

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
International Comparison and Consumer Survey Requirements in the Broadband Data Improvement Act	)	GN Docket No. 09-47
	)	
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future	)	GN Docket No. 09-51
	)	
Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act	)	GN Docket No. 09-137
	)	

**COMMENTS OF SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION  
NBP PUBLIC NOTICE #23**

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint Nextel”) files these brief comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC” or “Commission”) NBP Public Notice #23 (“Public Notice”), which seeks comment on the draft Broadband Network Deployment Study prepared, at the request of the Commission, by the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (“CITI”).<sup>1</sup> The purpose of these comments is to update the Commission on recent developments, not mentioned in the draft study, regarding Sprint Nextel’s current operations, future plans, and investment related to the deployment of 4G services.

In the Public Notice, the Commission seeks comment on “[h]ow accurately and comprehensively” the draft study “examine[s] projected deployment of new and upgraded

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<sup>1</sup> *Comments Sought on Network Deployment Study Conducted by The Columbia Institute for Tele-Information, NBP Public Notice #23, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, 09-137, Public Notice, DA 09-2458 (rel. Nov. 20, 2009) (“Public Notice”).*

broadband networks” and on “any other [relevant matters].”<sup>2</sup> With respect to Sprint’s 4G service, the draft study mentions that in March 2009 Sprint Nextel and Clearwire announced a goal of offering 4G WiMAX service in eight metropolitan areas by the end of 2009 and four more in 2010.<sup>3</sup> The draft study indicates that as of October 2009, six of the eight markets were operational.<sup>4</sup> Sprint Nextel is pleased to report that, due to the rapid pace of network investment, this information is already out of date. In fact, Sprint Nextel now offers 4G service in 27 markets, far exceeding the prior goal. These 27 markets are:

Abilene, TX; Amarillo, TX; Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Bellingham, WA; Boise, ID; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Corpus Christi, TX; Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX; Greensboro, NC; Honolulu, HI; Killeen/Temple, TX; Las Vegas, NV; Lubbock, TX; Maui, HI; Midland/Odessa, TX; Milledgeville, GA; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; Raleigh, NC; Salem OR; San Antonio, TX; Seattle, WA; Waco, TX and Wichita Falls, TX.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, Sprint Nextel expects to begin offering 4G service in at least five additional markets (Boston, MA; Houston, TX; New York, NY; San Francisco, CA and Washington, D.C.) in 2010.<sup>6</sup>

The Clearwire network used and invested in by Sprint Nextel offers an open-platform, multicarrier environment that is used not only by Sprint Nextel, but also by Comcast, Time Warner Cable and others.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Public Notice at 1.

<sup>3</sup> “Broadband in America: Where It Is and Where It Is Going (According to Broadband Service Providers),” 46 (Preliminary Report dated Nov. 11, 2009), *available at* [http://www.broadband.gov/docs/Broadband\\_in\\_America.pdf](http://www.broadband.gov/docs/Broadband_in_America.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* (citing Atlanta, GA; Portland, OR; Las Vegas, NV; Salem, OR; Baltimore, MD; and Milledgeville, GA).

<sup>5</sup> *See* “Sprint 4G Rollout Blazes on with Seattle Launch,” Sprint Nextel News Release (Dec. 1, 2009), *available at* [http://newsreleases.sprint.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=127149&p=irol-newsArticle\\_newsroom&ID=1360382&highlight=](http://newsreleases.sprint.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=127149&p=irol-newsArticle_newsroom&ID=1360382&highlight=).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

The draft study also does not include information regarding Sprint Nextel's recent \$1.176 billion investment in Clearwire, which, together with \$387 million in new non-Sprint Nextel investment and new Clearwire debt financing, will be used to support expanded deployment of 4G WiMAX services.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., "Comcast Begins National Rollout of High-Speed Wireless Data Service," Comcast Investor Relations (Jun. 29, 2009), *available at* <http://www.cmcsk.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=402849>; "Time Warner Cable Launches 4G Service in North Texas," Dallas Business Journal (Dec. 4, 2009), *available at* <http://dallas.bizjournals.com/dallas/stories/2009/11/30/daily49.html>; "Time Warner launches Clearwire-enabled WiMAX in select areas," Electronista (Dec. 2, 2009), *available at* <http://www.electronista.com/articles/09/12/02/markets.located.in.texas.north.carolina/>.