

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Applications of Sprint Nextel Corp. and )  
Clearwire Corporation for Consent to ) WT Docket No. 08-94  
Transfer Control of 2.5 GHz Licenses and )  
Authorizations )

**COMMENTS OF THE  
COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

The Community Telecommunications Network ("CTN") hereby supports the above-captioned applications (the "Applications") filed by Clearwire Corporation ("Clearwire") and Sprint Nextel Corporation ("Sprint Nextel") for Commission consent to the transfer control of certain licenses and other authorizations to a new company to be called Clearwire Corporation ("New Clearwire").

As the Commission is aware, CTN is a non-profit consortium of Detroit metropolitan area EBS licensees. Its Member Institutions include: the Detroit Educational Television Foundation, licensee of WHR915; the Detroit Board of Education, licensee of KTB98; Macomb Intermediate School District, licensee of WHR914; Oakland Schools, licensee of WHR508; Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, licensee of WHR916; and Wayne State University, licensee of WAK57 (and BRS station WLK367).

Founded in 1987, CTN's historic mission was to: (1) coordinate the transmission of the Member Institutions' diverse instructional television programming from co-located transmission facilities; and (2) lease from the Member Institutions their respective excess

channel capacity and then sublease that excess capacity to a commercial operator (presently, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sprint Nextel).

However, since the Commission's 2004 overhaul of the EBS regulations to facilitate the distribution of two-way, high-speed broadband services, CTN and its Member Institutions have looked forward to the day when their EBS facilities could be employed to support the provision of these 21st century services for the use of their students, faculty and administration. In the interim, CTN and its Member Institutions have been conducting a variety of proof-of-concept experiments using other wireless services offered by Sprint Nextel in the Detroit area, in anticipation of the deployment of WiMax service.

For example, Sprint Nextel used some of the capacity leased to it by CTN to support the operation of a one of the first fixed two-way wireless system in the U.S.. Certain of the Member Institutions used this system to provide broadband services as part of their respective educational programs. However, the limitations inherent in that first-generation technology greatly restricted its utility for educational applications.

More significant are the Member Institutions' current uses of Sprint Nextel's existing EVDO system. Although the EVDO system does not operate on EBS frequencies, and does not offer the speed of WiMax, Sprint Nextel has afforded the Member Institutions access to the EVDO system pending initiation of WiMax service on the EBS channels. This has facilitated a number of projects.

For example, one Member Institution conducted a pilot project involving the distribution of laptops equipped with EVDO cards to certain of its 5th grade classes, to extend the boundaries of the classroom to the home. In another project, the EVDO system was used to support the activities of over 1,000 students (from various Member Institutions) who were participating in a river water quality project. Employing laptops equipped with EVDO cards, the Member Institutions streamed live video from the river and neighboring lands featuring students, faculty and naturalists as they tested the water, searched for aquatic flora and fauna, and reported their findings. Other students, faculty and interested parents were able to observe these proceedings. While video transmission was of lower quality than desired because of bandwidth limitations, the usefulness of the remote feed via wireless broadband to support educational activities was demonstrated.

The above-described projects represent the sort of initial experiments being planned and undertaken by CTN and the Member Institutions to explore the potential of the anticipated WiMax system. As soon as that system becomes operational, the Member Institutions will be ready with new educational applications that require the speed of WiMax.

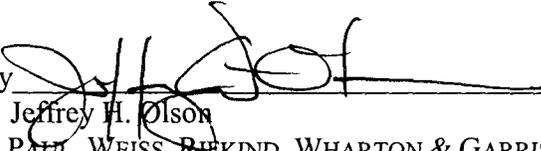
Therefore, CTN strongly supports an expedited grant of the Applications. The proposed transaction will enable the parties to attract the capital necessary to expedite the deployment of a nationwide fourth-generation wireless broadband network, which will result in increased competition in the provision of broadband services, and ensure the more intensive and efficient use of the 2.5 GHz band. Most importantly for CTN the expedited deployment of this network will directly advance its Member Institutions' educational missions, enabling them to incorporate

will directly advance its Member Institutions' educational missions, enabling them to incorporate state-of-the-art communications services in to the day-to-day education of their students.

Respectfully submitted,

**COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

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