Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of Section 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P.

WC Docket No. 16-____

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

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Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint" or "Applicant") hereby seeks

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authorization, pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the

"Act"), 47 U.S.C. § 214(a), and Section 63.71 of the rules of the Federal Communications

Commission ("FCC" or "Commission"), 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue its provision of Sprint

wireline consumer long-distance services and associated features. The specific Sprint wireline

consumer long-distance services and associated features being discontinued are Message

Telecommunications Service (*i.e.*, 1+ long distance) ("MTS"), FONCARD, Directory

Assistance, and Operator Services (collectively, the "Sprint Services"),¹ as well as all consumer

pricing plans associated with the Sprint Services.²

In response to changing market conditions, Sprint has decided to terminate its provision of the Sprint Services. On January 5, 2015, Sprint received authority to cease offering the Sprint

¹ Sprint also will cease to provide its outbound international services and features. A copy of this filing is being provided to the International Bureau as an attachment to its notice filed pursuant to Section 63.19 of the Commission's rules.

² Sprint is the Telecommunications Relay Service ("TRS") contractor in 35 states and territories and is bound under these contracts to offer Sprint Casual Caller TRS interexchange service to TRS users that are not PICed to a carrier. Sprint is not seeking to discontinue Casual Caller service to TRS system users; rather, Sprint will continue to provide Casual Caller service to TRS system users in states where Sprint is the TRS service provider.

Services to new customers.³ On September 29, 2015, Sprint received authority to discontinue the Sprint Services to the majority of its existing customers.⁴

At this time, Sprint plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services to its remaining customers, who were not previously notified of the discontinuance and whose services have not yet been discontinued, effective October 18, 2016, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals are obtained. The proposed discontinuance will not result in material harm to the affected customers because they easily can obtain alternative services from other wireline interexchange carriers. Customers also may purchase substitute long-distance services and features from wireless carriers such as Sprint or from a host of other alternative providers such as interconnected voice over Internet protocol providers.

The Applicant provides the following information pursuant to Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules:

- <u>Name and Address of Carrier</u>: Sprint Communications Company L.P. is located at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251.
- <u>Date of Planned Service Discontinuance</u>, <u>Reduction</u>, <u>or Impairment</u>: The Applicant plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services described above effective October 18, 2016, or as soon thereafter in each state as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained. The Applicant understands that this Application will be

³ See Comments Invited on Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P. to Discontinue Domestic Telecommunications Services, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 14-243, 29 FCC Rcd 14711 (2014) (DA 14-1777). Note that Sprint's application sought authority to "grandfather" both the Sprint Services and certain services offered to business customers. The instant application relates solely to the consumer Sprint Services outlined above; Sprint is separately seeking to discontinue the business services in question.

⁴ Section 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P., WC Docket No. 15-186, Order, 30 FCC Rcd 10663 (WCB 2015) (DA 15-1098).

granted automatically on the 31st day after public notice of its filing, unless the Commission notifies the Applicant to the contrary.

- Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected: Sprint proposes to discontinue the provision of the Sprint Services in each of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 4. <u>Brief Description of Type of Service Affected</u>: The Sprint Services affected by this discontinuance include all MTS, Operator, FONCARD, and Directory Assistance services and features provided to Sprint consumers, with the exception of Casual Caller services provided to TRS users in states where Sprint holds the TRS service provider contract.⁵
- 5. <u>Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers</u>: In accordance with Section 63.71(a), Sprint provided written notice, by first class mail, to its affected subscribers on July 18, 2016. A sample copy of the notice letter provided to customers is attached hereto as Attachment A.
- Whether the Carrier is Considered Dominant or Non-Dominant with Respect to the Service to Be Discontinued, Reduced, or Impaired: Applicant is considered nondominant with respect to the affected services.

In accordance with Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this Application is being mailed to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications for the Secretary of Defense and to the public utility commission and the Governor of each state in which the discontinuance of service is proposed.

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See discussion supra at footnote 2.

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of the Sprint Services and features in question. All customers have been provided notice that affords them ample time to acquire one of the many substitute services that are readily available to them. Sprint, therefore, respectfully requests Commission approval of this Section 63.71 Application. Please direct any questions regarding this Application to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.

<u>/s/ Emily J. H. Daniels</u> Emily J. H. Daniels Lawler, Metzger, Keeney & Logan, LLC 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 1075 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: (202) 777-7723 E-Mail: edaniels@lawlermetzger.com Counsel to Sprint Communications Company L.P.

Keith Buell Senior Counsel, Government Affairs Federal Regulatory Sprint Corporation 900 Seventh Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001 Tel: (703) 592-2560 E-Mail: keith.buell@sprint.com

Dated: July 25, 2016

Attachment A

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July 18, 2016

Joy Q. Sample 123 Main St. Anytown, USA, 12345-6789

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRINT WIRELINE CONSUMER LONG DISTANCE SERVICES

Account Number:

On October 18, 2016 or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") will no longer provide Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features in each of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The specific Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features being discontinued include all domestic and international 1+ dialing from pre-subscribed accounts and casual caller accounts, as well as Operator Services, Directory Assistance, Directory Assistance Calling, Toll Free, FONCARD and all consumer pricing plans associated with the services listed above.

Due to changing market conditions, Sprint has determined that it should discontinue the Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features described above. This discontinuance impacts all of your Sprint 1+ dialed calls. If you choose to have a pre-subscribed long distance carrier, you will need to transition your service before October 18, 2016. In order to do so, you will need to choose another long distance service provider. Note that a new service provider may require approximately two weeks to provision service to you. As a result, we strongly recommend that you select a provider *no later than* September 18, 2016. If you are not certain of your options for obtaining replacement pre-subscribed long distance service, you should contact your local telephone service provider and ask which carriers are accepting pre-subscribed customers. Sprint will no longer carry any consumer wireline long-distance calls (both interstate and intrastate) after October 18, 2016. This discontinuance does not impact any Sprint wireless services that you have.

Sprint has notified the Federal Communications Commission of its proposed discontinuance of service. The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to

Discontinuance of Sprint Consumer Long Distance Services July 18, 2016 Page 2 of 2

the § 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

We encourage you to select a new long distance provider, by contacting your local telephone company, as soon as possible. Sprint does not have the ability to select another provider for you.

Additionally, if you are a Toll Free customer you must change your service provider before September 18, 2016 to ensure that you can retain your current Toll Free Telephone Number.

For additional information please visit our web page, <u>www.sprint.com/landlineFAQs</u>. If you have questions concerning this notice, please feel free to contact Sprint via email at <u>business.customer.care@sprint.com</u>, or via telephone at 844-492-4334 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve you in other capacities.

Sincerely,

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Sprint Communications Company L.P. 6200 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, Kansas 66251

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ruth E. Holder, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Section 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P. was served on this 25th day of July, 2016, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below:

Office of Governor Robert J. Bentley State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130

Office of Governor Bill Walker P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811

Office of Governor Doug Ducey Executive Tower 1700 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007

Office of Governor Asa Hutchinson 500 Woodlane Street Little Rock, AR 72201

Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. State Capitol, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of Governor John W. Hickenlooper 136 State Capitol Denver, CO 80203-1792

Office of Governor Dannel Malloy 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

Office of Governor Jack Markell 150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South 2nd Floor Dover, DE 19901 Alabama Public Service Commission 100 North Union Street, Suite 850 Montgomery, AL 36104

Regulatory Commission of Alaska 701 West 8th Avenue Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99501-3469

Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Arkansas Public Service Commission 1000 Center Building Little Rock, AR 72201-4314

California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Colorado Public Utilities Commission 1560 Broadway, Suite 250 Denver, CO 80202

Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Delaware Public Service Commission 861 Silver Lake Boulevard Cannon Building, Suite 100 Dover, DE 19904 Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 316 Washington, DC 20004

Office of Governor Rick Scott The Capitol 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Office of Governor Nathan Deal 206 Washington Street 111 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334

Office of Governor Eddie Baza Calvo Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex Adelup, Guam 96910

Office of Governor David Ige Executive Chambers, State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

Office of Governor Butch Otter State Capitol P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720

Office of Governor Bruce Rauner 207 State House Springfield, IL 62706

Office of Governor Mike Pence State House 200 West Washington Street, Room 206 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Office of Governor Terry Branstad State Capitol 1007 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50319 Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia 1333 H Street NW, Suite 200, West Tower Washington, DC 20005

Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399

Georgia Public Service Commission 244 Washington Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30334-9052

Guam Public Utilities Commission 414 West Soledad Avenue Suite 207 GCIC Building P.O. Box 862 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission 465 South King Street Room 103 Honolulu, HI 96813

Idaho Public Utilities Commission 472 West Washington Street P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0074

Illinois Commerce Commission 527 East Capitol Avenue Springfield, IL 62701

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission PNC Center 101 West Washington Street Suite 1500 East Indianapolis, IN 46204

Iowa Utilities Board 1375 E. Court Avenue Room 69 Des Moines, IL 50319 Office of Governor Sam Brownback Capitol 300 Southwest 10th Avenue, Suite 241S Topeka, KS 66612

Office of Governor Matt Bevin 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601

Office of Governor John Bel Edwards P.O. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Office of Governor Paul LePage #1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Office of Governor Larry Hogan State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401

Office of Governor Charlie Baker Massachusetts State House Room 105 Boston, MA 02133

Office of Governor Rick Snyder P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

Office of Governor Mark Dayton 116 Veterans Service Building 20 W. 12th Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Office of Governor Phil Bryant P.O. Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205

Office of Governor Jay Nixon P.O. Box 720 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, KY 40601

Louisiana Public Service Commission 602 North Fifth Street P.O. Box 91154 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

Maine Public Utilities Commission 18 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Maryland Public Service Commission 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities One South Station Boston, MA 02110

Michigan Public Service Commission P.O. Box 30221 Lansing, MI 48909

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Mississippi Public Service Commission 501 North West Street Woolfolk State Office Bldg. Jackson, MS 39201-1174

Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street Jefferson City, MO 65101 Office of Governor Steve Bullock P.O. Box 200801 Helena, MT 59620

Office of Governor Pete Ricketts P.O. Box 94848 Lincoln, NE 68509

Office of Governor Brian Sandoval State Capitol Building 101 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701

Office of Governor Maggie Hassan State House 107 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301

Office of Governor Chris Christie P.O. Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625

Office of Governor Susana Martinez 490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Office of Governor Pat McCrory 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699

Office of Governor Jack Dalrymple 600 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505

Office of Governor John Kasich Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215 Montana Public Service Commission 1701 Prospect Avenue P.O. Box 202601 Helena, MT 59620-2601

Nebraska Public Service Commission P.O. Box 94927 Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

Nevada Public Utilities Commission 1150 East William Street Carson City, NV 89701-3109

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission 1120 Pasco De Peralta Santa Fe, NM 87501-1269

New York State Public Service Commission Three Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12223-1350

North Carolina Utilities Commission 430 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27603-5918

North Dakota Public Service Commission 600 East Boulevard, Department 408 Bismarck, ND 58505

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 Office of Governor Mary Fallin State Capitol Building 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Room 212 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Office of Governor Kate Brown State Capitol, Room 160 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Office of Governor Tom Wolf 508 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

Office of Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla P.O. Box 9020082 San Juan, PR 00902

Office of Governor Gina Raimondo 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201

Office of Governor Dennis Daugaard 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501

Office of Governor Bill Haslam 1st Floor, State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243

Office of Governor Greg Abbott P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

Office of Governor Gary R. Herbert P.O. Box 142220 Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Oklahoma Corporation Commission 2101 North Lincoln Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2000

Public Utility Commission of Oregon P.O. Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105

Puerto Rico Public Service Commission P.O. Box 190870 San Juan, PR 00919-0870

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission 89 Jefferson Boulevard Warwick, RI 02888

South Carolina Public Service Commission 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, SC 29210

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capitol Avenue, 1st Floor Pierre, SD 57501

Tennessee Regulatory Authority 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243

Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 North Congress Avenue P.O. Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711-3326

Public Service Commission of Utah 160 East 300 South 4th Floor Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Office of Governor Peter Shumlin 109 State Street, Pavilion Montpelier, VT 05609

Office of Governor Kenneth Mapp 21-22 Kongens Gade Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00802

Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe 1111 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219

Office of Governor Jay Inslee P.O. Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504

Office of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin State Capitol 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, WV 25305

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Office of Governor Matt Mead State Capitol 200 West 24th Street Cheyenne, WY 82002

Secretary of Defense Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications Pentagon 1400 Defense Washington, DC 20301-1400 Vermont Public Service Board 112 State Street Drawer 20 Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Virgin Islands Public Service Commission P.O. Box 40 Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00804

Virginia State Corporation Commission Division of Communications P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, VA 23218

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

West Virginia Public Service Commission 201 Brooks Street Charleston, WV 25301

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 610 North Whitney Way Madison, WI 53705-2729

Wyoming Public Service Commission Hansen Building 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300 Cheyenne, WY 82002

/s/ Ruth E. Holder Ruth E. Holder