

March 6, 2006

Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Pursuant to Part 5 of the Rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), Nextel West Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sprint Nextel Corporation (collectively "Sprint Nextel") respectfully requests to modify Experimental Radio Station License WC2XON to add frequencies 821-824/866-869 MHz on a secondary, non-interference basis nationwide. Sprint Nextel is currently authorized to test use of 3G technologies in conjunction with its extensive existing licensing authority in the 800 MHz band. Sprint Nextel requests to modify Station WC2XON to provide the capability to test iDEN® technology in the 821-824/866-869 MHz band to facilitate the timely reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band in accordance with the Commission's 800 MHz public safety proceeding.¹

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Sprint Nextel currently provides wide-area digital Specialized Mobile Radio ("SMR") service throughout much of the United States utilizing spectrum in the 800 MHz frequency band. Sprint Nextel's wide-area SMR services make efficient use of the spectrum by employing digital technologies and low power, multiple-tower cellular-like architectures that enable call hand-off and channel re-use throughout a larger geographic area. Sprint Nextel's wide-area SMR services, moreover, provide the user a combination of telecommunications services in a single handset, including digital push-to-talk services, cellular telephone, paging, and data services.

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In an effort to increase its network capacity and possibly provide advanced generation (3G) wireless services, Sprint Nextel was granted authority to test and evaluate use of Code Division Multiple Access ("CDMA") technologies in conjunction with its existing SMR network. Specifically, Sprint Nextel has been

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¹ See *Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band; Consolidating the 800 and 900 MHz Industrial/Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels*, Report and Order, Fifth Report and Order, Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 14969 (2004) ("800 MHz R&O").

conducting 3G technology trials with several key vendors for CDMA compatibility with Sprint Nextel's existing spectrum. The knowledge and experience gained in these trials will enable Sprint Nextel to choose a wireless technology that not only meets the needs of its customers but also delivers the best spectrum efficiency.

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Additionally, Sprint Nextel requests authority to conduct tests of its iDEN® technology in the 821-824/866-869 MHz band. In order to implement the Commission's 800 MHz reconfiguration decision and address these "serious and continuing public safety interference problems," Sprint Nextel will undergo more extensive retuning and network reconfiguration than any other licensee. To avoid disruption of its existing service and continue providing service to millions of consumers while it implements 800 MHz band reconfiguration, Sprint Nextel must ensure its network will operate effectively in the 821-824/866-869 MHz band once it completes incumbent retuning in each NPSPAC² region of the country.

Sprint Nextel requests to modify its existing nationwide authority in order to potentially conduct real world tests of iDEN technology in more than one market. Sprint Nextel will only use channels in the 821-824/866-869 MHz band, on a secondary non-interference basis, that are unassigned within 70 miles of the test market area. Because of its extensive licensing authority, Sprint Nextel is extremely familiar with Commission licensing rules and requirements and will take necessary measures to ensure that these tests cause no harmful interference to any primary licensee outside its licensed bands.

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Should the Commission have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned at (703) 433-4222.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ R.H. McNamara

Robert H. McNamara
Director, Spectrum Management

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² In 1986, the Commission designated six megahertz of spectrum at 821-824/866-869 MHz for public safety use and established the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee ("NPSPAC") to advise the Commission on rules for this spectrum. The licensed service areas for public safety systems operating in these bands are known as the NPSPAC regions.