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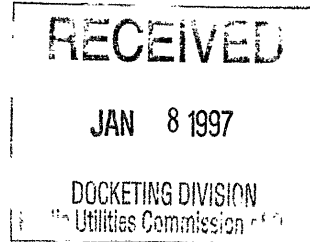


8140 Ward Parkway
P.O. Box 8417
Kansas City, MO 64114-0417

January 7, 1997

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS

Ms. Daisy Crockron
Ohio Public Utilities Commission
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0573



**Re: Sprint Communications Company L.P.'s Petition for Arbitration of Interconnection Rates, Terms, Conditions and Prices from GTE North Incorporated
Case No. 96-1021-TP-ARB**

Dear Ms. Crockron:

Enclosed for filing, please find the original and nine (9) copies of Sprint's Exceptions to Certain Decisions of the Arbitration Panel and Request for Approval of Remaining Decisions for filing in the above docketed case.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me at 913-624-6184.

Very truly yours,

M. Jenkins
Martha Jenkins

MJ:sjw

Enclosures

cc: Joseph R. Stewart, Esq. - GTE North Incorporated
(w/enclosures)

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**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of Sprint Communications)
Company L.P.'s Petition for Arbitration of) Case No. 96-1021-TP-ARB
Interconnection Rates, Terms, Conditions and)
Related Arrangements with GTE North Incorporated)

**SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.'s EXCEPTIONS TO
CERTAIN DECISIONS OF THE ARBITRATION PANEL AND REQUEST
FOR APPROVAL OF REMAINING DECISIONS**

COMES NOW Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) and respectfully submits its exceptions and seeks clarification to certain decisions by the Arbitration Panel, and further requests approval of the remainder of the Arbitration Panel's decisions. These decisions are set forth in the Arbitration Panel Report issued on December 27, 1996. The decisions of the Arbitration Panel to which Sprint takes exception are identified below and are formatted in the manner used by the Arbitration Panel in its Arbitration Panel Report. Sprint incorporates by reference into these Exceptions all of the arguments made in its pleadings, testimony, and other submissions in this proceeding.

EXCEPTIONS

Exception No. 1: B. Services Available for Resale

What GTE services should be required to be made available for resale at wholesale rates? (Issue 11)

Sprint's Exception on this point is really more of a request for clarification. On page 16 of the Arbitration Panel Report, the Arbitration Panel states that, "With regard to GTE's provisioning of public and semi-public pay phone lines, and COCOT coin and coinless lines to

Sprint, the panel is of the opinion that these services are telecommunications services that GTE sells to end users who are not telecommunications carriers."

Sprint seeks clarification that the services described above, public and semi-public pay phone lines, COCOT coin and coinless lines are available to Sprint for purchase as a pay phone customer from GTE's retail tariff.

Exception No. 2: Resale of Promotional Offerings

Sprint seeks clarification of the Arbitration Panel's recommendation regarding the resale of promotional offerings. The Arbitration Panel relies on Commission Guideline V.A.7 to recommend that "promotional prices offered by an ILEC for a period greater than 90 days to the same class of customers within a 12 month period must be offered for resale at wholesale rates." (Arbitration Panel Report, p. 17) However, there is no discussion of the offering of promotional prices for a period of less than 90 days. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act) requires LECs to make all telecommunications services available for resale without unreasonable or discriminatory conditions or limitations. § 251(b)(1). Under § 3(51) of the Act, "telecommunications service" means "the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available to the public, regardless of the facilities used." Promotions of 90 days or less fall within the definition of "telecommunications services" that are subject to resale.

Section 47 C.F.R. § 51.613(1)(2) states only that promotions of 90 days or less are not subject to resale at a wholesale rate. Sprint does not dispute that point. Under the Act, however, Ameritech must still make such promotions available for resale at the same rate as

those services are offered to Ameritech's end user customers. Therefore, Sprint requests clarification as to whether promotional offerings of less than 90 days are available to Sprint at the retail rate.

Exception No. 3: D. Rates for Traffic Exchange

What rates are appropriate for transport and termination of local traffic? (Issue 9)

As noted by the Arbitration Panel, local service guidelines authorize the Commission to adopt a bill and keep arrangement for one year (Arbitration Panel Report, p. 24). The guidelines presume that the traffic is roughly balanced from one network to another unless a party rebuts the presumption (Commission Guideline IV.D.3). It remains unclear to Sprint, however, as to what will be charged on an interim basis should a determination be made that the traffic is in fact unbalanced.

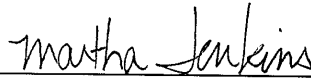
Exception No. 4: What authorization is required for the provision of customer account information to Sprint? (Issue 18)

Sprint concurs with the Panel's recommendation "that GTE be required to execute a local "as is" service change order for a customer switching to Sprint's local service if requested by Sprint" (Arbitration Panel Report p. 33). However, Sprint seeks clarification to the requirement adopted by the Arbitration Panel regarding Sprint's duty to prove the "as is" order is correct through the required LOA. Sprint would suggest that the arbitration order make clear that alternatives to the written LOA such as those provided in the FCC PIC verification rules be made available to Sprint.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, the Commission should find Sprint's Exceptions and request for clarification to have merit and it should adjust the Arbitration Panel Report accordingly.

Sprint Communications Company L.P.



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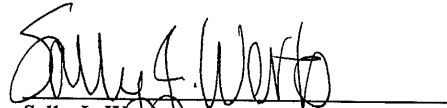
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ATTORNEYS FOR SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY L.P.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing was sent U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 7th day of January, 1997, to:

Joseph Stewart
100 Executive Drive
Marion, OH 43302


Sally J. Werts