

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Qwest's Petition to Amend)
WAC 480-120-146 Concerning) DOCKET NO. UT-030964
Customer Migration via LNP)
COMMENTS OF SPRINT)

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1. This filing is Sprint Corporation's response to the August 6, 2003, "Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments," in Docket No. UT-030964, concerning Qwest's petition to amend WAC 480-120-146. Sprint understands Qwest's reasons for submitting the petition and has no objection to Qwest following the local number portability ("LNP") processes documented in its Washington Utility and Transportation Commission ("Commission") approved Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions.

2. However, Sprint recommends that, while making whatever allowances (such as rule waivers) for particular companies may be appropriate, the Commission should refrain from promulgating rules about LNP processes that may limit other carrier's ability to comply with national requirements. Specifically, the North American Numbering Council ("NANC") is submitting to the FCC this month its recommendations for updating LNP operations flows. *See Attachment 1, Draft NANC Letter and Inter-Service Provider LNP Operations Flows – Narratives.* Among those recommendations are three new options that companies will be allowed to use to remove translations associated with ported telephone numbers (or "disconnection" as it is called in the proposed new rule language for WAC 480-120-146). The

options are described in Flow Step 9 of “Provisioning with Unconditional 10-Digit Trigger,” on page 17 of Attachment 1. These three options provide that the removal of the translations:

- (1) will not be done until the old Service Provider has evidence that the port has occurred, or
- (2) will not be scheduled earlier than 11:59 p.m. one day after the due date, or
- (3) will be scheduled for 11:59 p.m. on the due date, but can be changed by an LSR [Local Service Request] supplement received no later than 9 p.m. local time on the due date.

3. The proposed Washington rule provides:

When a customer changes from one local exchange company (LEC) to another and the customer retains the same telephone number via Local Number Portability (LNP) the LEC providing existing service to the customer must wait until 11:59 p.m. of the next business day following the scheduled port before disconnecting a customer’s previous service.

WAC 480-120-146 (proposed). This language limits carriers to only option number 2 under the FCC’s new rules, which will apply nationwide. All three proposed 10-Digit Trigger options provide the time necessary for a new service provider to extend the 10-Digit Trigger disconnect timeframe.

4. Sprint relies on the current FCC-approved operations flow that does not exactly match any of the NANC-proposed new options. However, having anticipated the NANC recommendations and assessed a high likelihood of approval by the FCC, Sprint is in the process of implementing one of the three proposed new options (not the one specified by the Washington proposed rule, as it happens) by the time the FCC notice and approval process is complete.

5. Sprint asks that the Commission either further revise or not implement the proposed new rule and wait for the FCC recommendation on 10-Digit Triggers. Sprint is already

designing its network to use one of the other proposed FCC 10-Digit Trigger options. Thus, it would be costly and inefficient for Sprint to abandon its efforts to-date and start-over by attempting to implement two options that provide the same capabilities for 10-Digit Triggers. Moreover, because of Sprint's existing investment and the lead time required to change the system, if the proposed rule goes into effect Sprint will need to request a waiver. Sprint suggests revising the proposed rule as follows:

WAC 480-120-146 Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another. When a customer changes from one local exchange company (LEC) to another and the customer retains the same telephone number via Local Number Portability (LNP) the LEC providing existing service to the customer must conform to an FCC-approved method and timeframe for disconnecting that service following the scheduled port.

6. Sprint has discussed its proposed revision with Qwest and Qwest does not object. By adopting this proposal the Commission would allow Qwest to adhere to its SGAT and give other companies the necessary flexibility to comply with national efforts, without making it necessary for other carriers to seek a waiver of the rule. In addition, Sprint's proposal will achieve the same policy as the Commission's proposed rule of ensuring that LNP is a seamless process for customers. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of August.

By: _____
William E. Hendricks
WSBA No. 29786
902 Wasco Street
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 387-9439

Attorney for Sprint