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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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June 26, 2000

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2000

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Mr. K. David Waddell  
Executive Secretary  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

RE: Tariff 00-00454  
Introduction of a 1.5% Late Fee for Business Customers

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Attached is the original with thirteen (13) copies of Sprint Communications Company L.P.'s response to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority Staff's data request dated June 13, 2000.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Kaye Odum at 919-554-5277.

Sincerely,

C. Steve Parrott

Attachments

**SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.**  
**TARIFF 00-00454**  
**TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST**  
**DATED JUNE 13, 2000**

Question 1: Does Sprint currently have any Tennessee business customers who subscribe to DDD services as defined in Tenn. Admin. Rule 1220-4-2-.55(2)(d)?

Answer: Yes, Sprint currently has approximately 300 customers who subscribe to DDD services.

**SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.**  
**TARIFF 00-00454**  
**TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST**  
**DATED JUNE 13, 2000**

Question 2: Will Sprint business customers identified in question 1 above, if any, be subject to the Late Fee proposed by Tariff 00-00454?

Answer: Yes.

**SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.**  
**TARIFF 00-00454**  
**TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY'S REQUEST**  
**DATED JUNE 13, 2000**

Question 3: Does the introduction of a Late Fee for business customers whose rates are capped by Tenn. Admin. Rule 1220-4-2-.55(2) constitute an increase in existing rates in violation of said Rule? Explain your answer.

Answer: No, the introduction of a Late Fee for business customers whose direct distance dialing (DDD) rates are capped by Tenn. Admin. Rule 1220-4-2-.55(2) does not constitute an increase in existing rates in violation of said Rule. The same rates will be billed for DDD telecommunications services after the implementation of the Late Fee. The Late Fee is not a rate or charge for any DDD telecommunications service but a penalty for customers who do not pay their bills on time. The Late Fee will only affect customers who order service, receive the benefit of those services, and cause Sprint to incur additional costs by failing to pay for those services in a timely manner. As an avoidable penalty, customers will never be affected by the Late Fee if they pay their bills on time.

Late payment charges are common in the industry and are in the public interest. Since the costs associated with late payment are the sole result of customers who fail or refuse to pay their bills on time, it is reasonable to expect that those who cause such costs should be the ones to pay for them.