

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	WC Docket No. 11-42
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
Lifeline and Link Up)	WC Docket No. 03-109
)	
Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training)	WC Docket No. 12-23

REPLY COMMENTS OF SPRINT CORPORATION

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint”) hereby submits its reply comments on its petition for waiver of Section 54.410(f) of the Commission’s Rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.410(f)) as regards the annual eligibility re-certification of Sprint’s post-paid Lifeline customer base.¹ No comments were filed in opposition to Sprint’s request that it be allowed to forego re-certification of these customers, for whom Sprint will no longer be providing Lifeline service as of January 1, 2013, consistent with Sprint’s relinquishment of its high-cost ETC designations.

The lack of objections to Sprint’s petition is unsurprising. Very few end users are affected by this petition -- only 500 as of September 30, 2012, with the number of Lifeline customers expected to continue to decline as the deadline for Sprint’s remaining ETC relinquishments approaches. Each of those customers has already received at least

¹ This petition for waiver does not affect the annual eligibility re-certification of the Assurance Wireless pre-paid Lifeline customer base.

one communication from Sprint explaining that we will cease offering post-paid Lifeline service as of January 1, 2013, and outlining their service options going forward. To attempt re-certification at this juncture would be confusing to these end users, and will do nothing to prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Lifeline program.

As Sprint demonstrated in its petition, good cause exists for the grant of the requested waiver. No party has disputed Sprint's showing that its waiver request will avoid significant customer confusion and is warranted by the unique circumstances present here, and will have no negative impact on the Commission's efforts to curb waste, fraud and abuse in the Lifeline program. Sprint accordingly urges the Commission to grant the requested waiver expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION

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