1	THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
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4	IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT FILED TC10-026 BY SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, LP
5	AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN TELECOM, LLC REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
6	
7	Transcript of Proceedings
8	July 30, 2013
9	
10	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GARY HANSON, CHAIRMAN
11	CHRIS NELSON, VICE CHAIRMAN
12	KRISTIE FIEGEN, COMMISSIONER COMMISSION STAFF
13	Rolayne Ailts Wiest John Smith
14	Karen Cremer Kristen Edwards
15	Greg Rislov Brian Rounds
16	Patrick Steffensen Darren Kearney
17	Deb Gregg Sherry Dickerson
18	Shelly Dickerson
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23	Reported By Cheri McComsey Wittler, RPR, CRR
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, held in the above-entitled matter, at the South Dakota State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, on the 30th day of July, 2013, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

1 COMMISSIONER HANSON: In the matter of the 2 Complaint filed by Sprint Communications Company against Native American Telecom regarding telecommunications 3 This is TC10-026. 4 services. 5 The question is how shall the Commission 6 proceed? There are three pending motions in this docket, 7 and there was a -- recently filed last Thursday there was 8 an additional motion that was filed. We have before us NAT's Motion to Dismiss, NAT's 10 Motion to Dismiss for Mootness, Sprint's Motion for 11 Summary Judgment, and the recently filed motion by NAT to 12 reopen discovery and stay Sprint's Motion for Summary 13 Judgment. And since that was the most recently filed I 14 will ask the parties --15 I believe we have several people that did not 16 indicate they were on the phone with us at the time we 17 were calling roll in the beginning. So I will check to 18 make certain that all of the parties are still with us from NAT. 19 20 Mr. Swier, are you with us. 21 MR. SWIER: I am, Mr. Chair.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Mr. Shultz, are you now on the line?

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MR. SHULTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you. And, Sprint.

1 Sprint is here. Present. Thank you. And I will ask 2 if it the parties are ready to go forward with NAT's motion today, NAT's Thursday motion to reopen 3 4 discovery. MR. SHULTZ: Yes, Mr. Chair. 6 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Is Sprint ready? 7 MR. TOBIN: Mr. Chair, Sprint would object to 8 hearing the motion --9 COMMISSIONER HANSON: Is your mic on? 10 you'll probably have to eat the mic, it sounds like. 11 MR. KNUTSON: To restate that, Mr. Chair, 12 Scott Knutson for Sprint Communications. Sprint would 13 object to hearing that motion today. It is an effort to 14 further delay deliberations of three motions that are 15 ripe for the Commission's decision, deliberation and 16 decision. It attempts to introduce issues of discovery

procedurally improper effort to delay determination of Sprint's Motion for Summary Judgment.

from Docket 11-087 into Docket 10-026. It amounts to a

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The rules are very clear that in order for NAT to attempt to oppose Sprint's Motion for Summary Judgment on the grounds that additional discovery's needed, SDCL 15-6-56F requires that NAT file by way of Affidavit a statement attesting to what additional facts are needed, how that discovery would relate to the issues

being raised in opposing summary judgment.

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This motion to reopen discovery is not that Affidavit. It is not proper under Rule 56F. And so, again, we'd object to hearing that motion today. We believe the other motions pending are ripe for deliberation and determination and the Commission should determine how we should proceed on those motions.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Knutson.

Mr. Swier, were you able to hear what Mr. Knutson had to say?

MR. SWIER: Yeah, I could barely hear him, Mr. Chair, but I could hear it.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Okay. Thank you. Then I would like to hear from you, and then I would like to hear from Commission counsel.

MR. SWIER: Mr. Chair, as you know, on April 9 of 2013, the Commission held a hearing regarding Sprint's Motion for Summary Judgment. In support of that Motion for Summary Judgment in this particular case TC-10-026 Sprint relied on numerous discovery responses that were made by NAT in TC-11-087. That's a completely separate document -- or excuse me. Docket proceeding.

As the Commission will remember, TC-11-087 is the pending CLEC application that NAT has in front of the Commission at this time. So what Sprint did is they

took discovery from that separate docket proceeding,

11-087, and they used that discovery information in

support of their Motion for Summary Judgment in this

case.

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By incorporating that discovery from 11-087 into this case Sprint acknowledged that these two dockets, 10-026 and 11-087, are invariably intertwined because it goes to the CLEC application.

On June 18, a couple months after the Commission had its summary judgment hearing, NAT was now informed by Sprint that it intended to withdraw the entire testimony of its expert witness, Mr. Farrar. That was the expert testimony that was filed in 11-087. And, again, Sprint has already conceded that these two dockets are intertwined.

We were notified for the first time that their entire expert testimony from Mr. Farrar they were now going to withdraw. In other words, we were just informed that they're no longer going to stand behind that expert testimony given by Mr. Farrar.

We believe that Mr. Farrar's testimony in these dockets is crucial. As you will recall in 11-087 the Commission relied heavily on Mr. Farrar's testimony in denying NAT's Motion for Summary Judgment. So to somehow say now that they're withdrawing Farrar's

testimony and that somehow his testimony is not relevant to both of these dockets I think at this point is disingenuous.

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So here's what we've asked. We've asked that because of this last minute withdrawal of Farrar's testimony that we be given an opportunity to depose Mr. Farrar. Because his testimony is applicable in both of these dockets.

One of the arguments Sprint has made is that we are trying to simply delay this particular docket.

That's absolutely not true. Because we actually provided notice to Sprint that we wanted to take Mr. Farrar's deposition yesterday. They were provided notice of that.

We're not trying to take his deposition in November or December. We actually noticed his deposition for yesterday.

They refused to provide Mr. Farrar. So to say that we're trying to delay this is absolutely not correct. We tried to take his deposition yesterday. Sprint put up a roadblock saying that, well, we're withdrawing his testimony now.

The South Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure don't allow Sprint to file testimony from their expert under oath and then decide to pull it back after maybe they're not happy with how the testimony looks at this

juncture.

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So all we're asking to do is to reopen the discovery so we can take the deposition of Farrar because we think that that is going to be important testimony in both 10-26 and 11-87. And that's all we're asking in this case is to give us an opportunity to conduct a deposition of their expert who they've now withdrawn. That's all we're asking to do.

We're not asking for a delay. Right now it's whenever Sprint will decide to produce their expert witness, which we're entitled, of course, to depose. So, again, we could have had this done yesterday. We could have had his deposition taken. Sprint refused. So all we're asking for is to be able to reopen discovery in this case.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Ms. Wiest.

MS. AILTS WIEST: I just -- I have a question first for Sprint. You started by saying that you object to hearing the motion today.

Is Sprint going to be responding to the motion in writing?

MR. KNUTSON: We would if it continues on the Commission docket. We would respond to it orally.

MS. AILTS WIEST: So you do plan to provide a

written response to the motion?

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MR. KNUTSON: Yes. However, I don't believe the Commission can go forward with deliberations on the pending motions because I think you will see that what has been attempted here is simply to interject issues they claim are in 11-87 and some of them lap over into 10-26.

And I refer you to the Order of the Commission on the discovery disputes, 11-87, particularly the May 4, 2012, Order where the Commission was very clear to distinguish between discovery that Sprint and CenturyLink could have of NAT versus the discovery NAT could have of Sprint and CenturyLink.

The reason they drew the distinction was the docket in 11-87, "regards NAT's ability to meet the requirements to receive the Certificate of Authority, not the intervenor's current ability to meet the requirements."

So the application for Certificate of Authority in 11-87 raises distinct issues from 10-26. The fact that Sprint used admissions by a party opponent from 11-87 as part of its summary judgment briefing in 10-26 does not give NAT the right to delay deliberations of the motions pending in 10-26.

What NAT is required to do is to demonstrate

that there are material facts in dispute where that they need discovery and they can show what discovery they would have under Rule 56F and they haven't done that.

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MS. AILTS WIEST: The purpose of putting the question, I believe, on the Commission agenda, how shall the Commission proceed, you know, was to determine those three, at the time that we put the agenda out the three pending motions, NAT's Motion to Dismiss, Motion For Mootness, and Sprint's Motion for Summary Judgment.

Of course, since that time NAT has put forth a motion requesting the staying of Sprint's Motion for Summary Judgment. And it's my understanding now that Sprint is -- doesn't -- you don't want to have that heard before the Commission today and that you would respond to that in writing.

My problem is is that that motion is certainly applicable to how the Commission shall proceed, and I'm not sure how we decide how to proceed prior to deciding that motion.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: Ms. Wiest, I'm curious that if the Commission should decide that on the face of the motion regardless of what argument may come up in opposition from -- well, in opposition, that the Commission would decide that -- in Sprint's favor and

that it's not necessary to reopen discovery, that the withdrawal of Farrar's testimony in TC-11-087 does not affect TC 10-026.

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Can we, so to speak, bench that at this juncture? Do we even need to proceed to a -- to hearing what Sprint's position is?

MS. AILTS WIEST: I think that the fact is that the motion itself was not put on the agenda for notice, Sprint has not formally responded to the motion and I would think that the Commission would want to hear that and make its decision and then, depending on what its decision is, I think we can schedule those three motions for Commission decision.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: I appreciate that. It was not noticed -- because it came in Thursday, it was not noticed on this meeting so we cannot make a determination at this meeting on that issue. All right. I see what you had to say.

My concern is that this is a 2010 docket and it seems like we have explored every nook and cranny and then we have redundantly examined those nooks and crannies repeatedly. And I fear that -- well, we need to resolve this. And we need to resolve it expeditiously, and I see -- I'm troubled by this motion coming in at the last minute like this. Especially when the parties are

struggling with even agreeing on a time for motions to be placed on the agenda.

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I think that it's up to the Commission to just say we're placing these on the agenda, we're going to decide and finalize this. And so frustration, I'm venting here.

Commissioner Nelson, I see you're asking for the mic.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. I would have preferred to deal with NAT's motion today, but understanding that we didn't notice it and that Sprint is asking for time to respond formally, that's not going to happen.

And so what I would propose, and I'm going to look at Rolayne to make sure we're not out in left field, but what I would propose is to deal with all four of these motions two weeks from today, obviously dealing with NAT's newest motion first and understanding that if we grant that motion, then the other three are going to be further delayed. But I would propose to put all four of them on the agenda two weeks from today. And as Commissioner Hanson said, move this ball along.

MS. AILTS WIEST: So I would just ask the parties if there's any objection to doing that.

COMMISSIONER HANSON: That's exactly what -- I

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     appreciate Commissioner Nelson's position and, frankly,
     unless there's an absolutely earth moving reason not to
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     do that, that is what I would propose to do.
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              So, Mr. Knutson, any reason why this
     Commission should not hear those four issues two weeks
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 6
     from today?
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              MR. KNUTSON: We can make ourselves available
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     for that hearing.
              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Mr. Swier.
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              MR. SWIER: Your Honor, I have a full-day trial
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     in front of Judge Trandahl in Winner on that day.
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     hearing starts at 9 a.m. in Winner and is expected to go
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     all day so I would not be available that day.
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              MR. KNUTSON: What about Mr. Shultz?
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              MR. SHULTZ: I am two weeks from today -- I've
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     just got to confirm one thing, but I think I am
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     available.
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Mr. Shultz, are you
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     comfortable proceeding without Mr. Swier?
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              MR. SHULTZ: You know, I prefer -- Scott has
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     been involved, of course, much longer in both these
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     matters than I have, but I think I'd prefer to have Scott
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     there, available as well.
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                                Just one thing -- I'm sorry.
              MS. AILTS WIEST:
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COMMISSIONER HANSON:

No. Go right ahead.

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              MS. AILTS WIEST: I would just throw out that to
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     the extent if the 13th, you know, doesn't work for the
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     parties another thing would be maybe to stop trying to
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     have these on, you know, Commission agenda meetings and
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     just see if we can schedule them for a different day if
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     that would work for people.
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON:
                                     I appreciate that.
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     direct Staff to proceed to setting a date as soon as
     possible for all parties.
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              COMMISSIONER NELSON: Let me, if I might,
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     Mr. Chairman, put some context to as soon as possible.
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON: Not tomorrow morning.
              COMMISSIONER NELSON:
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                                    I'd make tomorrow morning
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            But within -- by the end of August we'd need to
     work.
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     have moved along with this.
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              COMMISSIONER HANSON: As soon as possible.
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     is there any question on that?
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              We appreciate from all of the parties the amount
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     of work that all of you have done and hopefully we will
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     get this concluded then. That's the direction from the
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     Commission.
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                            Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
              MR. KNUTSON:
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     appreciate the Commission's flexibility in trying to get
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     this resolved.
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Thank you.

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MR. SWIER:

1	MR. SHULTZ: Thank you very much.
2	COMMISSIONER HANSON: You bet.
3	(The proceeding is concluded.)
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1	STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
2	:SS CERTIFICATE
3	COUNTY OF SULLY)
4	
5	I, CHERI MCCOMSEY WITTLER, a Registered
6	Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter and
7	Notary Public in and for the State of South Dakota:
8	DO HEREBY CERTIFY that as the duly-appointed
9	shorthand reporter, I took in shorthand the proceedings
10	had in the above-entitled matter on the 30th day of
11	July, 2013, and that the attached is a true and correct
12	transcription of the proceedings so taken.
13	Dated at Onida, South Dakota this 22nd day
14	of August, 2013.
15	
16	
17	
18	Cheri McComsey Wittler,
19	Notary Public and Registered Professional Reporter
20	Certified Realtime Reporter
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

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