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December 15, 2004

Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-8002

Re: Docket No. UT-043013
Sprint's Comments re Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Initial Briefs

Dear Ms. Washburn:

On December 9, 2004, the Commission received a Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Initial Briefs ("Motion"). Sprint supports the Motion on the basis that it is within the Commission's jurisdiction to grant the Motion and to do so will not prejudice any Party to the proceeding.

In addition, Sprint concurs with the Joint CLECs that the FCC's imminent decision and adoption of permanent rules regarding its Triennial Review Order will bear directly on the issues in this Arbitration. It would be wasteful for Sprint and the other Parties to use their limited resources to litigate issues that are rendered moot by the FCC's decision and rules. Moreover, it is likely that the Parties' positions on the issues will change after the FCC issues its decision and that those positions may not be settled before the existing December 21, 2004 filing deadline. Sprint therefore respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Joint CLEC's Motion to extend the filing of initial briefs to January 5, 2005.

Sincerely,

William E. Hendricks, III

WEH/sm
c. service list