

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition to establish generic docket to consider amendments to interconnection agreements resulting from changes in law, by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 041269-TP
ORDER NO. PSC-05-1056-CFO-TP
ISSUED: November 1, 2005

ORDER GRANTING ITC^DELTACOM COMMUNICATIONS INC.'S REQUEST FOR SPECIFIED CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENT NO. 09329-05

I. Case Background

On August 21, 2003, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its *Triennial Review Order*¹ (*TRO*), which contained revised unbundling rules and responded to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' remand decision in *USTA I*.²

On March 2, 2004, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals released its decision in *United States Telecom Ass'n v. FCC*³ (*USTA II*), which vacated and remanded certain provisions of the *TRO*. In particular, the D.C. Circuit held that the FCC's delegation of authority to state commissions to make impairment findings was unlawful, and further found that the national findings of impairment for mass market switching and high-capacity transport were improper.

The FCC released an *Order and Notice*⁴ (*Interim Order*) on August 20, 2004, requiring ILECs to continue providing unbundled access to mass market local circuit switching, high capacity loops and dedicated transport until the earlier of the effective date of final FCC unbundling rules or six months after publication of the *Interim Order* in the Federal Register. On February 4, 2005, the FCC released an *Order on Remand (TRRO)*, wherein the FCC's final unbundling rules were adopted with an effective date of March 11, 2005.

In response to the decisions handed down in *USTA II* and the FCC's *Interim Order*, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) filed, on November 1, 2004, its Petition to

¹ In the Matter of Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability, CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98, 98-147, Report and Order and Order on Remand and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, rel. August 21, 2003 (*Triennial Review Order or TRO*).

² *United States Telecom Association v. FCC*, 290 F.3d 415 (D.C. Cir. 2002) (*USTA I*).

³ 359 F. 3d 554 (D.C. Cir. 2004) (*USTA II*), cert. denied, 160 L. Ed. 2d 223, 2004 U.S. LEXIS 671042 (October 12, 2004).

⁴ In the Matter of Unbundled Access to Network Elements, WC Docket No. 04-313; In the Matter of Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 01-338, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 04-179, rel. August 20, 2004 (*Interim Order*).

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establish a generic docket to consider amendments to interconnection agreements resulting from changes of law. Specifically, BellSouth asked that we determine what changes are required in existing approved interconnection agreements between BellSouth and competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) in Florida as a result of *USTA II* and the *Interim Order*.

On October 19, 2005, ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc. (ITC^DeltaCom) filed a request for specified confidential classification. In its request, ITC^DeltaCom seeks confidential classification of certain information contained in the Competitive Carriers of the South, Inc.'s (CompSouth) Response to BellSouth's First Request for Production of Documents, No. 1 (Document No. 09329-05). ITC^DeltaCom asserts that CompSouth's Response to BellSouth's First Request for Production of Documents, No. 1, includes information regarding a portion of ITC DeltaCom's proprietary network configuration. ITC^DeltaCom further asserts that this information is known to BellSouth, but has not been shared with ITC^DeltaCom's competitors or with the general public. Furthermore, ITC^DeltaCom asserts that the disclosure of this information could harm their competitive interests.

Florida law presumes that documents submitted to governmental agencies shall be public records. The only exceptions to this presumption are the specific statutory exemptions provided in the law and exemptions granted by governmental agencies pursuant to the specific terms of a statutory provision. This presumption is based on the concept that government should operate in the "sunshine." Rule 25-22.006 (4)(c), Florida Administrative Code, provides that it is the Company's burden to demonstrate that the documents fall into one of the statutory examples set out in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, or to demonstrate that the information is proprietary confidential information, the disclosure of which will cause the Company or its ratepayers harm.

Section 364.183 (3), Florida Statutes, in pertinent part, provides:

The term "proprietary confidential business information" means information, regardless of form or characteristics, which is owned or controlled by the person or company, is intended to be and is treated by the person or company as private in that the disclosure of the information would cause harm to the ratepayers or the person's or company's business operations, and has not been disclosed unless disclosed pursuant to a statutory provision, an order of a court or administrative body, or private agreement that provides that the information will not be released to the public.

Based on the definition of proprietary confidential business information in Section 364.183 (3), Florida Statutes, it appears that the material described herein is proprietary business information in accordance with Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code. Disclosure of this information could harm ITC^DeltaCom by giving its competitors an unfair advantage in developing their own competitive strategies. As such, ITC^DeltaCom's Request for Specified Confidential Classification of CompSouth's Response to BellSouth's First Request for Production of Documents, No. 1, is hereby granted.


Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, that ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc.'s Request for Specified Confidential Classification of Document No. 09329-05 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, the confidentiality granted to the material specified herein shall expire eighteen (18) months from the date of the issuance of this Order, in the absence of a renewed request for confidentiality pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes. It is further

ORDERED that this Order will be the only notification by the Commission to the parties concerning the expiration of the confidentiality time period.

By ORDER of Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, this 1st day of November, 2005.


LISA POLAK EDGAR
Commissioner 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; or (2) 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 the 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.