

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for arbitration
concerning complaint of
BellSouth Telecommunications,
Inc. against Supra
Telecommunications and
Information Systems, Inc. for
resolution of billing disputes.

DOCKET NO. 001097-TP
ORDER NO. PSC-02-0143-PCO-TP
ISSUED: January 31, 2002

ORDER SETTING MATTER FOR REHEARING
AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) provides local exchange telecommunications services for resale pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and to resale agreements entered into between BellSouth and various Alternative Local Exchange Companies (ALECs). Supra Telecommunications and Information Systems, Inc. (Supra) is an ALEC certified by this Commission to provide local exchange services within Florida. On August 9, 2000, BellSouth filed a complaint against Supra, alleging that Supra has violated Attachment 6, Section 13 of their present agreement by refusing to pay non-disputed sums. The complaint also alleges billing disputes arising from the prior resale agreement with Supra.

On August 30, 2000, Supra filed its Motion to Dismiss Complaint or, in the Alternative, Stay Proceedings and/or Compel Arbitration. That Motion was granted in part and denied in part by Order No. PSC-00-2250-FOF-TP, issued November 28, 2000. In the Order, we retained jurisdiction over all disputes arising out of the original Agreement between the two parties, entered into on June 1, 1997.

On May 3, 2001, an evidentiary hearing was held on the portions of the complaint over which we retained jurisdiction. The findings from that hearing were incorporated in our Final Order on Complaint, Order No. PSC-01-1585-FOF-TP, issued July 31, 2001. On August 15, 2001, Supra filed its Motion for Reconsideration of Final Order No. PSC-01-1585-FOF-TP, and that Motion was set for Agenda Conference on October 2, 2001.

Prior to the scheduled Agenda Conference, a procedural irregularity was brought to my attention, which prompted a deferral

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of the item from the scheduled Agenda. I directed further inquiry, and have since reviewed the findings of that inquiry. Although the inquiry has failed to disclose any prejudice to either party, the Commission is sensitive to the mere appearance of impropriety. Accordingly, in order to remove any possible appearance of prejudice, I find that this matter should be afforded a rehearing.

This Order is issued pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 28-106.211, Florida Administrative Code, which provides that the presiding officer before whom a case is pending may issue any orders necessary to effectuate discovery, prevent delay, and promote the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of all aspects of the case. The hearing will be conducted according to the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and all administrative rules applicable to this Commission.

Scope of Proceeding

The scope of this proceeding shall be limited to the issues raised by the parties in Order No. PSC-01-0898-PHO-TP (the first Prehearing Order), issued April 9, 2001, unless modified by the Commission. The rehearing shall be based on the original pleadings filed. Testimony and discovery for this rehearing will proceed on an expedited schedule. The expedited schedule shall not be modified except upon a showing of good cause.

Further, the pleadings and orders which occurred on or before February 7, 2001, including, Supra's Motion to Dismiss filed on August 30, 2000, and Supra's Motion for Reconsideration of the Order No. PSC-00-2250-FOF-TP, shall be incorporated into the record for the rehearing. Additionally, Order No. PSC-01-0493-FOF-TP, issued February 27, 2001, disposing of Supra's Motion for Reconsideration of Order No. PSC-00-2250-FOF-TP shall be incorporated into the record for rehearing.

Discovery

When discovery requests are served and the respondent intends to object to or ask for clarification of the discovery request, the objection or request for clarification shall be made within seven days of service of the discovery request. This procedure is intended to reduce delay in resolving discovery disputes.

The hearing in this docket is set for April 4, 2002. Unless authorized by the Prehearing Officer for good cause shown, all discovery shall be completed by March 28, 2002. All interrogatories, requests for admissions, and requests for production of documents shall be numbered sequentially in order to facilitate their identification. The discovery requests will be numbered sequentially within a set and any subsequent discovery requests will continue the sequential numbering system. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.206, Florida Administrative Code, unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply: interrogatories, including all subparts, shall be limited to 75, and requests for production of documents, including all subparts, shall be limited to 75.

The compressed time schedule for this proceeding requires an expedited discovery process. Consequently, all discovery responses shall be served within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the discovery request. There shall be no extra time for mailing throughout this proceeding. Furthermore, in view of the scope and expedited nature of this proceeding, parties shall serve discovery requests and responses by either express mail, facsimile, e-mail, or hand delivery. In addition, the parties shall provide copies of their responses to the other party's discovery requests to Commission staff.

Any information provided pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential business information status is requested shall be treated by the Commission and the parties as confidential. The information shall be exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, pending a formal ruling on such request by the Commission, or upon the return of the information to the person providing the information. If no determination of confidentiality has been made and the information has not been made a part of the evidentiary record in the proceeding, it shall be returned expeditiously to the person providing the information. If a determination of confidentiality has been made and the information was not entered into the record of the proceeding, it shall be returned to the person providing the information within the time period set forth in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes.

Diskette Filings

See Rule 25-22.028(1), Florida Administrative Code, for the requirements of filing on diskette for certain utilities.

Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

Each party shall prefile, in writing, all testimony that it intends to sponsor. Such testimony shall be typed on 8 ½ inch x 11 inch transcript-quality paper, double spaced, with 25 numbered lines, on consecutively numbered pages, with left margins sufficient to allow for binding (1.25 inches).

Each exhibit intended to support a witness' prefiled testimony shall be attached to that witness' testimony when filed, identified by his or her initials, and consecutively numbered beginning with 1. All other known exhibits shall be marked for identification at the prehearing conference. After an opportunity for opposing parties to object to introduction of the exhibits and to cross-examine the witness sponsoring them, exhibits may be offered into evidence at the hearing. Exhibits accepted into evidence at the hearing shall be numbered sequentially. The pages of each exhibit shall also be numbered sequentially prior to filing with the Commission.

An original and 15 copies of all testimony and exhibits shall be prefiled with the Director, Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, by the close of business, which is 5:00 p.m., on the date due. A copy of all prefiled testimony and exhibits shall be served by mail or hand delivery to all other parties and staff no later than the date filed with the Commission. Failure of a party to timely prefile exhibits and testimony from any witness in accordance with the foregoing requirements may bar admission of such exhibits and testimony.

Prehearing Statement

All parties in this docket shall file a prehearing statement. Staff will also file a prehearing statement. The original and 15 copies of each prehearing statement shall be prefiled with the Director of the Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services by the close of business, which is 5:00 p.m., on the date due. A copy of the prehearing statement shall be served on all

other parties and staff no later than the date it is filed with the Commission. Failure of a party to timely file a prehearing statement shall be a waiver of any issue not raised by other parties or by the Commission. In addition, such failure shall preclude the party from presenting testimony in support of its position. Such prehearing statements shall set forth the following information in the sequence listed below.

- (a) The name of all known witnesses that may be called by the party, and the subject matter of their testimony;
- (b) a description of all known exhibits that may be used by the party, whether they may be identified on a composite basis, and the witness sponsoring each;
- (c) a statement of basic position in the proceeding;
- (d) a statement of each question of fact the party considers at issue, the party's position on each such issue, and which of the party's witnesses will address the issue;
- (e) a statement of each question of law the party considers at issue and the party's position on each such issue;
- (f) a statement of each policy question the party considers at issue, the party's position on each such issue, and which of the party's witnesses will address the issue;
- (g) a statement of issues that have been stipulated to by the parties;
- (h) a statement of all pending motions or other matters the party seeks action upon;
- (i) a statement identifying the parties' pending requests or claims for confidentiality; and

- (j) a statement as to any requirement set forth in this order that cannot be complied with, and the reasons therefore.
- (k) a statement identifying any decision or pending decision of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or any court that has or may either preempt or otherwise impact the Commission's ability to resolve any of the issues presented or the relief requested in this matter.

Prehearing Conference

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.209, Florida Administrative Code, a prehearing conference will be held on March 14, 2002, at the Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida. Any party who fails to attend the prehearing conference, unless excused by the Prehearing Officer, will have waived all issues and positions raised in that party's prehearing statement.

Prehearing Procedure: Waiver of Issues

Any issue not raised by a party prior to the issuance of the prehearing order shall be waived by that party, except for good cause shown. A party seeking to raise a new issue after the issuance of the prehearing order shall demonstrate that: it was unable to identify the issue because of the complexity of the matter; discovery or other prehearing procedures were not adequate to fully develop the issue; due diligence was exercised to obtain facts touching on the issue; information obtained subsequent to the issuance of the prehearing order was not previously available to enable the party to identify the issue; and introduction of the issue could not be to the prejudice or surprise of any party. Specific reference shall be made to the information received, and how it enabled the party to identify the issue.

Unless a matter is not at issue for that party, each party shall diligently endeavor in good faith to take a position on each issue prior to issuance of the prehearing order. When a party is unable to take a position on an issue, it shall bring that fact to the attention of the Prehearing Officer. If the Prehearing Officer finds that the party has acted diligently and in good faith to take a position, and further finds that the party's failure to take a

position will not prejudice other parties or confuse the proceeding, the party may maintain "no position at this time" prior to hearing and thereafter identify its position in a post-hearing statement of issues. In the absence of such a finding by the Prehearing Officer, the party shall have waived the entire issue. When an issue and position have been properly identified, any party may adopt that issue and position in its post-hearing statement.

Document Identification

Each exhibit submitted shall have the following in the upper right-hand corner: the docket number, the witness' name, the word "Exhibit" followed by a blank line for the exhibit number and the title of the exhibit.

An example of the typical exhibit identification format is as follows:

Docket No. 12345-TL
J. Doe Exhibit No. _____
Cost Studies for Minutes of Use by Time of Day

Tentative Issues

The issues previously established by Order No. PSC-01-0898-PHO-TP (the first Prehearing Order), issued April 9, 2001, will be controlling and are reaffirmed in this Order. Attached to this order as Attachment "A" is the list of the issues from Order No. PSC-01-0898-PHO-TP. Prefiled testimony and prehearing statements shall address the issues set forth in Attachment "A".

Controlling Dates

The following dates have been established to govern the key activities of this case.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Direct testimony and exhibits | February 8, 2002 |
| 2) Rebuttal testimony and exhibits | March 1, 2002 |
| 3) Prehearing Statements | March 1, 2002 |
| 4) Prehearing Conference | March 14, 2002 |

5) Hearing

April 4, 2002

6) Briefs

April 18, 2002

Use of Confidential Information At Hearing

It is the policy of this Commission that all Commission hearings be open to the public at all times. The Commission also recognizes its obligation pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, to protect proprietary confidential business information from disclosure outside the proceeding. Parties are cautioned to avoid disclosure of information considered proprietary by either party. Disclosure of another party's confidential information may result in sanctions.

Any party wishing to use any proprietary confidential business information, as that term is defined in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, shall notify the Prehearing Officer and all parties of record by the time of the Prehearing Conference, or if not known at that time, no later than seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the hearing. The notice shall include a procedure to assure that the confidential nature of the information is preserved as required by statute. Failure of any party to comply with the seven-day requirement described above shall be grounds to deny the party the opportunity to present evidence which is proprietary confidential business information.

When confidential information is used in the hearing, parties must have copies for the Commissioners, necessary staff, and the Court Reporter, in envelopes clearly marked with the nature of the contents. Any party wishing to examine the confidential material that is not subject to an order granting confidentiality shall be provided a copy in the same fashion as provided to the Commissioners, subject to execution of any appropriate protective agreement with the owner of the material. Counsel and witnesses are cautioned to avoid verbalizing confidential information in such a way that would compromise the confidential information. Therefore, confidential information should be presented by written exhibit when reasonably possible to do so. At the conclusion of that portion of the hearing that involves confidential information, all copies of confidential exhibits shall be returned to the proffering party. If a confidential exhibit has been admitted into evidence, the copy provided to the Court Reporter shall be retained

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in the Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services's confidential files.

Post-Hearing Procedure

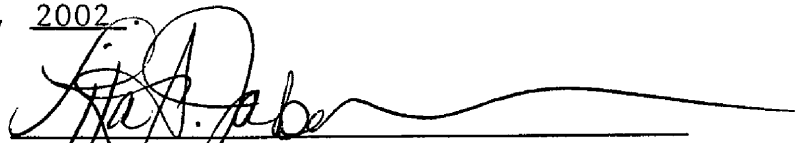
Each party shall file a post-hearing statement of issues and positions. A summary of each position of no more than 50 words, set off with asterisks, shall be included in that statement. If a party's position has not changed since the issuance of the prehearing order, the post-hearing statement may simply restate the prehearing position; however, if the prehearing position is longer than 50 words, it must be reduced to no more than 50 words. If a party fails to file a post-hearing statement in conformance with the rule, that party shall have waived all issues and may be dismissed from the proceeding.

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.215, Florida Administrative Code, a party's proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, if any, statement of issues and positions, and brief, shall together total no more than 40 pages, and shall be filed at the same time.

Based upon the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Chairman Lila A. Jaber, as Prehearing Officer, that the provisions of this Order shall govern this proceeding unless modified by the Commission.

By ORDER of Chairman Lila A. Jaber, as Prehearing Officer, this 31st day of January, 2002.


LILA A. JABER
Chairman and Prehearing Officer

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

ATTACHMENT "A"

ISSUES FROM ORDER NO. PSC-01-0898-PHO-TP
(THE FIRST PREHEARING ORDER)

- ISSUE 1: Should the rates and charges contained (or not contained) in the 1997 AT&T/BellSouth Agreement apply to the BellSouth bills at issue in this Docket?
- ISSUE 2: Did BellSouth bill Supra appropriately for End-User Common Line Charges pursuant to the BellSouth/Supra interconnection and resale agreement?
- ISSUE 3: Did BellSouth bill Supra appropriately for changes in services, unauthorized local service changes, and reconnections pursuant to the BellSouth/Supra interconnection and resale agreements?
- ISSUE 4: Did BellSouth bill Supra appropriately for secondary service charges pursuant to the BellSouth/Supra interconnection and resale agreements?