

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE PETITION OF SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS)	
COMPANY, L.P. FOR ARBITRATION WITH)	
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	CASE NO.
PURSUANT TO SECTION 252(B) OF)	2000-480
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)	

ORDER

Sprint Communications Company, L.P. ("Sprint") has petitioned for arbitration seeking resolution of certain issues between itself and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). Sprint seeks arbitration of several issues. On December 19, 2000, Sprint filed a letter notifying the Commission that the parties agree that a decision in this case must be rendered by no later than May 31, 2001.

The Telecom Act of 1996 imposes strict deadlines upon this proceeding. Brevity, as well as clarity of expression and position, is of the essence. It is imperative that the Commission receive appropriate information in a timely manner. Accordingly, the following guidelines and procedural schedule shall apply to this proceeding. The purpose of this proceeding is to explore specific arbitration issues, not to engage in tangential or philosophical debate.

When the parties essentially have agreed as to a particular issue, but they have not been able to agree as to the precise language to express the agreement, the Commission will not hear argument on the issue in this proceeding. Reduction of the proposed agreement to writing is the responsibility of the parties. Each party may

submit its proposed version of the contract term in its best and final offer, which shall be submitted no later than April 3, 2001.

Although the Commission is not bound by the technical rules of legal evidence, KRS 278.310, the parties hereto are hereby put on notice that cumulative, repetitive, and irrelevant evidence will not be heard in the formal hearing in this matter. Unless special leave is granted, opening and closing statements will not be permitted. In addition, unless special leave is granted, all direct testimony shall be prefiled. All testimony at the formal hearing shall be offered pursuant to cross-examination or redirect examination. However, in light of the time constraint, rebuttal testimony will be permitted.

The Commission, being sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. A formal hearing in this matter is scheduled for April 12, 2001, 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky.
2. Relevant cost studies, including workpapers, and any other documents and information necessary to resolve outstanding issues shall be filed by March 22, 2001.
3. Prefiled testimony shall be filed by April 3, 2001 and hearing testimony is limited to cross-examination or redirect examination and rebuttal testimony.
4. Any party filing testimony shall file an original and 6 copies. The original and at least 3 copies of the testimony shall be filed as follows:
 - a. Together with cover letter listing each person presenting testimony.

b. Bound in 3-ring binders or with any other fastener which readily opens and closes to facilitate easy copying.

c. Each witness's testimony should be tabbed.

d. Every exhibit to each witness's testimony should be appropriately marked.

5. Any agreed-upon portions of the parties' contract that have not already been filed shall be filed by April 3, 2001.

6. Each party shall submit, in contract form, its best and final offer on each disputed issue no later than April 3, 2001.

7. An informal conference to narrow the issues and to discuss settlement is scheduled to be conducted on March 29, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's offices at the address listed above.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of January, 2001.

By the Commission

ATTEST:


Executive Director