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***Via Electronic Submission***

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Written *Ex Parte* Presentation**  
WC Docket No. 07-245; GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint”) offers a comprehensive range of wireless communications services bringing the freedom of mobility to consumers, businesses and government users. Sprint is widely recognized for developing, engineering and deploying innovative technologies, including the first wireless 4G service from a national carrier in the United States and offering industry-leading mobile data services, as well as instant national and international push-to-talk capabilities.

Given the intense competition among major wireless providers, the emergence of new technologies and the ever-increasing public demand for mobile broadband, wireless networks must continually evolve. Sprint and other carriers are constantly addressing ways to increase and improve upon coverage areas and to make mobile voice and broadband data available to the vast majority of the nation. Some of the most important factors in wireless deployment are: (a) reliable and seamless coverage; (b) rate of deployment; and, (c) efficiency and economically-viable choices. As such, Sprint considers distributed antenna systems (“DAS”) and microcells to be among the many options available to provide a platform for its ongoing network deployment. DAS and other similar infrastructure solutions can help improve upon wireless coverage, more quickly, and at a more attractive price and will be worthy of careful consideration for future deployment needs, especially for wireless broadband where spectrum efficiency and re-use are paramount.

As demonstrated in the record, it is important to allow wireless attachers pole-top access, in addition to the communications space available on electric utility poles, on a defined timeline that provides certainty to both attachers and pole owners. DAS systems utilizing pole-top

antennas generally involve fewer nodes than a system using antennas lower on the poles in the communications space. A neutral-host provider that can support multiple carriers requires one-third as many nodes using pole-top antenna installations. As such, pole-top installations can help increase the quality of coverage, while lowering the cost of deployment and significantly reducing the time needed for deployment. Pole-top installations are often a far more attractive alternative for network operators than other, less desirable options.

If the ever-expanding provision of mobile voice and broadband data is to be considered a real priority in the United States, the Commission should make it clear that wireless attachers are to be granted nondiscriminatory and timely access to the top of the electric utility pole, in addition to the communications space. Without such clarity, wireless telecommunications providers will be hampered in their ongoing deployment of innovative services to the public.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (703) 433-4220.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ray Rothermel

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