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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Policies and Rules	)	CC Docket No. 94-158
Concerning Operator Service	)	
Providers and Call Aggregators	)	
	)	

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SPRINT'S REPLY COMMENTS

Sprint Corporation, in its initial comments, set forth its position on the issues raised by the Commission in its notice of proposed rulemaking in this proceeding. Nothing in the comments of other parties warrants a change in those positions or undercuts the reasoning underlying those positions. Only two issues merit further comment on reply.

First, certain parties propose to require that the OSP information on aggregator phones must be updated within periods as short as seven or fifteen days after a PIC change is made.<sup>1</sup> The initial comments of these and other parties present little information on the specific problems that have been caused by delay in the updating of this information, and based on the record accumulated thus far, it is not at all clear that this problem is one that merits industry-wide rules. However, if the Commission does decide to adopt such requirements, the seven day and fifteen day requirements that

<sup>1</sup> AT&T at 7 (15 days); State of Georgia at 4 (7 days); and State of Michigan at 4-5 (7 days).

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some parties propose could result in significant additional costs in updating information on seldom-used payphones in remote locations. As Sprint discussed in its initial comments (at 5), the Sprint LECs update the OSP information on their payphones during the next coin collection visit to the payphone after the PIC change is implemented. In a busy location, these visits take place every day or two, but coin collection from seldom-used phones in more remote locations may occur only once a month. For the latter phones, a seven or fifteen day rule would entail a special visit and the attendant labor and transportation costs. Thus, Sprint had proposed allowing up to thirty days for posting revised information after a PIC change has been made. If the Commission believes that 30 days may be unreasonably long in the case of a high volume payphone or another public phone (e.g., a hotel room phone) that is visited daily by the aggregator's personnel, it could require that the updated information be posted on the next visit by aggregator personnel to the phone after the PIC change is implemented, or within 30 days after implementation of the PIC change, whichever comes first.

Only one other issue merits brief comment. MCI, alone, objects to the proposed requirement that on collect calls or calls billed to a third number, the carrier identify itself to both the party placing the call and the party paying for the

call. MCI argues (at 2) that the statute "is sufficiently clear on its face" but then proceeds to go beyond the plain words of the definition of "consumer" in §226(a)(4) to argue that, in the context of other provisions of §226, it should be the party paying for the call who needs to hear the brand, and suggests (at 3) that it would be unlawful for the Commission to require carriers to brand the call to the calling party. The definition of "consumer" in §226(a)(4) is clear and straightforward, but the clarity undercuts MCI's position: "The term "consumer" means a person initiating any interstate telephone call using operator services." The word "initiat[e]" is not an ambiguous one. Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines "initiate" as "to begin or set going: make a beginning of: perform or facilitate the first actions, steps, or stages of... ." Obviously, the only party who falls within this definition is the party who places the call, not the party who receives or is otherwise billed for the call.

Moreover, MCI offers no sound public interest argument for its objection to the Commission's proposal. Notwithstanding MCI's arguments, it is not clear to Sprint that the proposal should require any increase in call setup time, but even taking MCI's arguments at face value (MCI at 5), this would add less than one-half of one cent to the cost of each collect call, a de minimis amount. Further, MCI

argues (at 6) that it would have to "expend considerable resources re-educating consumers about accessing 1-800-COLLECT" if such a requirement were adopted. Nothing in the proposed rule would require MCI to change the customer's method of access. Consumers could still dial 1-800-COLLECT just as they do today. The only difference is that consumers would be better informed as to the identity of the carrier they are using.

Respectfully submitted,

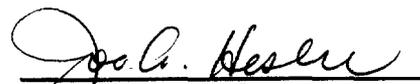
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March 24, 1995

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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