

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE ARBITRATION OF:

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.,

Petitioning Party,

vs.

CLEAR LAKE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
FARMERS MUTUAL COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE CO.  
OF SHELBY, FARMERS TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, GRAND  
RIVER MUTUAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION, HEART  
OF IOWA COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE,  
HEARTLAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF  
IOWA d/b/a HICKORY TECH, IOWA  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC., d/b/a IOWA  
TELECOM f/k/a GTE MIDWEST, KALONA COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE, LA PORTE CITY TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
LEHIGH VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE  
ASSOCIATION, LOST NATION ELWOOD TELEPHONE  
COMPANY, MINBURN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
ROCKWELL COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE  
ASSOCIATION, SHARON TELEPHONE, SHELL ROCK  
TELEPHONE COMPANY d/b/a BEVCOMM c/o BLUE  
EARTH VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY, SOUTH  
CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., SOUTH SLOPE  
COOPERATIVE TELCO, SULLY TELEPHONE  
ASSOCIATION, SWISHER TELEPHONE COMPANY,  
TITONKA TELEPHONE COMPANY, VAN BUREN  
TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., VENTURA TELEPHONE  
COMPANY, INC., VILLISCA FARMERS TELEPHONE  
COMPANY, WEBSTER CALHOUN COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION, WELLMAN COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION, and WEST LIBERTY  
TELEPHONE COMPANY d/b/a LIBERTY  
COMMUNICATIONS,

Responding Parties.

DOCKET NO. ARB-05-2

**ORDER DOCKETING PETITION FOR ARBITRATION AND  
SCHEDULING TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

(Issued April 12, 2005)

On March 31, 2005, Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) filed a petition with the Utilities Board (Board) requesting the Board arbitrate certain terms and conditions of a proposed Interconnection Agreement between Sprint and several rural incumbent local exchange carriers, including Clear Lake Independent Telephone Company, Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Co. of Shelby, Farmers Telephone Company, Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Heart of Iowa Communications Cooperative, Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech, Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc. d/b/a Iowa Telecom f/k/a GTE Midwest, Kalona Cooperative Telephone, La Porte City Telephone Company, Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association, Lost Nation Elwood Telephone Company, Minburn Telecommunications, Inc. Rockwell Cooperative Telephone Association, Sharon Telephone, Shell Rock Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM c/o Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company, South Central Communications, Inc., South Slope Cooperative Telco, Sully Telephone Association, Swisher Telephone Company, Titonka Telephone Company, Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc., Ventura Telephone Company, Inc., Villisca Farmers Telephone Company, Webster Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association, Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association, and West Liberty Telephone Company d/b/a Liberty Communications (hereinafter, RLECs). The petition was filed pursuant to the provisions of Board rules 199 IAC 38.4(3) and 38.7(3) and § 252(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 101-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"). Although there are 27 individual

interconnection agreements that underlie this arbitration petition, the unresolved issues are identical for each individual RLEC. Sprint has filed one petition for arbitration and requests the Board treat this filing as a consolidated petition for arbitration with respect to each RLEC identified and to consider the issue in one docket. The Board notes that it has the authority to consolidate its review within a single proceeding under 47 U.S.C. § 252 and finds that it is proper to do so in this instance. The petition has been identified as Docket No. ARB-05-2.

Paragraph 38.7(3)"f" of the Board's rules requires that the Board docket a petition for arbitration. Paragraph 38.7(3)"c" normally provides 25 days for a nonpetitioning party to the negotiation to file a response to the petition and paragraph 38.7(3)"g" requires the Board to schedule a conference within 15 days of receipt of the petition, to be held within 40 days of the filing of the petition. The purpose of the conference is to plan an arbitration hearing date, clarify the issues to be resolved, identify additional information needed to reach a decision on the issues, schedule production of documents and other information, discuss or rule on any other procedural matters, and consider any other matters that will expedite the arbitration process.

In compliance with the procedures established in the Board's rules, the Board is docketing the petition for arbitration, setting an accelerated date for answering of the petition, and scheduling a telephone conference. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss the matters detailed above. Board staff will contact the parties with the information to participate in the conference.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The petition for arbitration filed by Sprint Communications Company, L.P., on March 31, 2005, is docketed for consideration by the Board.
2. A telephone conference call is scheduled for 2 p.m. on April 21, 2005. Board staff will contact the parties with the information necessary to participate in the conference call.
3. Responses to the petition for arbitration shall be filed on or before April 15, 2005.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ John R. Norris

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ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.