

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**QWEST, SPRINT EXPIRE  
LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY SURCHARGES**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission released information that monthly surcharges paid by Qwest and Sprint customers for local number portability on their landline telephones will expire in February.

Local number portability is the option of telephone subscribers to keep their local telephone number when they change service providers.

The Federal Communications Commission permitted companies such as Qwest and Sprint to recover, over a period of five years, the cost of equipment and technology required for local number portability. Qwest charged its residential telephone customers 43 cents per month and Sprint assessed its residential customers a monthly fee of 48 cents per month. Business charges for each trunk line were \$3.87 and \$4.32 per month by Qwest and Sprint, respectively.

Sprint is scheduled to cancel its local number portability charge on February 5 while Qwest will eliminate its charge on February 9. The local number portability surcharge for Alltel customers will end in June 2007 and for Frontier customers in June 2006. Commissioner Frank Landis of Lincoln said, “This is a great example of government making a commitment to the consumer, and keeping it.”

Commissioner Anne Boyle of Omaha said, “Even though these charges are legally required to be eliminated after five years, it is useful for consumers to know there is a little bit of good news on their phone bill.”

The staff report on the status of local number portability charges assessed by Nebraska carriers was made at the Public Service Commission’s weekly meeting on February 3.

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Note: Other commissioners also may want to add comments. Larry