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February 22, 1993

Mr. Steve C. Tribble
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301

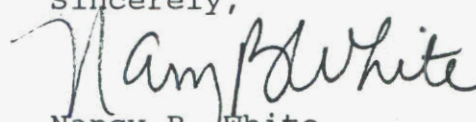
RE: Docket No. 920260-TL, 900960-TL, 910163-TL, 910727-TL

Dear Mr. Tribble:

Enclosed is an original and fifteen copies of a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's Response and Opposition to Public Counsel's Motion to Postpone Hearings. Please file this document in the above-captioned dockets.

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 on the parties shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,


Nancy B. White

Enclosures

cc: All Parties of Record
A. M. Lombardo
H. R. Anthony
R. D. Lackey

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPOC-RECORDS/REPORTING

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Docket No. 920260-TL

Docket No. 900960-TL

Docket No. 910163-TL

Docket No. 910727-TL

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

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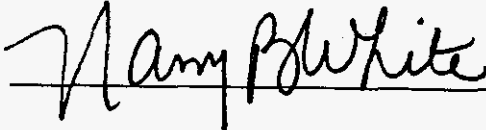
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Nancy Blumhite

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Comprehensive Review of the Revenue Requirements and Rate Stabilization Plan of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company)	Docket No. 920260-TL
)		
In re: Show cause proceeding against Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company for misbilling customers)	Docket No. 900960-TL
)		
In re: Petition on behalf of Citizens of the State of Florida to initiate investigation into integrity of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's repair service activities and reports)	Docket No. 910163-TL
)		
In re: Investigation into Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's compliance with Rule 25-4.110(2), F.A.C., Rebates)	Docket No. 910727-TL
)		Filed: February 22, 1993

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S
RESPONSE AND OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC COUNSEL'S
MOTION TO POSTPONE HEARINGS

COMES NOW, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company ("Southern Bell" or "Company"), and, pursuant to Rule 25-22.073, Florida Administrative Code, files its Response and Opposition to the Office of Public Counsel's ("Public Counsel") Motion to Postpone Hearings, showing in support thereof the following:

1. The hearings in the above-captioned dockets are currently scheduled for March and April of 1993. These dockets encompass review of and proposed revisions to the incentive regulation plan under which Southern Bell currently operates, as well as investigations into allegations concerning repair

reporting and non-contact sales.

2. On February 17, 1993, Public Counsel filed a Motion to Postpone Hearings in these dockets. Public Counsel set forth essentially two reasons why he believed that a delay in the scheduled hearings was appropriate.

3. The first justification advanced by Public Counsel is that Public Counsel is still awaiting discovery from Southern Bell and should not be forced to prepare its case without use of this discovery. Southern Bell avers that the discovery discussed within Public Counsel's motion relates solely to the investigation aspects of these dockets, which are fully separable from the incentive regulation portion of these dockets. Thus, issues dealing with incentive regulation and traditional rate case concerns in Docket 920260-TL can and should be heard in March of 1993, as currently scheduled. On the other hand, Southern Bell has no objection to the postponement of the hearings related to the matters to be reviewed in Dockets 910163-TL, 910727-TL, and 900960-TL. The discovery to which Public Counsel refers in its Motion relates to the matters under review in these latter dockets. Thus, there would be no prejudice to any party to hear the "rate case issues" in the period currently scheduled.

4. In addition, the testimony filed thus far by Public Counsel's witness, Earl Poucher, as well as by the witness for the Attorney General, Mike Maloy, is totally irrelevant both to the traditional rate case and incentive regulation issues which

are contained in Docket No. 920260-TL. In Mr. Poucher's testimony, filed on February 15, 1993, he concerns himself with alleged improper sales activities which occurred between 1987 and 1990. (Poucher Direct in Docket No. 900960-TL, p. 7). Mr. Maloy's testimony, filed on November 16, 1992, contains allegations of improper repair reporting which supposedly began in the early 1980's. (Maloy Direct in Docket No. 920260-TL, pp. 12, 20, 38, and 65). All of these alleged improper activities predated the inception of incentive regulation in late 1988. Thus, by their testimony, these witnesses demonstrate that the allegations of irregularities predate incentive regulation. The current hearing schedule should therefore be maintained for all traditional rate case and incentive regulation issues.

5. The second justification advanced by Public Counsel for its motion is that a continuance will allow the staff auditors to complete an audit of Southern Bell's affiliate transactions. This contention is clearly without merit. The staff of the Public Service Commission has already performed an audit of affiliated transaction issues and has prefiled testimony in Docket No. 920260-TL relating to this audit. Thus, there is no need to postpone the hearing on this basis. Moreover, the audit to which Public Counsel refers in its motion is being conducted under the joint auspices of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("NARUC") and the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") and was placed under the umbrella of Docket No. 920260-TL merely as a convenience. In

light of the Staff's already completed audit, the NARUC Audit should not serve as an impediment to the orderly conduct of these proceedings or as a vehicle of delay.

WHEREFORE, Southern Bell requests that, while it has no objection to the delay of the investigation portions of dockets 910163-TL, 910727-TL, and 900960-TL, it is opposed to any delay in the incentive regulation/traditional rate case hearings of docket 920260-TL currently scheduled for March of 1993.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of February, 1993.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE
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