



WC 08-116
NETWORK TELEPHONE SERVICES, INC.

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April 30, 2008

Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Sprint/Transport 900
Section 63.71 Application of Sprint to Cease offering its 900 Transport
Objection of Network Telephone Services Inc.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please accept this letter as the objection of Network Telephone Services Inc. to Sprint's Section 63.71 application seeking permission to discontinue to offer customers Sprint's Transport 900 product.

Network Telephone Services Inc. (NTS) has been in continuous operation in the telephone pay-per-call business since 1988. Our company has been active with the trade groups that have assisted the FCC, the Federal Trade Commission and many of the state regulatory agencies resulting in the pay-per-call rules that are in place today. NTS has operated its business both before and after the enactment of the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act of 1992 (TDDRA), the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC rules and regulations that resulted from subsequent rulemakings.

Over the years, one of the important issues our pay-per-call industry has addressed before the FCC was the need for 900 number portability. Number portability is the ability to take your telephone numbers from one phone network or carrier to another. If 900 numbers were portable, there would be no objection from the pay-per-call industry if Sprint withdraws from the 900 transport business. If 900 numbers were portable, our company would move the 900 numbers we have operated for many years at Sprint to a competing carrier. However, these 900 numbers are not portable. If Sprint no longer offers their Transport 900 product to its customers, then the 900-exchange telephone numbers NTS operates at Sprint, for both our business and for our customers, will all go out of business.

In the pay-per-call industry, the telephone number is the "brand" consumers remember. Consumers relate and associate the particular product or the quality of service of the information or entertainment provided by the telephone number. Millions of dollars have been spent over the years to build up, promote and maintain telephone number brand loyalty.



NETWORK TELEPHONE SERVICES, INC.

Sprint has given NTS and their other customers only ninety (90) days notice that Sprint will cease offering its Transport 900 services. In other words, in 90 days time, the 900-exchange telephone numbers that have been operated for many years by NTS will no longer operate and will all be shut down. NTS and its customers have expended significant money promoting these 900 numbers for many years. Sprint's 90-day notice is not a reasonable amount of time to prepare for this situation. It is in the best interests of the public that the FCC require Sprint give its customers much more time to prepare for their exit from this business. By allowing Sprint to discontinue its Transport 900 product this quickly, the FCC will be harming every company that is operating a 900 telephone number with Sprint.

NTS requests the FCC address this issue and demand that more time be given by Sprint to its customers before allowing Sprint to cease offering Transport 900. As much notice as possible is needed to users of the Sprint-assigned 900-exchange telephone numbers in order to allow for an orderly transfer of the significant value and goodwill that has been created in these Sprint 900 numbers over the years. NTS recommends no less than two (2) years notice to the users of the Sprint 900 numbers be required before the FCC grants Sprint's petition to withdraw from the 900 transport business. It is solely Sprint's decision to abandon these customers who have worked very hard over the years to earn value for these Sprint 900 numbers and Sprint should be required to cooperate as much as possible so that the disruption and losses to these parties is limited.

The FCC should also review whether Sprint has made any attempt to transfer the telephone numbers of its current 900-exchange customers so that these numbers may continue to be operated in the marketplace. The FCC has the opportunity to assist a number of businesses and consumers who will be adversely affected by the closing down of the Sprint Transport 900 service. If Sprint is not going to be in the 900 transport business, then before they are permitted by the FCC to exit, the FCC should determine whether the remaining carriers of 900 traffic will have the opportunity to take over the Sprint 900-exchange telephone numbers.

Carriers are not required to file for authority to begin providing a service to customers. It is only when a carrier seeks to discontinue a service that the rules state it is necessary to file an application under 47 C.F.R. section 63.71. The logic of this rule is simple. Parties who rely upon carriers' services need to be protected by arbitrary actions of the carriers. In this case, much more time is needed to adequately protect the parties who have relied upon the Sprint 900 transport services to operate their businesses.

If NTS can assist the FCC in discussing procedures for protecting the many Sprint 900 customers that will be affected negatively by Sprint's decision, please feel free to call on us for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

Daniel H. Coleman
Vice President
Legal & Business Affairs