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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Room TWB-204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Communication**

Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local
Exchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 01-338

Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications
Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98

Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications
Capability, CC Docket No. 98-147

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, January 31, 2003, Vonya McCann, Dick Juhnke, and I met on behalf of Sprint Corporation with Commissioner Kevin Martin and his Senior Legal Advisor, Daniel Gonzalez.

Sprint explained that loops remain a bottleneck, and that CLECs are impaired without high-capacity loops or access to customers served behind DLCs. Sprint also pointed out that, based on its own experience, competitors lack viable alternatives to BOC transport even in large metropolitan areas. Sprint further argued that, particularly since wireless carriers are seen as intermodal local competitors to wireline, they should be allowed to utilize UNE transport between their switches and cell sites.

With respect to local switching, Sprint noted its preference for facilities-based competition and its view that UNE-P should not be regarded as a permanent fixture on the local competition landscape. However, Sprint explained that competitive carriers need time to develop and fund alternative platforms and, in the meantime, need UNE-P to satisfy their customers' desire for bundled offerings that include local service. Sprint suggested three years would be reasonable for this purpose, and that a decision that maintains UNE-P for this period would benefit the entire industry by providing needed regulatory certainty.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, we are filing electronic copies of this notice for addition to these dockets.

Sincerely,

John E. Benedict

cc: Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Daniel Gonzalez