

April 3, 2006

Via Electronic Submission

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

Re: *Written Ex Parte Communication*
Sprint Nextel Corporation Request for Limited Extension
WT Docket No. 05-286

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Sprint Nextel Corporation ("Sprint Nextel") submits this *ex parte* communication with additional information in support of its September 29, 2005 request for extension of the Federal Communications Commission's December 31, 2005, Enhanced 911 ("E911") benchmark requiring that 95% of Sprint Nextel's active subscriber handsets be Global Positioning Satellite ("GPS") capable.

Sprint Nextel's GPS-capable handset penetration rate continues to increase and, as of February 28, 2006, the Company reached a compliance rate of 83.3%. Efforts to drive handset conversions continue. Sprint Nextel has now distributed more than 68 million GPS enabled handsets. Also, and as discussed in Sprint Nextel's previous filings, the penetration level would have been significantly higher if not for a Motorola software failure that in July 2004 disabled the GPS capability of more than 4.7 million iDEN handsets used by customers of Sprint Nextel's predecessor Nextel Communications, Inc. But for this vendor software failure, as of February 28, 2006, 89.5% of Sprint Nextel customers would have had GPS-capable handsets.

Based on review of the orders issued to date in this proceeding, it appears that the Commission has granted some 50 extensions of the handset penetration requirement, including one recent extension to September 2007.* While Sprint Nextel recognizes that these extensions have been granted to Tier III carriers pursuant to the ENHANCE 911 Act, Sprint Nextel submits that the grants underscore the fact that this is an industry-wide issue and that the public interest is served by grant of limited extensions of the handset requirement. In these grants, the

* *In the Matter of Cable & Communications Corporation's Petition for Waiver of Section 20.18(g)(1)(v) of the Commission's Rules, Order, CC Docket 94-102, FCC 06-39 (March 23, 2006).*

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

April 3, 2006

Page 2

Commission has also demonstrated its willingness to take into consideration the individual circumstances facing each of these Tier III carriers. In this regard, Sprint Nextel submits that the unique circumstances facing it, particularly the Motorola GPS software malfunction and lower than expected churn discussed in its previous filings, provide legal justification for granting Sprint Nextel an extension. Sprint Nextel will continue its efforts to make this valuable public safety service ubiquitously available.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2), this letter is being filed electronically for inclusion in the record of this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Luisa L. Lancetti

Luisa L. Lancetti

cc: Fred Campbell
John Giusti
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