

before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Room 5-B540, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20054.

Pursuant to § 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which ex parte communications are Permitted subject to disclosure.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Paul Garnett,**

*Acting Assistant Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau Telecommunications Access Policy Division.*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 03-2958]

### Sprint Corporations' Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Alabama

**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 Alabama.

**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 September 5, 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 Alabama, that are served by three non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers—BellSouth Telecommunications, Incorporated, CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Northern), and CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Southern). Specifically, Sprint contends that: The Alabama Public Service Commission (Alabama 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 Alabama Commission. The Commission will also send a copy of this Public Notice to the Alabama Commission by overnight express mail to ensure that the Alabama 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](mailto: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 before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

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