

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In Re the Investigation Into U S West )  
Communications Inc.'s Compliance with ) Docket No. UT-970300  
Section 271 of the Telecommunications )  
Act of 1996. )

**COMMENTS OF SPRINT CORPORATION**

Pursuant to the Washington Utility and Transportation Commission's ("Commission") January 28, 2000 NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, Sprint Corporation ("Sprint") hereby submits its comments as to U S West Communications Inc.'s ("USWC") proposal to modify the Commission's policy statement with regard to the process for Commission review of USWC's Application under Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act").

Sprint notes that USWC's January 18, 2000 Request does not specify the extent to which the Commission's proposed procedure should be modified, except to suggest the use of workshops in lieu of the contemplated adjudicative process. Sprint objects to the exclusive use of workshops to address each issue of Section 271's checklist. Sprint submits that the Commission cannot make a formal determination as to USWC's compliance with Section 271 as required by the Act without a formal adjudicative proceeding. While Sprint is amenable to the use of workshops to address compliance issues after the Commission determines whether USWC has met its burden under the Act, Sprint suggests that the public interest and the future of local service competition in

Washington require more protection than workshops offer. Accordingly, Sprint urges the Commission to follow its previously established policy in this matter.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Eric S. Heath  
Attorney  
Sprint Corporation  
330 S. Valley View Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89107  
702.244.6541 – phone  
702.244.7380 – fax  
eric.s.heath@mail.sprint.com