

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of  
Number Portability

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CC Docket No. 95-116

**Comments**

United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC") hereby comments on the Petition For Declaratory Ruling (the "Petition") filed by T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile") and Sprint Nextel Corporation ("Sprint") (collectively "Petitioners").<sup>1</sup> USCC supports Petitioners' request for an FCC ruling to requiring that carriers not obstruct or delay the number porting process by demanding from a porting-in carrier information in excess of the minimum needed to validate the requesting customer.

**I. The FCC Should Act on The Matters Raised In The Petition.**

The Petition makes a strong case that wireline to wireless ports take too long and are often delayed or prevented outright by unjustified wireline carrier practices. Wireline carriers frequently require "porting in" wireless carriers to submit local service requests ("LSRs") which can contain more than 100 data fields and often change such LSRs without notice, which obviously delays porting. The Petition rightly contrasts this tortuous process with wireless to wireless porting, where numbers are usually successfully ported within a matter of hours, based on the exchange of the minimum information necessary (telephone numbers, account number, password) between the affected carriers.

USCC agrees with the Petitioners that the problems they describe are suited to resolution by a declaratory ruling. Section 1.2 of the FCC's Rules authorizes the Commission to "issue a declaratory ruling terminating a controversy or removing uncertainty" regarding the applicability

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<sup>1</sup> See, Public Notice, "Pleading Cycle Established For Comments on T-Mobile USA and Sprint Nextel Corporation's, Petition For Declaratory Ruling Regarding Number Portability, DA 07-39, released January 9, 2007.

of an FCC rule. As Petitioners note, the FCC's rules require portability between LECs and wireless carriers, and a "controversy" clearly exists as to whether the wireline practices described in the Petition are consistent with the FCC's number portability mandate. Thus, the FCC certainly has the power to act against practices by a carrier or carriers which have the effect of negating the FCC's number portability requirements set out in Section 52.23 of the FCC's Rules.

USCC does not here argue that only the information furnished by wireless carriers to each other is necessary to support wireline to wireless ports. There may be "legacy" issues related to wireline technology which make wireline-wireless porting somewhat more complex and difficult than intramodal wireless porting. But how much more difficult and how long will such difficulties remain? In any case, we believe it to be necessary and entirely fair that the FCC require wireline carriers to furnish a public interest justification for their use of multiple data fields and other practices, such as the submission of repetitive LSRs (see Petition, p. 5, n. 14), which clearly have the effect, if not the intent, of hampering wireline-wireless porting.

## **II. USCC's Experience Has Been Comparable To That of Petitioners.**

USCC agrees entirely with the legal and public interest case stated by Petitioners. We would also note that wireless to wireline porting has been and remains a practical problem for USCC as well.

USCC's number ports from wireline carriers are usually successful, though they are often delayed for the reasons the Petitioners discuss. However, based on a recent three month sample approximately 24 percent of USCC's port requests to wireline carriers "fall out," i.e. fail. And of those failures 40.2 percent are due to the information being provided by the porting in customer not "matching" the information concerning the customer which is held by the porting out carrier.

Obviously, the more information which must be supplied and "matched" in multiple data fields the greater the chance of failed matches and thus failed ports.

USCC would echo Petitioners' request that the FCC require wireline carriers to specify the minimum amount of information they need in a porting context to prevent fraud and to dispense with other requirements. The FCC has long since determined that freedom to port numbers across the wireline/wireless barrier is in the public interest. To take the actions requested by Petitioners will facilitate such ports and thus serve the public interest.

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons and those given by Petitioners, USCC requests that the FCC issue a declaratory ruling that "porting out" wireline carriers must not require from the "porting in" wireless carrier information in excess of that actually needed to validate the requesting customer.

Respectfully submitted,

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