

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

<p>IN RE ARBITRATION OF:</p> <p>SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.,</p> <p style="text-align:center">Petitioning Party,</p> <p style="text-align:center">vs.</p> <p>NORTH ENGLISH COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND WINNEBAGO COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION,</p> <p style="text-align:center">Responding Parties.</p>	<p>DOCKET NO. ARB-05-5</p>
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**ORDER DOCKETING PETITION FOR ARBITRATION AND
SCHEDULING TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

(Issued September 12, 2005)

On August 29, 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 North English Cooperative Telephone Company and Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association (hereinafter, RLECs). The petition was filed pursuant to the provisions of 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"). Sprint has filed one petition for arbitration against the two RLECs alleging that the issues are identical and requests

the Board treat this filing as a consolidated petition for arbitration with respect to the two RLECs. 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-05-5.

Paragraph 199 IAC 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 August 29, 2005, is docketed for consideration by the Board.

2. A telephone conference call is scheduled for 10 a.m. on September 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 September 14, 2005.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 12th day of September, 2005.