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BEFORE THE  
KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

Application of NPCR, Inc. d/b/a )  
Nextel Partners for Designation as an ) Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier )  
Under 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)(2) )

**NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CARRIER DESIGNATIONS**

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, NPCR, Inc., d/b/a Nextel Partners (“Nextel Partners”) hereby respectfully notifies the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) of the relinquishment Nextel Partners’ eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) designation in Kentucky, effective December 31, 2011. By way of background, the company respectfully shows as follows:

1. By its Order, dated December 16, 2004, in Docket No. 2003-00143, the Commission granted Nextel Partners’ Application for ETC designation for certain portions of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

2. In Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) WT Docket No. 08-94, Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint Nextel”) – of which Nextel Partners’ is a subsidiary - agreed to reduce its federal high-cost universal service fund (“USF”) support in five

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<sup>1</sup> Docket No. 2003-00143, *In the Matter of: Petition of NPCR, Inc. d/b/a Nextel Partners for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Kentucky* (Order issued December 16, 2004).

equal increments beginning in January 2009.<sup>2</sup> On September 3, 2010, the FCC released an order providing instructions for implementing this commitment.<sup>3</sup> Among other things, the *Implementation Order* specified that Sprint Nextel could meet its high-cost USF phase-out obligation through “line loss, relinquishment of ETC status, or other circumstances....”<sup>4</sup> Sprint Nextel’s actual high-cost USF support for 2009, its high-cost USF support for 2010, and its projected high-cost USF support for the first two quarters of 2011 are below the allowable cap for those timeframes; thus, no further action is required for those years.

3. In order to meet the phase-out requirement for the second half of 2011 and beyond, however, Sprint Nextel will be required to take additional steps to reduce its high-cost USF receipts. In compliance with the FCC’s *Implementation Order*, Sprint Nextel has decided to relinquish Nextel Partners’ high-cost ETC designation in Kentucky.<sup>5</sup>

4. Importantly, however, Sprint Nextel very much intends to retain the newly designated Lifeline ETC designation of, and continue receiving federal Lifeline support for, Virgin Mobile USA, L.P., d/b/a Assurance Wireless,<sup>6</sup> (“Assurance Wireless”) which designation is unaffected by the commitments concerning high-cost

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<sup>2</sup> *Sprint Nextel Corp. and Clearwire Corporation, Applications For Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses, Leases, and Authorizations*, WT Docket No. 08-94, 23 FCC Rcd 17570 (2008).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Request for Review of Decision of Universal Service Administrator by Corr Wireless Communications, LLC*, CC Docket No. 96-45, *Order* released Sept. 3, 2010 (FCC 10-155) (“*Implementation Order*”).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, n. 39.

<sup>5</sup> Nextel Partners and its affiliates have filed and will be filing notices of ETC relinquishment in several other states as well in order to meet Sprint Nextel’s 2011 and 2012 phase-out obligation.

support that Sprint Nextel made to the FCC in the Clearwire transaction proceedings in Docket No. WT 08-94. Assurance Wireless intends to vigorously market to Lifeline customers, and will continue to attract and add Lifeline customers in Kentucky.

5. Although Sprint PCS and Nextel Partners will no longer receive federal high-cost USF support in Kentucky after December 31, 2011, the companies plan to continue to provide wireless service in all of Nextel Partners' designated areas in Kentucky as non-ETCs. Existing subscribers will be able to continue receiving high-quality wireless service from Sprint PCS and Nextel Partners on a non-ETC basis consistent with internal business plans.

6. 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) states in relevant part:

A State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. (emphasis added)

*See also* 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and (b).

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<sup>6</sup> See Docket No. 2010-00524, *In the Matter of Petition of Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, Order (issued June 10, 2011).

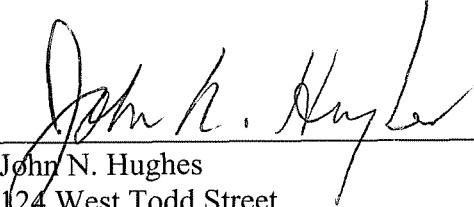
7. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is the list, by wire center, of the incumbent local exchange carrier ETCs providing service in Nextel Partners' designated areas in Kentucky. Following relinquishment of Nextel Partners' ETC designations, there will continue to be at least one ETC in each of the study areas identified in these attachments. To the best of Sprint Nextel's knowledge, none of the remaining ETCs will be required to purchase or construct additional facilities to continue providing service within the study areas set forth in Exhibit A. Because other ETCs currently serve the entire areas in which Nextel Partners is designated an ETC in Kentucky, notice need not be provided to those carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that Nextel Partners' customers will continue to receive service.

8. Nextel Partners will provide written notice by U.S. mail to each of their then-current Lifeline customers in Kentucky advising that they will no longer provide service discounts as ETCs. The notices will inform these customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued within 45 days. Nextel Partners will offer each of these customers the option of continuing to receive the same service from the companies, or selecting an alternative calling plan. The notices will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETCs in the area. If a Lifeline customer decides to leave Nextel Partners, an early termination fee will not be charged. After December 31, 2011, Nextel Partners will not activate any new Lifeline subscribers in Kentucky.

WHEREFORE, in accordance with the foregoing, Nextel Partners respectfully notifies the Commission that it is relinquishing its ETC designation in Kentucky, effective December 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

NPCR, Inc., d/b/a Nextel Partners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Hughes", is written over a horizontal line.

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Attorney for Nextel Partners

**Exhibit A**  
**ETCs in Kentucky Study Areas Subject to Relinquishment**  
**by NPCR, Inc., d/b/a Nextel Partners**

Rural Telephone Company Study Areas

260412 Lewisport Telephone Company  
 260413 Logan County Telephone Company  
 260414 Mountain Rural Telephone Company  
 260415 Peoples Rural Telephone Company  
 260418 South Central Rural Telephone Company

Non-Rural ILEC Wire Centers

265182 BellSouth – KY

BDFRKYMA	ENSRKYMA	LOUSKYES	MLBGKYMA	SDVLKYMA
BGDDKYMA	FKLNKYMA	LRBGKYMA	MLTNKYMA	SEBRKYMA
BLFDKYMA	FNVLYMA	LSVLKY26	MTEDKYMA	SHVLKYMA
BRGNKYMA	FORDKYMA	LSVLKYAN	MTSTKYMA	SLPHKYMA
BRTWKYES	FRFTKYES	LSVLKYAP	MYVLKYMA	SLVSKYMA
BWLGKYMA	FRFTKYMA	LSVLKYBE	NRVLKYMA	SNTNKYMA
BWLGKYRV	GHNTKYMA	LSVLKYBR	NWHNKYMA	SPFDKYMA
BYVLKYMA	GRTWKYMA	LSVLKYCW	OKGVKYES	SRGHKYMA
CHPLKYMA	HABTKYMA	LSVLKYFC	OWBOKYMA	SSVLKYMA
CLPTKYMA	HANSKYMA	LSVLKYHA	OWTNKYMA	STCHKYMA
CMBGKYMA	HBVLKYMA	LSVLKYJT	PARSKYMA	STFRKYMA
COTNKYMA	HDBGKYMA	LSVLKYOA	PDCHKYMA	STGRKYMA
CRBNKYMA	HNSNKYMA	LSVLKYSH	PIVLKYMA	STRGKYMA
CRBOKYMA	HPVLKYMA	LSVLKYSL	PKVLKYMA	TYVLKYMA
CRLSKYMA	HRBGKYES	LSVLKYSM	PLRGKYMA	UTICKYMA
CRTNKYMA	HRFRKYMA	LSVLKYTS	PNTHKYMA	WACOKYMA
CYDNKYMA	HRLNKYMA	LSVLKYVS	PNVLKYMA	WDDYKYMA
CYNTKYMA	HWVLKYMA	LSVLKYWE	PRTNKYES	WHVLKYMA
DAVLKYMA	JCSNKYMA	MACEKYMA	PRVLKYMA	WLBGKYMA
DIXNKYMA	JLLCTNMA	MCDNKYMA	PTRYKYMA	WLVLKYMA
EDVLKYMA	JNCYKYMA	MDBOKYMA	RBRDKYMA	WNCHKYMA
EKTNKYMA	KKVLKYMA	MDVIKYMA	RCMDKYMA	WNCHKYPV
EMNNKYES	LBJTKYMA	MGFDKYMA	RLVLKYMA	WSBGKYMA
EMNNKYPL	LGRNKYES	MGTWKYMA	RSTRKYES	WSPNKYMA

269690 Kentucky ALLTEL, Inc.

AGSTKYXA	CTBGKYXA	HZRDKYXA	LXTNKYXG	SHBGKYXA
ALBYKYXA	CYVLKYXA	IRVNKYXA	MDWYKYXA	SHDNKYXA
ASLDKYXA	EBNKYXA	LBNNKYXA	MEDSKYXA	SLCKYXA
BBVLKYXA	EBRNKYAC	LBRTKYXA	MNCHKYXA	SMGVKYXA
BEREKYXA	EZTWKYXA	LNC SKYXA	MNTIKYXA	SMRTKYXA
BESPKYXA	FBSHKYXA	LONDKYXA	MRHDKYXA	SOVLKYXA
BRHDKYXA	FLLCKYXA	LRTTKYXA	MTOLKYXA	SSHRKYXA
BRSDKYXA	FMBGKYXA	LTFDKYXA	MTVRKYAI	VNBGKYXA
BSVLKYXA	GLSGKYXA	LVTNKYXA	MYLCKYXA	VRSLKYXA
BTVLKYXA	GNBGKYXB	LXTNKYUK	NANCKYXA	WHLCKYXA
BWVLKYXA	GNUPKYXA	LXTNKYXA	NCVLKYXA	WLMRKYXA
CECLKYXA	GRSNKYXA	LXTNKYXB	OLHLKYXA	AGSTKYXA
CKSNKYXA	GYSNKYXA	LXTNKYXC	OWVLKYXA	
CLCTKYXA	HGVLKYXA	LXTNKYXD	PNLCKYXE	
CLMAKYXA	HLBOKYXA	LXTNKYXE	RSSLKYXB	
CMVLKYXA	HTVLKYXE	LXTNKYXF	SCHLKYXA	