

BellSouth Corporation
Suite 900
1133 -21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-3351

karen.possner@bellsouth.com

Karen B. Possner
Vice President-National Security
and Strategic Policy

202 453 4160
Fax 202 463 4637

June 23, 2005

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ***In the Matter of Nextel Communications, Inc. and Sprint Corporation
Applications to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations
WT Docket No. 05-63***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

BellSouth Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries BellSouth Wireless Cable, Inc. and South Florida Television, Inc. (collectively, "BellSouth") take no position on the applications in this proceeding, but submit this letter to address Community Technology Centers' Network's ("CTCNet") claim that BellSouth is "warehousing" its 2.5 GHz spectrum holdings "right now."¹ This assertion is both unsupported and untrue.

BellSouth has made and currently is making commercial use of its BRS and EBS spectrum. In Comments filed in WT Docket No. 03-66 on January 10, 2005,² BellSouth showed that "since initially entering the BRS/EBS industry in 1996, BellSouth has expended hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire and design BRS/EBS systems, install equipment and provide commercial and educational services, and to convert its analog video systems to digital video systems."³

¹ See Further Comments of Community Technology Centers' Network Regarding Sprint & Nextel Submissions of Responses to FCC Interrogatories filed June 9, 2005 ("Further Comments") at 5, n.7.

² See Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 04-135, 19 FCC Rcd 14165 (2004). BellSouth has actively participated in this proceeding as an advocate for flexibility and rapid deployment of advanced wireless services in the BRS/EBS band.

³ Comments of BellSouth at 2.

In addition, in 2004 BellSouth conducted a wide-ranging wireless broadband access trial in the Atlanta, Georgia market using BRS spectrum.⁴ The Atlanta trial was part of a larger effort to study wireless broadband technology on a number of wireless platforms that included trials in the Daytona Beach and Palatka, Florida markets. These trials tested coverage, capacity, reliability, throughput and customer self-installation and verified that wireless broadband technology can be used to provide service in a consumer-friendly manner.⁵

Two days before CTCNet filed its Further Comments, BellSouth publicly announced plans to use its BRS spectrum to deploy wireless broadband service in the Athens, Georgia market in August 2005.⁶ According to BellSouth's press release:

Wireless broadband technology is designed to serve as an alternative means of high-speed connectivity in areas such as rural communities, where traditional wireline broadband cannot be efficiently deployed. BellSouth's wireless broadband service will also fill in urban/suburban areas where ADSL may not be available.⁷

Given this history and these future plans, it is clear that BellSouth is not "warehousing" its 2.5 GHz spectrum.⁸

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Attached

⁴ *See id.*

⁵ *See* Comments of BellSouth filed September 8, 2003 in WT Docket No. 03-66.

⁶ *See* Press Release, "BellSouth to Launch Wireless Broadband in August," released June 7, 2005.

A copy is attached.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ CTCNet's "average bandwidth" statistics clearly overstate the serviceable population covered by BRS/EBS licenses and leases. *See* Response to Request for Information filed by Sprint and Nextel on May 20, 2005, Answer to Interrogatory No. 25 at 1-2.

BellSouth to Launch Wireless Broadband in August

Market Pilot of Pre-WiMax System Will Take Place in Athens, Ga.

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2005

SUPERCOMM tradeshow, CHICAGO - June 7, 2005 - BellSouth (NYSE: BLS) today announced that beginning this August, it will deploy wireless broadband service to select areas of Athens, Ga. with extensions of its wireless broadband service to several Florida cities later in the year.

The new BellSouth® FastAccess® Internet Service will provide Internet access to customers at broadband speeds. The system transmits signals between local radio towers and a small non-line-of-sight desktop subscriber modem that plugs into a desktop or laptop computer, or a local router. The wireless broadband modem transmits data to and from nearby radio towers or tall structures using BellSouth licensed BRS and WCS radio spectrum instead of traditional landline wires. BellSouth has contracted with Navini Networks for their pre-WiMax, Ripwave equipment for this wireless broadband deployment.

BellSouth's latest wireless broadband initiative is the next logical step after a technical trial," said Keith Cowan, president - marketing and product management, BellSouth. "As BellSouth's focus continues its shift to broadband and wireless, we are excited about the potential of wireless broadband as an alternative high-speed Internet solution. Wireless broadband complements BellSouth's wireline strategy and aids in our efforts to continuously extend the reach of our broadband service." Wireless broadband technology is designed to serve as an alternative means of high-speed connectivity in areas such as rural communities, where traditional wireline broadband cannot be efficiently deployed. BellSouth's wireless broadband service will also fill in urban/suburban areas where ADSL may not be available.

In addition, BellSouth will deploy wireless broadband service in Athens, Ga., to meet the needs of a diverse and younger population, including college students. BellSouth will offer students in Athens the ability to suspend their wireless broadband service between May and July, when many leave town for the summer. During that time, students will pay a nominal charge per month to maintain their account and can re-activate service at no charge upon their return to Athens.

"BellSouth's commitment is to the customer," Cowan said. "We will continue to provide customers with the flexibility they need - and the convenience and low price that they have come to expect from BellSouth."

BellSouth residential and business customers will be able to choose from various wireless broadband service options, ranging in price, features and speeds. BellSouth has been conducting technical trials using Navini's Ripwave™ system in Daytona and Palatka, Fla. BellSouth has been testing wireless broadband technology since 2000, beginning with the company's first-generation trial in Houma, La.

For more information contact:

Nadine Randall, BellSouth
nadine.randall@bellsouth.com
404-829-8724

About BellSouth Corporation

BellSouth Corporation is a Fortune 100 communications company headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. BellSouth has joint control and 40 percent ownership of Cingular Wireless, the nation's largest wireless voice and data provider with more than 50 million customers.

Backed by award winning customer service, BellSouth offers the most comprehensive and innovative package of voice and data services available in the market. Through BellSouth Answers®, residential and small business customers can bundle their local and long distance service with dial-up and high-speed DSL Internet access, satellite television and Cingular® Wireless service. For businesses, BellSouth provides secure, reliable local and long distance voice and data networking solutions . BellSouth also offers online and directory advertising through BellSouth® RealPages.com® and The Real Yellow Pages®.

BellSouth believes that diversity and fostering an inclusive environment are critical in maintaining a competitive advantage in today's global marketplace. More information about BellSouth can be found at www.bellsouth.com.