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August 23, 1996

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

## 960833-TP

Docket No. RE:

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Enclosed are an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Response to MCI's Motion for Two-Day Partial Extension of Time. Please file these documents 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 on the parties shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. White (M)

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE DOCKET NO. 960833-TP DOCKET NO. 960846-TP

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via Federal Express this 23rd day of August, 1996 to the following:

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Southern States, Inc.
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Nancy B. White ow)

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by MCI for ) arbitration of certain terms and ) conditions of a proposed agreement ) with BellSouth Telecommunications, ) Inc. concerning interconnection ) and resale under the ) Telecommunications Act of 1996 )

Docket No. 960846-TP Filed: August 23, 1996

## BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S RESPONSE TO MCI'S MOTION FOR TWO-DAY PARTIAL EXTENSION OF TIME

COMES NOW, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth" or "Company") and hereby responds to MCI's Motion for Two-Day Partial Extension of Time, as follows:

1. Through its Motion, MCI asks the Commission to extend the date for prefiling direct testimony. In Order No. PSC-96-1039-PCO-TP, the Prehearing Officer granted MCI's and AT&T's joint motion to consolidate their proceedings and directed MCI to file its direct testimony by August 21, 1996. In its Motion, MCI states that it is unable to meet that rate because of the multitude of proceedings it is involved in and because certain exhibits will not be ready on August 21, 1996.

2. This is the second time since consolidation was granted that MCI has filed a motion adding something new to the morass that is this docket. First, MCI filed its "Mediation Plus" motion, seeking bifurcation of the arbitration, and thereby complicating an already complex and compressed proceeding.

3. MCI eagerly sought consolidation of their arbitration and AT&T's and knew that there were deadlines that were associated with the granting of that request. MCI waited until the day testimony was due to advise the parties and the Prehearing Officer that MCI

319

would fail to meet those deadlines. MCI's actions have shown that, as BellSouth pointed out initially, forcing consolidation is not tenable and will put a strain on the parties, and unfairly prejudice BellSouth. The issue of whether consolidation should be maintained must be revisited, particularly in light of the request ACSI has made to be included in that consolidation.

4. In the event that MCI's motion is granted, BellSouth requests the Prehearing Officer to grant BellSouth an equivalent extension to that date BellSouth is required to file responsive testimony. Such an extension will be required because MCI's action deprives Bellsouth of two days that are precious because of the already truncated schedule.

WHEREFORE, BellSouth requests that the Commission revisit the matter of whether consolidation should be maintained. In the event MCI's Motion is granted, BellSouth requests an equivalent extension for filing its responsive testimony.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of August, 1996.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

ROBERT G. BEATTY

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