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May 14, 2004

Ms. Blanca S. Bayó, Director
Division of the Commission Clerk
& Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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COMMISSION
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Re: Docket No. 040156-TP

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Sprint Communications Limited Partnership are the original and 15 copies of Sprint's Response to Verizon's Motion to Hold Proceeding in Abeyance.

Copies are being served on the parties in this docket pursuant to the attached certificate of service.

Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by stamping and initialing a copy of this letter and returning same to my assistant. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 850/599-1560.

Sincerely,

CMP _____ *Susan S. Masterton*
COM S Susan S. Masterton
CTR _____
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 040156-TP**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail this 14th day of May, 2004 to the following:

Felicia Banks/Carris (Lee) Fordham
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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Aaron Panner/Scott Angstreich
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Verizon Florida Inc.
Mr. Richard Chapkis
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Tampa, FL 33602

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Eagle Telecommunications, Inc.
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St. Petersburg, FL 33707-1942

McWhirter Law Firm
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Tallahassee, FL 32301

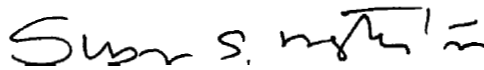
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LecStar Telecom, Inc.
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c/o Wiggins Law Firm
Patrick Wiggins
P.O. Drawer 1657
Tallahassee, FL 32302



Susan S. Masterton

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of Verizon Florida Inc. for Arbitration of) Docket No. 040156-TP
an Amendment to Interconnection Agreements with)
Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and)
Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers in)
Florida Pursuant to Section 252 of the)
Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, and the)
Triennial Review Order) Filed: May 14, 2004

**SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP'S
RESPONSE TO VERIZON'S MOTION
TO HOLD PROCEEDING IN ABEYANCE**

Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership files its Response to Verizon Florida, Inc.'s Motion to Hold Proceeding in Abeyance, filed with the Commission on May 7, 2004 and served on the parties via U.S. Mail. Sprint does not oppose Verizon's Motion, subject to two conditions:

First, the Commission should rule on Sprint's Motions to Dismiss, filed previously on March 16 and April 13, 2004, prior to ruling on Verizon's Motion. Just as "[p]lacing the current proceeding into abeyance would help to ensure that parties will be able to devote their attention to commercial negotiations without the distraction of simultaneous litigation"¹ dismissing the arbitration would accomplish the same objective. Thus, Verizon's Motion underscores the pre-maturity of Verizon's arbitration petition. If Verizon's arbitration is dismissed, Verizon's Motion will be moot because there would be no arbitration to hold in abeyance. If the Commission does not grant Sprint's Motion to Dismiss, Sprint intends to participate in the proceeding to protect its interests.

¹ Verizon Motion at 2.

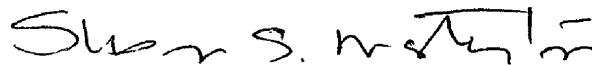
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Second, Verizon's Motion raises additional uncertainty as the availability of UNE-P, along with the availability of high capacity UNE loops and dedicated transport, after June 15, 2004.² As a condition for holding this proceeding in abeyance, Sprint submits that Verizon should be required to maintain the *status quo* at current rates for all UNEs while the proceeding is held in abeyance, without prejudice of any party to file a written request for an additional stay of the *status quo* beyond the June 15, 2004 date. The Public Utility Commission of Texas recently granted SBC's similar motion to hold arbitration of interconnection agreements in abeyance based, in part, on SBC's assurances that UNEs will continue to be offered consistent with those agreements.³ A copy of the Texas Order is attached. Verizon should be required to do the same thing in this proceeding with respect to its existing interconnection agreements.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of May 2004.



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ATTORNEY FOR SPRINT
COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

² Much discussion has occurred in the press as to commercial negotiations for UNE-P. However, Verizon NJ currently provides other UNEs pursuant to interconnection agreement arrangements.

³ Public Utility Commission of Texas, Docket No. 28821, *Arbitration of Non-Costing Issues for Successor Interconnection Agreements to the Texas 271 Agreement*, Order Abating Proceeding at 1.

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DOCKET NO. 28821

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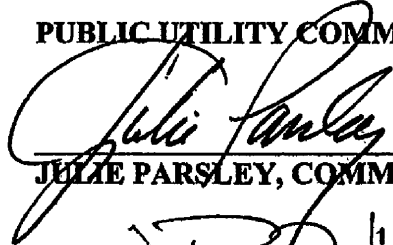
ARBITRATION OF NON-COSTING
ISSUES FOR SUCCESSOR
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS
TO THE TEXAS 271 AGREEMENT

§ PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
§ FILING CLERK
§ OF TEXAS
§

ORDER ABATING PROCEEDING

This Order grants the motion filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a SBC Texas to abate this proceeding for sixty days to enable further business-to-business contract negotiations. In accordance with the assurances made by SBC that: 1) the T2A and T2A-based agreements will be extended; 2) procedural dates will be extended by sixty days; 3) agreements will be extended for those parties not participating in this proceedings but who intend to opt-in to an interconnection agreement resulting from this proceeding; and 4) that UNEs will continue to be offered consistent with those agreements, this proceeding is abated, and a revised procedural schedule will be developed. The deadline for processing this case is extended for sixty days from the date of this Order.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS the 5th day of May 2004.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS


JULIE PARSLEY, COMMISSIONER



PAUL HUDSON, CHAIRMAN



BARRY T. SMITHERMAN, COMMISSIONER