



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 TWELFTH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 02-2058

News media information 202/418-0500 Fax-On-Demand 202/418-2830 Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> <ftp.fcc.gov>

Released: August 21, 2002

COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF WORLDCOM, INC. TO DISCONTINUE THE PROVISION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES RESOLD ON THE SPRINT PCS NETWORK

WC Docket No. 02-215

Comments due: September 4, 2002

On August 9, 2002, WorldCom, Inc. ("WorldCom"), on behalf of certain of its subsidiaries that provide mobile wireless services, WorldCom Wireless, Inc. and MCI Wireless, Inc., filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), requesting authority under section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules,² to discontinue WorldCom's offering of resold mobile wireless services carried on the Sprint PCS ("Sprint") network to some of WorldCom's mobile wireless resale customers provided service via the Sprint network.

WorldCom requests discontinuance authority because it is in the process of exiting the business of providing resold wireless communications services, and it intends not to provide resold mobile wireless service carried on the Sprint network to customers after September 12, 2002. WorldCom states that substitute services are available from other mobile telephony providers, as well as Sprint, in the relevant regions.³ Thus, WorldCom asserts, the public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by this discontinuance.

WorldCom requests discontinuance authority with respect to approximately 55,000 subscribers throughout the continental United States for which Sprint is the underlying carrier.⁴ WorldCom states

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

² 47 C.F.R. § 63.71. Under the Commission's rules, commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) providers are not required to seek authority to discontinue service. See 47 C.F.R. § 20.15(b)(3). WorldCom states that it filed the subject application "both out of an overabundance of caution" and to provide customers "greater notice than is required by the Commission's rules." Section 63.71 Application, filed August 9, 2002, by WorldCom Inc., at 1 n.1 ("Section 63.71 Application"). For further information on procedures regarding Section 214, please visit http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/other_adjud.

³ The letter that has been sent to WorldCom's customers utilizing the Sprint network states that WorldCom has reached an agreement with Liberty Wireless to assist in transitioning its customers to a new wireless service. The transition to Liberty Wireless, however, is not automatic. The customer has to contact Liberty Wireless and complete Liberty Wireless' application process.

⁴ WorldCom's Section 63.71 Application states that this discontinuance of service will affect the "United States, except Alaska and Hawaii." Section 63.71 Application, at 2. Through subsequent conversations with WorldCom, it

that the customers have been sent notification of its intent to discontinue service and will have until September 12, 2002 to find another wireless provider before losing service. WorldCom indicates that the decision to exit this aspect of its wireless communications services business will not impact any other service that these or any other customers currently receive from WorldCom, MCI or any other WorldCom affiliate.

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(c), the application will be deemed to be automatically granted on the thirty-first (31st) day after the release date of this notice, unless the Commission has notified WorldCom that the grant will not be automatically effective. The Commission will normally authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

This proceeding is considered a "permit but disclose" proceeding for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁵ Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules,⁶ interested parties may file comments on or before **September 4, 2002**. Such comments should refer to **DA 02-2058** and **WC Dkt. No. 02-215**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

Under the Commission's current procedures for the submission of filings and other documents,⁷ submissions in this matter may be filed electronically or by paper.

- **If filed by ECFS,**⁸ comments shall be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.
- **If filed by paper,** the original and four copies of each filing must be filed by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper

has been determined that the discontinuance of service to customers utilizing the Sprint network affects the continental United States and will not affect any United States territories.

⁵ See generally 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 - 1.1216.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419

⁷ See *In the Matter of Implementation of Interim Electronic Filing Procedures for Certain Commission Filings*, Order, FCC 01-345 (rel. Nov. 29, 2001); see also FCC Announces a New Filing Location for Paper Documents and a New Fax Number for General Correspondence, *Public Notice*, DA 01-2919 (rel. Dec. 14, 2001).

⁸ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998).

filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

One copy of each pleading must be delivered electronically, by e-mail or facsimile, or if delivered as paper copy, by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (according to the procedures set forth above for paper filings) to: (1) the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, at qualexint@aol.com or (202) 863-2898 (facsimile); (2) Lauren Kravetz Patrich, Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at lkravetz@fcc.gov, or (202) 418-7447 (facsimile); and (3) Erin McGrath, Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at emcgrath@fcc.gov or (202) 418-7447 (facsimile).

Filings and comments may be obtained from ECFS, which is accessible through the Commission's website, and are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

For further information, contact Lauren Kravetz Patrich or Erin McGrath, Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-7240.

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