



Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C. 20554

February 18, 2009

David Nall
Director, Government Affairs—International Wireline
Sprint Nextel Corporation
2001 Edmund Halley Drive, 2nd Floor
Reston, Virginia 20191

Re: Petition for Protection from Whipsawing and Stop Settlement
Payment Order on U.S. Tonga Route (IB Docket No. 09-10)

Dear Mr. Nall:

As you may know, AT&T Inc. – on behalf of its affiliates – filed a petition requesting that the Commission issue an order stopping U.S. settlement payments to Tonga Communications Corporation (TCC) on the U.S.-Tonga route.¹ On January 29, 2009, the Commission issued a Public Notice pursuant to section 64.1002(d) of the Commission's rules,² establishing a pleading cycle for the AT&T Petition.³ We are requesting that other carriers serving the U.S.-Tonga route expeditiously provide the Commission with information regarding the U.S.-Tonga route in view of the allegations contained in the AT&T petition, including the disruption of service.

Our records indicate that Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint Nextel) and/or its affiliates provide facilities-based IMTS service on the U.S.-Tonga route. We make the following information request pursuant to the *2004 ISP Reform Order*.⁴

We request that the following information be provided no later than **March 2, 2009**:

1. Please confirm whether Sprint Nextel provides or provided facilities-based IMTS service between the U.S. and Tonga in the calendar year 2008 and/or within this calendar year 2009.

¹ See *Petition Pursuant to Rule 64.1002(d) Requesting Issuance of Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route*, IB Docket No. 09-10 (filed Dec. 3, 2008) (AT&T Petition).

² 47 C.F.R. § 64.1002(d).

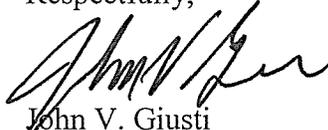
³ *Petition for Protection from Whipsawing and Stop Settlement Payment Order on U.S. Tonga Route*, Public Notice, DA 09-149, IB Docket No. 09-10, (rel Jan.29, 2009). On February 9, 2009, the Commission issued an Order granting, in part, and denying, in part, TCC's motion for an extension of time.

⁴ See *International Settlements Policy Reform: International Settlement Rates*, IB Docket Nos. 02-324 and 96-21, First Report and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 5709, 5736, ¶ 58 (2004) (*2004 ISP Reform Order*).

2. Please indicate whether Sprint Nextel has or had in the calendar year 2008 and/or within this calendar year 2009 direct circuits to Tonga (*i.e.*, wholly or jointly owned circuits between the United States and Tonga) and exchanged IMTS traffic over such circuits with TCC, Digicel Tonga Ltd. (Digicel) or its affiliates, or any other carrier authorized to provide telecommunications service in Tonga. If so, please provide a copy of any operating agreement(s) for 2008 and/or 2009 for the exchange of traffic with Tonga into which you have entered with any of the aforementioned entities, including all rate and discount schedules or amendments.
3. If Sprint Nextel has or had direct circuits to Tonga, please indicate if and when those circuits were disrupted, and the circumstances under which the disruption occurred.
4. Please indicate whether Sprint Nextel currently provides or provided during the calendar year 2008 and/or calendar year 2009 IMTS service to or from Tonga through an alternative operating arrangement (*e.g.*, through a third party or country). If so, please identify those carriers and countries, briefly describe those arrangements and specify the settlement rates (including any discounts) for the exchange of traffic with Tonga during 2008 and/or 2009. (Note: we are not at this time requesting copies of operating agreements associated with third party routing arrangements through another country).

Any request for confidential treatment of information submitted in response to this request should be made pursuant to section 0.459 of the Commission's rules and separately accompanying the response.⁵ We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



John V. Giusti
Acting Chief
International Bureau

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459.