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January 22, 1993

Mr. Steve C. Tribble Director, Division of Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 101 East Gaines Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Docket No. 920260-TL - Rate Stabilization

Dear Mr. Tribble:

Enclosed please find an original and fifteen copies of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's Opposition to Public Counsel's Motion to Allow Continuation of Discovery, which we ask that you file in the captioned docket.

A copy of this letter is enclosed. Please mark it to indicate that the original was filed and return the copy to me. Copies have been served to the parties shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Certificate of Service.

CK

CK

Enclosures

Cc: All Parties of Record

A. M. Lombardo

H. R. Anthony

R. Douglas Lackey

WAS

OTH

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A BELLSOUTH Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE Docket No. 920260-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by United States Mail this 22 day of facus, 1993 to:

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A. Phillip Conna (P2)

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Comprehensive Review of)
the Revenue Requirements and Rate)
Stabilization Plan of Southern)
Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company)

Docket No. 920260-TL

Filed: January 22, 1993

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC COUNSEL'S MOTION TO ALLOW CONTINUATION OF DISCOVERY

COMES NOW BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern
Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company ("Southern Bell" or
"Company"), pursuant to Rule 25-22.037(b), Florida Administrative
Code, and files its Opposition to the Motion by the Office of
Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") to Allow Continuation of
Discovery, and states as grounds in support thereof the
following:

- 1. The order establishing procedure in this docket, Order No. PSC-92-1320-PCO-TL, states that discovery must be completed by January 15, 1993. On January 15, 1993, Public Counsel filed and served upon Southern Bell its Motion to Allow Continuation of Discovery in this docket. Along with its Motion, Public Counsel filed its Twenty-Sixth Request for Production of Documents and its Twentieth Set of Interrogatories.
- 2. Public Counsel argues that its motion should be granted because of newly raised material contained in Southern Bell's recently filed rebuttal testimony to Staff testimony and because

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of Public Counsel's recent access to the Staff audits and workpapers.

- 3. Subsequent to the filing of Public Counsel's Motion, the Commission voted at the Agenda Conference held January 15, 1993, to consolidate this docket with Docket Nos. 910163-TL, 910727-TL and 900960-TL.
- 4. Southern Bell has reviewed Public Counsel's TwentySixth Production of Documents and Twentieth Set of
 Interrogatories and has found several requests and
 interrogatories that do not pertain to any newly raised issues or
 newly discovered material. These requests could and should have
 been made prior to the discovery cut off date. For example,
 Interrogatories 446-449 refer to a November 9, 1992 Wall Street
 Journal article. There is no reason why any questions pertaining
 to that article could not have been raised before the end of the
 discovery period on January 15, 1993.
- 5. Southern Bell has no objection to allowing Public Counsel to conduct limited discovery that relates only to Southern Bell's rebuttal testimony to Staff testimony and Staff audits (the "new material"). Southern Bell opposes, however, an open-ended extension of the time in which discovery may be conducted. Southern Bell also objects to allowing discovery on any matter unrelated to the new material. Indeed, Public Counsel

has offered no support for an open-ended or general continuance of discovery.

- 6. Accordingly, Southern Bell submits that it would be appropriate for the Commission to allow limited additional discovery by Public Counsel that will relate only to the above-referenced audits and workpapers and Southern Bell's rebuttal testimony to the Staff. Given the beginning of the hearings on March 17, 1993, a discovery cut-off for the completion of this discovery of March 1, 1993 should be imposed. Since Southern Bell is not aware of any completion date for discovery related to matters that were subsumed within Docket Nos. 910163-TL, 910727-TL and 900960-TL, Southern Bell has no objection to ongoing discovery related to those dockets.
- on this matter state specifically the manner in which the discovery cut-off shall be implemented. By the date of the discovery cut-off, all discovery should be <u>completed</u>. Thus, for example, if interrogatories to which a party must respond are propounded, they must be propounded sufficiently in advance of the deadline to allow an answer to be filed on or before the deadline.

WHEREFORE, Southern Bell respectfully requests the entry of an order denying the relief requested by Public Counsel, but

granting it the right to continue discovery in a limited fashion as described above.

Respectfully submitted,

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