

**GTE Telephone Operations** 

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September 27, 1996 - VIA FACSIMILE

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 960979-TP

WinStar Wireless of Florida, Inc. Petition for Arbitration Pursuant to 47 USC Section 252(b) of Interconnection Rates, Terms, and Conditions with GTE Florida Incorporated

Dear Ms. Bayo:

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On September 20, 1996, GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL) notified the Commission that the parties in this case had agreed to extend by one week the filing date for \_GTEFL's testimony and associated materials in response to WinStar's Petition for \_Arbitration. At that point, no procedural order had been issued, but the parties assumed due dates based on Commission custom in arbitration proceedings under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act).

No procedural order has yet been issued. Nevertheless, this is GTEFL's notification that it believes it need not file a response to WinStar's Petition today. The parties have agreed to file stipulated facts in an effort to obviate a hearing and they have settled all but one issue in this arbitration. Specifically, they are continuing to negotiate a most favored nations clause.

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A part of GTE Corporation

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Because of the parties' earlier agreements concerning procedure in this case, and because no procedural order has been issued, GTEFL believes it is not yet obliged to file any formal response to WinStar's Petition. GTEFL believes it is preferable to allow the parties to conclude their negotiations than to go forward with the full procedural complement leading up to a hearing. This course is particularly appropriate because the parties are already working with a Commission mediator, Martha Brown, to creatively resolve their few remaining differences.

If GTEFL is mistaken in its understanding about its procedural obligations in this case, please contact me as soon as possible. It is not GTEFL's intent to waive any of its procedural or substantive rights under the Act, Florida law, or Commission rules.

Very truly yours

Anthony Gillman

APG:tas

Martha Brown, Esq. - VIA FACSIMILE
 Robert Berger, Esq. - VIA FACSIMILE