

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE ARBITRATION OF:

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.,

Petitioning Party,

vs.

ACE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, 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 HICKORYTECH, HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS, 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 TELEPHONE COMPANY, SWISHER 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 SCHEDULING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND ESTABLISHING BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

(Issued October 4, 2005)

On September 29, 2005, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order rescheduling the hearing in this matter to October 18, 2005. The hearing was rescheduled due to the time required to resolve certain discovery matters. In order to ensure that all discovery issues are resolved prior to the rescheduled hearing, the Board will schedule a prehearing conference for 10 a.m. on October 7, 2005, to discuss discovery and any other matters that may be appropriate. The conference will be conducted by Board staff and may be conducted by telephone or in person, whichever the parties prefer. (Board staff will consult with the parties on this point.) The prehearing conference may result in a Board order, another prehearing conference, or whatever other action the Board finds appropriate, based on the recommendations of the parties and Board staff.

This matter was remanded to the Board for a period of 60 days. The remand will expire on October 18, 2005. The Board will file with the Court a motion for an extension of the remand period to allow for the rescheduled hearing. Counsel for the Board has consulted with counsel for the parties regarding this motion and the Board understands that the parties would like to request a sufficient extension to permit them to file written briefs with the Board in place of oral argument at the end of the hearing. Accordingly, and based on the assumption that the Court will grant the Board's motion for an extension of the remand, the Board will modify the procedural schedule in this docket to include an opportunity for filing written briefs seven full days after the hearing, that is, on October 26, 2005.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. A prehearing conference is scheduled to commence at 10 a.m. on October 7, 2005, for the purposes described in this order. The conference will be conducted by Board staff.

2. Based on the assumption that the reviewing Court will grant the Board's motion for an extension of the existing remand, the parties to this docket may file written briefs on the issues presented during the October 18, 2005, hearing. The briefs may be filed on or before October 26, 2005.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 4th day of October, 2005.