incoming call is from an inmate in a correctional facility.

D. These and other security features have allowed correctional institutions in other states to prevent inmate credit card and other fraud, break up a drug ring and capture an escaped inmate who used the phone to arrange for a pick-up outside the institution.

E. Sprint will install on-site telephone equipment and provide personnel to administer and maintain the system. Sprint will arrange for the provision of all switching equipment and software necessary to operate the service and detect fraud. Long distance telephone service will be provided over the Sprint network.

5. Through the instant petition, Sprint seeks a waiver of the Commission's Rules 25-24.515(5) and 25-24.515(15) F.A.C. These rules appear to prohibit Sprint from terminating conversations in less than fifteen minutes on calls placed by inmates of confinement institutions. While it is not clear that this is the case, out of an abundance of caution, Sprint seeks the waivers as set out in this petition.

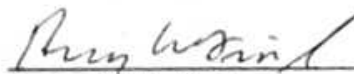
The Department of Corrections seeks to have the capability to limit such calls to a ten minute duration during certain periods and circumstances in confinement institutions. Rule 25-24.515(15) provides certain exemptions for paystations in confinement institutions, including exemption from rule 25-24.515(5), except for the audible and written fifteen minute disconnect notification. Reducing conversation time from fifteen minutes to ten minutes will not disadvantage inmates and will provide the Department of Corrections with additional control over conversation time if the situation warrants reduced conversation time.

6. In the event the Commission grants the waivers requested herein, Sprint agrees to comply with the audible and written disconnect notification requirements of Rule 25-24.515(5).

WHEREFORE, Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership respectfully requests, subject to approval of its application for certification in Docket No. 970426-TC, that the Commission:

- (1) Grant Sprint a waiver from the provisions of the Commission's Rules 25-24.515(5) and 25-24.515(15) Florida Administrative Code; and
- (2) Grant Sprint such other relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sprint Communications Company  
Limited Partnership



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