

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition)	DOCKET UT-971048
of Sprint Communications Company L.P.)	
for an Order Granting)	ORDER GRANTING
Amendment to Registration)	AMENDMENT TO
to Provide Local Exchange)	REGISTRATION APPLICATION
Services and Authorizing)	AND AUTHORIZING THE
Provision of Intraexchange)	PROVISION OF SWITCHED
Telecommunications)	INTRAEXCHANGE
Services)	TELECOMMUNICATIONS
.....))	SERVICES

On June 20, 1997, Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) filed a petition to amend the company's registration authority to provide competitive local exchange service in Washington.

Sprint Communications L.P. is a Delaware Limited Partnership, which is wholly owned by Sprint Corporation through its subsidiaries. Sprint is currently authorized to provide telecommunications services within the State of Washington. Sprint owns fiber optic cables, transmission electronics, switching facilities and equipment, land and buildings and other property used for the provision of Sprint's telecommunications services. Sprint provides a full range of long distance telecommunications services on an international, interstate, intrastate and, to the extent permitted, intraLATA basis. Sprint plans to offer a range of local exchange services. Sprint plans to offer Washington customers both local service and switched access services, and these services may be equipped with various features and functions. Sprint will provide customers access to 911 emergency services, directory assistance, operator assisted services, relay services, lifeline service and will also provide vertical features such as call waiting, call forwarding and Caller I.D. Additionally, Sprint may augment its service offerings and add new services and capabilities, such as switched data services.

Initially, Sprint will purchase wholesale basic local exchange services from incumbent local exchange companies and will resell those services to Sprint's customers. As the competitive local market and the Sprint customer base develops, Sprint will offer facilities based services.

GTE Sprint Communications Corporation ("GTE Sprint") was authorized to offer intrastate services in Washington via a tariff, effective January 20, 1984. In 1986, GTE Corporation and United Telecommunications, Inc., formed through subsidiaries, U. S. Sprint

Communications Company ("U. S. Sprint"), a New York general partnership.

In May 1986, U. S. Sprint requested authority to transfer GTE Sprint's operating authority to U. S. Sprint. At this time, U. S. Sprint asked to have its services, which had been supplied by GTE Sprint, classified as competitive and was granted such by Commission Order in Docket No. U-86-79 on September 30, 1986. In 1988, the assets and liabilities of U. S. Sprint were transferred to a Delaware limited partnership, U. S. Sprint Communications Company L.P. U. S. Sprint notified the Commission of the ownership change in July 1988 and 1989. In 1990 and 1992, U. S. Sprint notified the Commission of changes in ownership of the partnership and name changes to Sprint Communications Company and then to Sprint Communications Company L.P. Sprint continues the operations of GTE Sprint and U. S. Sprint.

Sprint has filed a proposed tariff which is satisfactory and will mirror incumbent Local Exchange Company (LEC) calling. Sprint has provided the information necessary to demonstrate Sprint possesses adequate financial resources and technical competence to provide the proposed services. Sprint has voluntarily committed to collect and remit to appropriate administrative agencies relevant excise taxes in support of various social programs, including enhanced 911, telecommunications relay services, and lifeline. Sprint does not propose to collect advanced payments or deposits from customers.

FINDINGS

THE COMMISSION FINDS:

1. Sprint Communications Company L.P., is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission under the provisions of chapter 80.36 RCW.
2. Sprint Communications Company L.P., has provided sufficient information to show that it is financially and technically capable to provide the services proposed.
3. It appears, upon investigation, that the request for authority to amend the application for registration and provide intraexchange switched telecommunications services should be approved.
4. In this proceeding, the Commission in no way endorses the financial viability of applicant nor the investment quality of any securities it may issue.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. After the effective date of this order and subject to the conditions hereof, the petition of Sprint Communications Company L.P., filed with the Commission requesting authority to amend the application for registration and provide intraexchange telecommunications services is hereby granted.

2. This order shall in no way affect the authority of this Commission over rates, service, accounts, valuations, estimates or determination of costs, or any matters whatsoever that may come before it, nor shall anything herein be construed as an acquiescence in any estimate or determination of costs, or any valuation of property claimed or asserted.

3. The proposed tariff as filed and amended, in Exhibit G attached to the application, is satisfactory. Prior to supplying service to the public as a local exchange carrier or provision of resold services of incumbent and other local exchange carriers, Sprint Communications Company L.P., shall file and receive permission and approval for an initial tariff with the Commission. The tariff shall bear an effective date not less than 30 days subsequent to the date of receipt by the Commission.

4. Sprint Communications Company L.P., shall not collect advanced payments or deposits without first showing that it has a satisfactory arrangement to protect customer monies as stated in WAC 480-121-040.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 9th day of July, 1997.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVE McLELLAN, Secretary