

the term of the Council again for two years.

Since the last charter renewal, the Council has provided the Commission with critically important recommendations regarding numbering issues. During the term of the prior amended charter, the Council made recommendations on issues which included: (1) Local Number Portability provisioning flows; (2) Management and Ownership of the Centralized Toll Free Database by an LLC; (3) Use of Telephone Numbers as a Universal Service Fund Allocator; (4) review of the definition of Intermediate Numbers; (5) impact of Soft Dial Tone service; (6) costs and benefits of numbering resource optimization proposals to expand the NANP beyond 10 digits; (7) technical viability of increasing the Pooling Contamination Threshold; (8) Pooling Administration System Forecasting Requirements; (9) Grandfathered Wireless NXX Codes; (10) NPAC Change Management Administration; (11) possible "Jeopardy" for Wireless Number Pooling and Portability Deadline; and (12) Technical Requirements for the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA). In May 2002 and May 2003, the Council provided a detailed evaluation of the NANPA's performance for the periods January 2001–December 2001 and January 2002–December 2002, respectively. The Council will continue to evaluate NANPA's performance annually.

Moreover, the Council is presently considering and formulating recommendations on other important numbering-related issues that will require work beyond the term of the present charter. The term of the Council's renewed charter begins October 5, 2003 and runs through October 4, 2005.

The value of this federal advisory committee to the telecommunications industry and to the American public cannot be overstated. Numbers are the means by which consumers gain access to, and reap the benefits of, the public switched telephone network. The Council's recommendations to the Commission will facilitate fair and efficient numbering administration in the United States, and will ensure that numbering resources are available to all telecommunications service providers on a fair and equitable basis, consistent with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Federal Communications Commission.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 96–45; DA 03–2963]

Sprint Corporation's Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Virginia

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau sought comment on the Sprint Corporation's (Sprint) petition. Sprint is seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive federal universal service support for service offered throughout its licensed service area in the state of Virginia.

DATES: Comments are due on or before November 6, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before November 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Buckley, Attorney, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418–7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the of the Commission's Public Notice, CC Docket No. 96–45, released September 26, 2003. On August 29, 2003, Sprint filed with the Commission a petition pursuant to section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, seeking designation as an ETC to receive federal universal service support for service offered in portions of its licensed service area in Virginia that are served by two non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers—Verizon South, Incorporated—VA (Contel) and Verizon Virginia, Incorporated. Specifically, Sprint contends that: the Virginia State Corporation Commission (Virginia Commission) has provided an affirmative statement that it does not regulate commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) carriers; Sprint satisfies all the statutory and regulatory prerequisites for ETC designation; and

designating Sprint as an ETC will serve the public interest.

The petitioner must provide copies of its petition to the Virginia Commission. The Commission will also send a copy of this Public Notice to the Virginia Commission by overnight express mail to ensure that the Virginia Commission is notified of the notice and comment period.

Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments as follows: comments are due on or before November 6, 2003, and reply comments are due on or before November 20, 2003. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121, May 1, 1998.

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of