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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
VoiceStream Wireless Corporation,)
Powertel, Inc.)
)
Applications under Section 214 and 310(d) of)
the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended,)
for Transfer of Control to Deutsche Telekom AG)

IB Docket No. 00-187

RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

VoiceStream Wireless Corporation ("VoiceStream"), Powertel, Inc. ("Powertel"), and Deutsche Telekom AG ("DT") respectfully submit this response to the Motion for Extension of Time of Senator Ernest F. Hollings. VoiceStream, Powertel, and DT do not oppose Senator Hollings's request for a 30-day extension of the deadline for filing comments and reply comments on the pending transfer-of-control applications. But we wish to emphasize the critical importance of processing the pending applications promptly. We urge the Commission to grant no further extensions of time, and, notwithstanding the 30-day extension of the comment cycle, to make every effort to complete its review of the applications within 180 days of their filing.

The proposed mergers will significantly enhance wireless competition in the United States. VoiceStream's competitors in recent months have been rapidly consolidating and expanding their networks. Approving the proposed transfers of control will strengthen VoiceStream's ability to compete with its larger rivals, and in turn lead to increased price competition, improved service, and greater innovation. These procompetitive benefits will not be offset by any anticompetitive effects in the domestic wireless market, as the Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau already has recognized, or the market for international

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services.¹ Therefore, the sooner the Commission approves the proposed transactions, the sooner VoiceStream can get on with the business of entering new markets, improving its services, and bringing those services to consumers.

The Commission has made clear that it strives to complete all reviews of transactions within 180 days after the filing of a transfer-of-control application.² The extension of the comment period by 30 days should not compromise the Commission's fulfillment of that important objective. In reviewing recent transactions that created some of the nation's largest wireless competitors, the Commission has completed its review in well under 180 days,³ even where foreign carriers were involved.⁴

¹ See, e.g., *Hurdle Removed in Telecom Merger*, AP Online, Oct. 27, 2000.

² See *FCC Public Forum: Merger Transaction Process*, Mar. 1, 2000 (available at www.fcc.gov/transaction/background.html) (stating that license-transfer proceedings should take no longer than 180 days). See also *Hearings on the Telecommunications Merger Review Act of 2000 Before the House Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection*, Mar. 14, 2000 (statement of William E. Kennard, Chairman, FCC) (stating goal of ruling on even the most complex license-transfer applications within 180 days); *Comments of General Counsel Christopher J. Wright Introducing the Transactions Team Presentation on Timely Consideration of the Applications Accompanying Mergers*, Mar. 1, 2000 (available at www.fcc.gov/speeches/misc/statements/wright030100.html) (same).

³ See *Applications of SBC Communications Inc. and BellSouth Corp.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 00-2223, WT Dkt. No. 00-81 (rel. Sept. 29, 2000) (completing review in less than five months).

⁴ See *Applications of AirTouch Communications, Inc., Transferor, and Vodafone Group Plc, Transferee*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 99-1200 (rel. June 21, 1999) (completing review in less than five months). See also *Applications of Aerial Communications Inc. and VoiceStream Wireless Holding Corp.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 00-730, WT Docket. No. 00-3 (rel. Mar. 31, 2000) (completing review in four months).

There is no reason to exceed such a timeframe here. We request that the Commission approve the applications as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



William T. Lake
John H. Harwood II
William R. Richardson, Jr.
Matthew A. Brill
Julie A. Veach
WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING
2445 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 663-6000

Cheryl A. Tritt
Louis Gurman
Doane F. Kiechel
Nina A. Mrose
Christa M. Parker
MORRISON & FOERSTER
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 887-1500

John T. Nakahata
Karen L. Gulick
Samuel L. Feder
HARRIS, WILTSHIRE & GRANNIS LLP
1200 Eighteenth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 730-1300

Hans-Willi Hefekäuser
Wolfgang Kopf
Andreas Tegge
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, INC.
1020 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 452-5100

Counsel for Deutsche Telekom AG

David A. Miller
Brian T. O'Connor
Robert A. Calaff
VOICESTREAM WIRELESS CORP.
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 204-3099

Edward A. Yorkgitis, Jr.
Paul G. Madison
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN L.L.P.
1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 955-9600

Counsel for VoiceStream Wireless Corp.

Jill Dorsey
POWERTEL, INC.
1239 O.G. Skinner Drive
West Point, GA 31833
(706) 645-2000

Counsel for Powertel, Inc.

November 7, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Matthew Brill, hereby certify that I have caused to be served, by hand delivery, copies of the foregoing Response to Motion for Extension of Time, on November 7, 2000, to the following persons.

Senator Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce Science,
and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510-6125

Office of Media Relations
Reference Operations Division
445 12th Street, SW
Room CY-A257
Washington, DC 20554

Claudia Fox
Policy and Facilities Branch
Telecommunications Division
International Bureau
445 12th Street, SW. Room 6-A848
Washington, DC 20554

Justin Connor
Policy and Facilities Branch
Telecommunications Division
International Bureau
445 12th Street, SW. Room 6-A832
Washington, DC 20554

Lauren Kravetz
Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
445 12th Street, SW. Room 4-A163
Washington, DC 20554

John Branscome
Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunication Bureau
445 12th Street, SW. Room 4-A234
Washington, DC 20554

Jamison Prime
Public Safety and Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunication Bureau
445 12th Street, SW. Room 4-A734
Washington, DC 20554

Carl Huie
Experimental Licensing Branch
Electromagnetic Compatibility Division
Office of Engineering and Technology
445 12th Street, SW Room 7-A361
Washington, DC 20554

James Bird
Office of General Counsel
445 12th Street, SW. Room 8-C818
Washington, DC 20554

Christine E. Enemark
Counsel for Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004-2401

International Transcription Services, Inc.
445 12th Street, SW.
Room CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554


Matthew A. Brill