1		BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
2		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GLORIA CALHOUN
3		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
4		DOCKET NO. 960786-TL
5		JULY 7, 1997
6		
7	Q.	Please state your name, address and position with BellSouth
8		Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth").
9		
10	Α.	My name is Gloria Calhoun. My business address is 675 West
11		Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30375. I am employed by BellSouth
12		Telecommunications, Inc. as a Director of Regulatory Planning. In that
13		position I handle matters related to operations planning and
14		implementation for local interconnection, unbundling and resale.
15		
16	Q.	Please summarize your background and experience.
17		
18	Α.	I graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in
19		Economics from the University of North Florida. In 1995, I completed a
20		management studies program at the Georgia Tech Management
21		Institute. I began my BellSouth career in 1981 when I joined the
22		Southern Bell Business Marketing organization in Jacksonville, Florida.
23		In that capacity I was responsible for coordinating the interdepartmental
24		efforts needed to implement complex voice systems and associated
25		exchange services. I joined the economic analysis group at company

-1-

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headquarters in Atlanta in 1985, where I analyzed operations costs for 1 dedicated services. I subsequently held positions in which I had pricing 2 and planning responsibilities for dedicated services, as well as for 3 additional testing, maintenance and other special provisioning activities 4 for access customers. I have been directly involved in operations 5 planning and implementation for local interconnection, unbundling and 6 resale since March, 1995, and was the primary interface for 7 negotiations with AT&T on operational issues between September 8 1995 and March 1996. Most recently I have testified on behalf of 9 BellSouth on electronic interfaces and other operational issues in cases 10 related to BellSouth's entry into the long distance market in Georgia 11 and Louisiana, and in arbitration hearings in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, 12 Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee. 13 14

15 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

16

The purpose of my testimony is to describe how BellSouth provides Α. 17 non-discriminatory access to its operational support systems as 18 required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"), the 19 Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") orders, and previous 20 orders of the Florida Public Service Commission ("FPSC" or "this 21 Commission"). I provide the details of BellSouth's implementation for 22 23 each electronic interface, including testing, capacity, documentation and training, and show that each interface is generally available or in 24 commercial use. 25

-2-

1

## 2 Q. How is your testimony organized?

3

Α. I begin my testimony by addressing the meaning of non-discriminatory 4 access in the context of operational support systems. I then address 5 the electronic interfaces available for each required function. Those 6 functions are pre-ordering, ordering and provisioning, maintenance and 7 repair, and billing; I address each of these in turn. Specifically, I 8 compare BellSouth's retail access for each function to the access 9 10 currently available to and in use by alternative local exchange carriers (ALECs). I also describe the capacity of each interface to support 11 12 ALEC transactions, as well as the training, documentation and other support available to ALECs using the interfaces. 13

14

#### 15 Evaluating Non-Discriminatory Access

- 16
- 17 Q. Did the FCC define non-discriminatory access to operational support18 systems?
- 19

A. Yes. The FCC's August 8, 1996 Order in Docket No. 96-98 ("FCC
Order"), at paragraph 312, indicates generally that the quality of access
to unbundled network elements must be comparable among ALECs,
and between ALECs and BellSouth. In specifically addressing the
interfaces that are the subject of this testimony, paragraph 518 of the
FCC Order states that "if competing carriers are unable to perform the

-3-

1		functions of pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and
2		repair, and billing for network elements and resale services in
3		substantially the same time and manner that an incumbent can for
4		itself, competing carriers will be severely disadvantaged, if not
5		precluded altogether, from fairly competing. Thus providing non-
6		discriminatory access to these support system functions, which would
7		include access to the information such systems contain, is vital to
8		creating opportunities for meaningful competition." (emphasis added)
9		
10	Q.	Does this mean that the functionality provided to ALECs must be
11		identical in every respect to the functionality available through
12		BellSouth's retail systems?
13		
14	Α.	No. Paragraph 315 of the FCC's Order describes the incumbents'
15		obligations as being to provide unbundled elements, such as access to
16		operational support systems, "under terms and conditions that would
17		provide an efficient competitor with a meaningful opportunity to
18		compete."
19		
20	Q.	How should this Commission evaluate whether BellSouth's electronic
21		interfaces provide non-discriminatory access to BellSouth's operational
22		support systems?
23		
24	Α.	This Commission should apply the principle articulated by the FCC.
25		Thus, if all ALECs are provided access to the information and

-4-

functions in BellSouth's operational support systems in substantially
 the same time and manner as BellSouth has access when serving its
 retail customers, then this Commission should find that such access is
 non-discriminatory.

5

6 Q. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has provided
7 comments on operational interfaces in connection with the recent
8 application for interLATA authority filed with the FCC by SBC
9 Communications, Inc. Does BellSouth agree that the DOJ's role
10 includes evaluating operational support systems?

11

A. No. To my knowledge, the DOJ has no particular expertise in systems
issues. As discussed by Mr. Varner, BellSouth's position is that the
DOJ's role in consulting with the FCC is limited to antitrust issues.
Thus, the DOJ's opinions concerning operational support systems are
neither binding nor persuasive, and this Commission should evaluate
BellSouth's operational support systems based on the record in this
proceeding.

19

## 20 Industry Standards and Non-Discriminatory Access

21

Q. Did the FCC establish conformance with industry standards as a
 requirement for non-discriminatory access to operational support
 systems?

25

-5-

1	Α.	No. In fact, in paragraph 13 of the FCC's Second Order on
2		Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98, dated December 13, 1996,
3		the FCC stated "[i]t is apparent that access to OSS functions can
4		be provided without national standards. We therefore reject the
5		petitions of LECC and Sprint to delay the requirement to provide non-
6		discriminatory access until national standards have been fully
7		developed. We conclude that such a requirement would significantly
8		and needlessly delay competitive entry." The FCC concluded, "[w]e
9		continue to encourage parties to develop national standards for access
10		to OSS functions, but decline to condition the requirement to provide
11		access to OSS functions upon the creation of such standards."
12		Implicitly, non-discriminatory access can be provided through interfaces
13		that are not nationally standardized.
14		
15	Q.	Does BellSouth nonetheless support developing interfaces that
16		conform with industry standards?
17		
18	Α.	Yes. BellSouth is in fact a strong supporter of industry standards, and
19		is a regular participant in the industry bodies developing standards.
20		Also, as required by this Commission's arbitration orders, BellSouth
21		has developed its interfaces on the basis of industry standards, where
22		they exist. For example, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), an
23		ordering interface, was adopted by the industry for ALEC local service
24		requests, and BellSouth offers ALECs an EDI ordering interface.
25		BellSouth's interface for daily billable usage is provided in the BellCore-

-6-

1		supported, industry-standard Exchange Message Record (EMR)
2		format. BellSouth offers ALECs use of the same industry-standard
3		trouble reporting interface currently used by interexchange carriers to
4		report troubles on access services; ALECs can use this interface for
5		trouble reporting on designed services, such as complex private line
6		services. BellSouth also has incorporated language in interconnection
7		agreements to the effect that BellSouth will implement interfaces
8		consistent with industry standards when those standards become
9		available or finalized. However, as stated above, this is not a
10		requirement for a finding that BellSouth's interfaces provide non-
11		discriminatory access.
12		
13	Q.	For which function is there currently no industry standard?
14		
15	A.	Mantenatable, there is no industry standard for one and vice
	Λ.	Most notably, there is no industry standard for pre-ordering
16	<b>Λ</b> .	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering
16 17	ς.	
		transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering
17	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to
17 18	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to date to ordering. This is a reasonable approach for the industry to
17 18 19	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to date to ordering. This is a reasonable approach for the industry to have taken, given that pre-ordering information such as obtaining
17 18 19 20	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to date to ordering. This is a reasonable approach for the industry to have taken, given that pre-ordering information such as obtaining telephone numbers or installation dates is not necessary to compete
17 18 19 20 21	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to date to ordering. This is a reasonable approach for the industry to have taken, given that pre-ordering information such as obtaining telephone numbers or installation dates is not necessary to compete for the huge installed base of existing customers who might only want
17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	transactions. The industry prioritized the development of ordering standards ahead of pre-ordering, and has devoted most of its efforts to date to ordering. This is a reasonable approach for the industry to have taken, given that pre-ordering information such as obtaining telephone numbers or installation dates is not necessary to compete for the huge installed base of existing customers who might only want to switch service providers. While the industry recently has begun to

-7-

1		transactions, BellSouth offers ALECs real-time, interactive access to
2		pre-ordering information. BellSouth provides that access through its
3		Local Exchange Navigation System (LENS). LENS provides access to
4		pre-ordering information in substantially the same time and manner as
5		BellSouth's retail systems, and will be described in detail in later
6		sections of this testimony. The only current alternatives to LENS are
7		either another non-standard pre-ordering interface, such as the
8		customized interface BellSouth is designing to AT&T's specifications, or
9		no pre-ordering interface at all.
10		
11	Q.	Despite the fact that industry standard interfaces are not a requirement
12		for non-discriminatory access, has BellSouth agreed to implement
13		industry standards as they become available?
14		
15	А.	Yes. As required by this Commission's arbitration orders, BellSouth's
16		interconnection agreements with AT&T, MCI and Sprint provide that
17		BellSouth will implement industry standard interfaces within a specified
18		time of the industry's adoption of standards for local service.
19		Presumably, all ALECs could request access through any interface
20		once it is developed.
21		
22	Q.	Does a non-standard interface necessarily result in inferior access?
23		
24	Α.	No. To the contrary, some of BellSouth's retail systems have
25		functionality superior to that supported by industry standards, and

-8-

BellSouth offers ALECs that same access. For example, BellSouth 1 offers ALECs access to the same expert maintenance and repair 2 system that BellSouth uses to handle local exchange trouble reports; 3 that interface, known as the Trouble Analysis Facilitation Interface 4 (TAFI) system, will be described in detail in a later section of this 5 testimony. The TAFI functionality is far superior to the limited 6 functionality supported by the industry standard for trouble reporting. 7 TAFI allows a repair attendant to actually clear many trouble reports 8 with the customer on the line, while the industry standard merely 9 addresses functions such as electronically opening a trouble ticket or 10 obtaining status information. While there is no industry standard for the 11 12 superior functionality provided by the TAFI interface, it nonetheless 13 allows ALECs to handle local exchange trouble reports in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth does for its retail customers; 14 an interface that merely conformed with industry standards would be 15 inferior. 16 17 Electronic Bonding and Non-Discriminatory Access 18

19

Q. Are "machine to machine" interfaces, also known as "electronic
bonding", necessary for an interface to provide non-discriminatory
access?

23

A. No. While some ALECs may prefer electronic bonding arrangements,
 the requirement is that ALECs have access to the information and

-9-

functions in BellSouth's operational support systems in substantially the
 same time and manner as BellSouth. BellSouth's interfaces meet this
 requirement.

4

Q. Does BellSouth's pre-ordering interface, LENS, provide ALECs with
 access to pre-ordering information in substantially the same time and
 manner as BellSouth's access when serving its retail customers?

8

Α. Yes. BellSouth's pre-ordering interface, the Local Exchange g Navigation System (LENS), provides ALECs with real-time interactive 10 access to BellSouth's pre-ordering information, which is substantially 11 the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its retail 12 customers. From the customer's perspective, pre-ordering interactions 13 14 with an ALEC using LENS are indistinguishable from pre-ordering interactions with BellSouth, regardless of whether LENS meets the 15 definition of a machine to machine interface. Moreover, electronic 16 bonding arrangements are difficult, expensive and time-consuming to 17 implement, and, as experience in the access world has shown, are of 18 interest to only the very largest potential ALECs. While BellSouth has 19 20 committed through its interconnection agreements to implement 21 additional electronic bonding arrangements for pre-ordering 22 information, BellSouth nonetheless has developed the LENS pre-23 ordering interface for the entire ALEC industry. LENS provides realtime, interactive access to pre-ordering information, and is available to 24 25 support any ALEC that chooses to enter the Florida local market today.

-10-

1

2

- Q. Are there ways other than electronic bonding in which the data from
   LENS can be integrated with an ALEC's operational support system?
- 4

3

Yes, and that means that there is no need for an ALEC to manually re-Α. 5 enter data obtained from LENS into the ALECs' operational support 6 systems. There are several methods for doing this that vary in their 7 degree of complexity. First, an ALEC using LENS can simply "cut and 8 paste" information from LENS into any other Microsoft Windows-9 compatible application. In addition, the data underlying the 10 11 presentation screens supplied through LENS is available for customization by an ALEC's software developers. That underlying data 12 is depicted on Exhibit GC-1. Finally, the data also can be provided in 13 additional formats independently of the LENS presentation screens. 14

15

16 Q. Please describe that process.

17

Α. The LENS data could be provided through a process known as 18 Common Gateway Interface, or CGI. CGI is a specification for 19 20 communicating data between an information server, such as the LENS server, and another independent application, such as an ALEC 21 22 operations support system. A CGI script is a program that negotiates the movement of data between the server and an outside application. 23 24 With BellSouth's CGI specification, an ALEC could obtain and manipulate data from the LENS server; using CGI, therefore, provides 25

-11-

yet another method for an ALEC to integrate the data obtained through
 LENS with the ALEC's internal systems. BellSouth's CGI specification
 is available to any ALEC interested in pursuing that option.

4

Q. Despite the fact that BellSouth's LENS pre-ordering interface is
sufficient to provide access to BellSouth's pre-ordering information in
substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its
retail customers, how is BellSouth working with requesting carriers to
develop additional pre-ordering interfaces?

10

11 Α. BellSouth has negotiated an individual interconnection agreement with AT&T that provides for additional customized interfaces. Under the 12 agreement with AT&T, BellSouth is developing a machine-to-machine 13 pre-ordering interface designed to AT&T's specifications. Once 14 developed, this interface also would be available to any other 15 requesting carrier. In addition, BellSouth has continued to engage in 16 17 discussions about other development efforts that would enable ALECs to integrate the data LENS provides with an ALEC's own systems. 18 19 However, there is a difference between what BellSouth is willing to do for ALECs as wholesale customers and what is required to provide 20 21 non-discriminatory access. Despite BellSouth's considerable efforts to accommodate the particular requirements of individual ALECs, the key 22 point remains that machine-to-machine interfaces are not a 23 requirement for non-discriminatory access. 24

25

-12-

- 1 Q. Would electronic bonding or a machine-to-machine interface satisfy the2 needs of all ALECs?
- 3

Α. 4 No. In fact, of the hundreds of interexchange carriers in the access market today, only the very largest use the electronic bonding 5 arrangements already available for access services. Implementing 6 electronic bonding arrangements can be expensive, difficult and time-7 consuming. Few companies have the resources or desire to make 8 9 these investments. If electronically bonded interfaces were the only 10 option, most ALECs would be precluded from an electronic interface. 11 To accommodate carriers that want to engage in electronic bonding. 12 BellSouth has agreed to additional development efforts in individual 13 interconnection agreements. Meanwhile, BellSouth has developed 14 interfaces for the entire ALEC industry that are non-discriminatory as 15 contemplated by the FCC.

16

# 17 Manual Processes And Non-Discriminatory Access

18

Q. Does the non-discriminatory access requirement mean that all
information and functions must be electronic and involve no manual
handling?

22

A. No, and in a similar proceeding in Louisiana in May, 1997, AT&T's
 witness, Mr. Bradbury, agreed that it is not necessary to eliminate all
 manual intervention in order for an interface to meet the non-

-13-

1		discriminatory access requirement. (Louisiana Public Service
2		Commission, Docket No. U-22252, May 28, 1997, Hearing Volume
3		Number 7, Page 1782.) In many cases, the processes by which
4		BellSouth handles its retail customers involve manual intervention.
5		Thus, non-discriminatory access to such functions for ALECs can
6		legitimately involve manual processes also.
7		
8	Q.	Does BellSouth have mechanized pre-ordering and ordering processes
9		for all retail services?
10		
11	А.	No. These processes are not fully mechanized for all retail services.
12		Many services, primarily those known as "complex" services, involve
13		substantial manual handling by BellSouth account teams. This is
14		discussed in further detail later in this testimony.
15		
16	Q.	Are the manual processes BellSouth uses for complex retail services
17		substantially the same processes used for the complex resold services
18		offered to ALECs?
19		
20	Α.	Yes. The manual processes BellSouth relies on for providing many
21		complex services to its retail customers are the same processes in
22		place to support ALEC orders for the same services. The specialized
23		and complicated nature of complex services, together with their
24		relatively low volume of orders relative to basic exchange services,
25		renders them less suitable for mechanization, whether for retail or

-14-

1		resale applications. Complex, variable processes are relatively difficult
2		to mechanize, and BellSouth has concluded that mechanizing many
3		lower-volume complex retail services would be imprudent, in that the
4		benefits of mechanization would not justify the cost. Given that the
5		same manual processes are in place for both ALEC and BellSouth
6		retail orders, the processes are competitively neutral. If MCI or any
7		other CLEC, in exercising its independent business judgment, were to
8		reach a different conclusion, it could certainly fund the cost of complex
9		service mechanization through a bona fide request for additional
10		functionality. Later in this testimony, I will describe in detail how the
11		manual processes used by BellSouth for complex retail services are
12		virtually identical to those processes used for complex resold services.
13		
14	Q.	Are there other circumstances in which manual processes might be
15		appropriate?
16		
17	Α.	Yes. Manual processes for some ALEC functions can be appropriate
18		where the volume of anticipated transactions would not justify the
19		expense of developing mechanized processes.
20		
21	Interc	connection Agreements and Non-Discriminatory Access
22		
23	Q.	Does the fact that BellSouth may have agreed to develop and provide
24		additional or different interfaces in interconnection agreements with
25		

-15-

- certain ALECs mean that BellSouth's generally available interfaces are
   discriminatory?
- 3

Α. No. The appropriate question with regard to non-discriminatory access 4 is whether both ALECs and BellSouth have access to the information 5 and functionality in BellSouth's operational support systems in 6 substantially the same time and manner. All ALECs have such access 7 8 to BellSouth's operations support systems pursuant to the terms of BellSouth's Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions 9 ("SGAT" or "Statement"). In addition, any ALEC may negotiate an 10 interconnection agreement that provides substantially the same 11 12 operations support system access to which BellSouth may have agreed 13 in an interconnection agreement with any other ALEC. 14 ALEC Development Effort and Non-Discriminatory Access 15 16 17 Q. Does the fact that an ALEC may have to train its personnel, undertake 18 development work on its systems, or make other ongoing adjustments to use BellSouth's ALEC interfaces mean that BellSouth's interfaces 19 are discriminatory? 20 21

A. No. Again, the relevant question with regard to non-discriminatory
access is whether both ALECs and BellSouth have access to the
information and functionality in BellSouth's operational support systems
in substantially the same time and manner. BellSouth continually

-16-

1		updates its internal systems and trains its personnel; it is reasonable to
2		expect ALECs to do likewise. For example, the Regional Negotiation
3		System (RNS) used by BellSouth retail service representatives for
4		residence services has been in use for several years, yet RNS changes
5		monthly with new software "releases" that enhance its capabilities.
6		Retail service representatives, in turn, are continually trained with each
7		new release. That ALECs may have to keep pace with similar changes
8		in the ALEC systems would appear inevitable, but not discriminatory.
9		
10		FUNCTIONAL COMPARISON OF ALEC INTERFACES
11		AND BELLSOUTH RETAIL SYSTEMS
12		
13	Q.	Is BellSouth now able to provide non-discriminatory access to its
14		operational support systems for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning,
15		maintenance and repair, and billing?
16		
17	Α.	Yes. Each interface is fully operational, and is in actual use. I will
18		describe the interface for each required function below, and will show
19		how the ALEC interface provides access to the required information
20		and functions in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's
21		access when serving its retail customers.
22		
23	Q.	Does BellSouth offer interfaces in addition to those you are about to
24		describe?
25		

1	A.	Yes. The interfaces described in this testimony are the recommended
2		interfaces offered by BellSouth for each required function. However,
3		on the basis of legislative and regulatory activity in its region during
4		1995 and 1996, BellSouth began offering a number of interim
5		arrangements intended to support the early market entry of local
6		competitors. These interim interfaces involved a combination of
7		manual and mechanized processes, and, given that some ALECs have
8		chosen to continue with those processes rather than avail themselves
9		of BellSouth's recommended interfaces, the earlier interfaces are still
10		available as well. In addition, BellSouth has committed in individual
11		interconnection agreements to develop customized interfaces built to
12		the specifications of individual parties, such as AT&T.
13		
14	PRE-	ORDERING
15		
16	Q.	How is pre-ordering defined?
17		
18	Α.	The FCC's Part 51 Interconnection Rules define pre-ordering and
19		ordering collectively as including "the exchange of information between

telecommunications carriers about current or proposed customer
products and services or unbundled network elements or some
combination thereof."

23

24 Q. What does pre-ordering information mean in customer terms?

25

•

1	Α.	As the FCC's definition implies, there is no strict delineation between
2		pre-ordering and ordering, as many "pre-ordering" activities generally
3		occur in the context of actually negotiating a service order. As will be
4		discussed later in this testimony in the context of complex services,
5		pre-ordering activities can vary considerably depending upon the
6		service involved. However, pre-ordering information generally refers to
7		accessing the following information and functions while discussing an
8		order for basic exchange service with an end user customer: (1) street
9		address validation; (2) telephone number information; (3) services and
10		features information; (4) due date information; (5) customer service
11		record information.
12		
13	Q.	Is pre-ordering information necessary for most service orders an ALEC
14		might place?
15		
16	Α.	No. There is a limited need for pre-ordering information for orders
17		involving existing customers who already have telephone numbers and
18		installed services and who just want to switch service providers.
19		
20	Q.	Did this Commission require BellSouth to provide an electronic
21		interface for pre-ordering information?
22		
23	Α.	Yes. In the MCI and AT&T arbitration orders, this Commission required
24		BellSouth to develop real-time and interactive interfaces to support pre-
25		ordering; BellSouth's pre-ordering interface meets this requirement.

-19-

1

2 Q. How does BellSouth perform pre-ordering transactions for its retail3 customers?

4

BellSouth primarily uses three systems, based on whether the Α. 5 customer is a residence or business subscriber, and based on the 6 customer's location. BellSouth uses a system known as the Regional 7 Negotiation System (RNS) for most types of residence orders. For 8 business customers in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and 9 Tennessee, BellSouth uses a system known as the Service Order 10 Negotiation System (SONGS); for business customers in Florida, 11 Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, a system known as Direct 12 13 Order Entry (DOE) is used. SONGS and DOE also are used by service representatives for residence customer transactions not supported by 14 RNS. Each of these systems accesses the necessary operational 15 support systems and databases to obtain most pre-ordering information 16 on a real-time, interactive basis. RNS is a newer system that provides 17 more English-language and point-and-click capabilities. SONGS and 18 DOE are older systems that are less user friendly, relying more on the 19 20 use of special codes and function keys.

21

22 Q. Please describe the ALEC interface for pre-ordering transactions.

23

24 A. The LENS interface discussed earlier offers ALECs real-time,

25 interactive access to pre-ordering information, and an integrated direct

-20-

1	order entry capability that will be described in the ordering section of
2	this testimony. LENS is superior to the BellSouth systems in that it
3	provides a single interface for both residence and business, and
4	supports all states in the BellSouth region. LENS allows the ALEC to
5	enter a pre-ordering transaction interactively, using prompts and screen
6	displays. The interface converts the ALEC inputs into support system
7	commands and database queries as appropriate to obtain the
8	information from a number of BellSouth operations support systems
9	and corporate databases, freeing the ALEC from having to separately
10	access each downstream system and database. The information is
11	collected in real-time from the various sources, and is returned
12	electronically to the ALEC on a real-time basis. A chart showing that
13	LENS and RNS access BellSouth's pre-ordering databases in
14	substantially the same time and manner is provided as Exhibit GC-2.
15	Pre-ordering consists of a number of functions, which I now will
16	address individually.
17	
18	Address Validation
19	
20	Q. Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to BellSouth's address
21	validation information and functions in substantially the time and

- 22 manner as BellSouth's access for BellSouth's retail customers?
- 23
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25

- 1 Q. How does BellSouth perform address validation when serving its retail
   2 customers?
- 3

Α. Again, this depends upon the type of customer, and the customer's 4 location. For residence customers, BellSouth uses the address 5 validation screen in RNS. A copy of an actual address validation 6 screen seen by a BellSouth service representative using RNS is 7 attached as Exhibit GC-3. For business customers in Florida, 8 BellSouth uses the address validation screens in DOE. A copy of 9 10 actual address validation screens seen by a BellSouth service 11 representative using DOE is attached as Exhibit GC-4. Using these 12 screens, the BellSouth service representative sends an inquiry to, and 13 receives a response from, the BellSouth database containing address information. 14

15

16 Q. How does an ALEC perform address validation?

17

Α. 18 The ALEC uses the address validation screens in LENS. A copy of 19 such screens as seen by the ALEC using LENS is provided as Exhibit 20 GC-5. Using these screens, the ALEC representative sends an inquiry 21 to, and receives a response from, the same BellSouth database 22 containing address information that is accessed by RNS and DOE. 23 That database returns address information without regard to whether the request originated from an ALEC or from BellSouth. As seen on 24 25

-22-

those screens, LENS provides community name abbreviations required 1 for service orders, and other useful information, such as zip codes. 2 3 Q. Does LENS provide an exact duplicate of the information seen on the 4 address validation screens in BellSouth's retail systems? 5 6 Α. No, not necessarily. In some cases the same information is provided in 7 a different location. For example, the address validation screen in DOE 8 provides the identification of the serving central office for the 9 customer's address. However, the serving central office information 10 11 affects both the telephone numbers that can be assigned and the services available in that office. Therefore, LENS displays this 12 information on both the telephone number screen and the products and 13 services screens. This is shown on Exhibits GC-6 and GC-7 in the 14 fields labeled "CLLI". 15 16 **Telephone Number Selection** 17 18 Q. Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to telephone number 19 20 information and functions in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its retail customers? 21 22 23 A. Yes. 24 25

- 1 Q. How does BellSouth perform telephone number selection when serving
  2 its retail customers?
- 3

Again, this depends upon the type of customer, and the customer's Α. 4 location. For residence customers, BellSouth uses the telephone 5 number selection screen in RNS. A copy of an actual telephone 6 number selection screen seen by a BellSouth service representative 7 using RNS is attached as Exhibit GC-8. For business customers in 8 Florida, BellSouth uses the telephone number selection screen in DOE. 9 10 A copy of an actual telephone number selection screen seen by a BellSouth service representative using DOE is attached as Exhibit GC-11 9. Using these screens, the service representative sends an inquiry to, 12 and receives a response from, the BellSouth database containing 13 telephone number information. 14

15

16 Q. How does an ALEC perform telephone number selection?

17

Α. The ALEC uses the telephone number selection screen in LENS. A 18 copy of the telephone number selection screen seen by the ALEC 19 using LENS is provided as Exhibit GC-6. Using this screen, the ALEC 20 representative sends an inquiry to, and receives a response from, the 21 same BellSouth database containing telephone number information 22 that is accessed by RNS and DOE. That system provides telephone 23 number information without regard to whether the request originates 24 from an ALEC or from BellSouth. 25

-24-

1

Q. Does the LENS system allow for selection of special telephone
 numbers, such as contiguous blocks of numbers, vanity numbers and
 easy numbers, without manual intervention of BellSouth service
 representatives?

6

Yes. All telephone number inventory management functions are done 7 Α. by the same BellSouth telephone number support system, regardless 8 of whether the telephone numbers are being selected through LENS, 9 RNS or DOE. Thus, the ALEC has substantially the same ability to 10 11 select special telephone numbers using LENS as BellSouth would have using RNS or DOE, and in several respects the special number 12 13 capabilities of LENS are superior to those available to BellSouth's service representatives. The easiest way to compare these capabilities 14 15 is to look at the actual screens seen by BellSouth service representatives and by users of LENS. For example, referring again to 16 Exhibit GC-8, the RNS telephone number selection screen used by 17 BellSouth's residence service representatives has selections for "easy" 18 number, "stylist" numbers, and "sequential" numbers. (The terms stylist 19 20 and vanity are interchangeable, as both allow a search for a number that spells a particular word of interest to the customer.) Again, Exhibit 21 22 GC-6 shows the telephone number selection screen from LENS. The 23 first page of that exhibit shows the basic capability to request a random number assignment, as well as requesting a vanity number, by filling in 24 the desired number in the "special number" fields. It also shows that 25

-25-

the customer can request that a number exclude specific digits that the 1 customer might consider, for example, to be "bad luck" numbers. The 2 second page of the LENS exhibit shows that in addition to those 3 capabilities, by clicking on the drop-down box for "Options", the ALEC 4 can request number assignments of specific patterns, such as "easy" 5 numbers, ascending or descending line digits, identical line digits, or 6 sequential line numbers. Thus, the ALEC using LENS currently has 7 more telephone number assignment options to offer its customers than 8 BellSouth's service representatives have available for BellSouth's retail 9 customers. 10

11

Q. Does BellSouth limit new entrants to a maximum of 100 reserved
telephone numbers in a given central office at any point in time, and if
so, why?

15

Α. BellSouth does limit telephone numbers that can be pre-reserved (i.e., 16 held independently of an associated request for service) to 100 per 17 central office, or five percent of the numbers available in an office, 18 whichever is less. This is not a LENS limitation, but is a practice 19 implemented by BellSouth as a means to administer the finite pool of 20 numbers for the benefit of all, as ALECs have the capability to reserve 21 22 telephone numbers in anticipation of future orders for service. This practice does not limit an ALEC's ordering activity, as numbers 23 associated with actual orders for service do not count against the total 24 reserved numbers, and the supply of numbers can be replenished 25

-26-

1		daily. This practice merely prevents any one carrier from "locking up"
2		available telephone numbers in the absence of actual customer orders.
3		
4	<u>Produ</u>	ucts and Services
5		
6	Q.	Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to product and service
7		information and functions in substantially the same time and manner as
8		BellSouth's access for its retail customers?
9		
10	Α.	Yes.
11		
12	Q.	How does BellSouth check the availability of products and services
13		when serving its retail customers?
14		
15	A.	Again, this depends upon the type of customer, and the customer's
16		location. For residence customers, BellSouth uses services screens in
17		RNS. A copy of an actual services screen seen by a BellSouth service
18		representative using RNS is attached as Exhibit GC-10. For business
19		customers in Florida, BellSouth uses the product and services screens
20		in DOE. A copy of the actual product and services main menu screen
21		seen by a BellSouth service representative using DOE is attached as
22		Exhibit GC-11. Using these screens, the service representative sends
23		an inquiry to, and receives a response from, the BellSouth database
24		containing product and service information.
25		

-27-

Q. How does an ALEC check the availability of products and services?
 2

3	A.	The ALEC uses the comparable product and services screens in LENS.
4		An example of a product and services screen seen by an ALEC using
5		LENS is provided as Exhibit GC-7. Using these screens, the ALEC
6		representative sends an inquiry to, and receives a response from, the
7		same BellSouth databases containing product and service information
8		that are accessed by RNS and DOE. These databases provide
9		product and service information without regard to whether the request
10		originates from an ALEC or from BellSouth.
11		
12	<u>Obtai</u>	ning Due Dates
13		
14	Q.	Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to BellSouth's due date
15		information and functions in substantially the same time and manner as
16		BellSouth's access for its retail customers?
17		
18	Α.	Yes.
19		
20	Q.	How does BellSouth obtain due dates when serving its retail
21		customers?
22		
23	Α.	Again, this depends upon the type of customer, and the customer's
24		location. For residence customers, BellSouth uses the due date screen
25		in RNS. A copy of an actual due date screen seen by a BellSouth

1		service representative using RNS is attached as Exhibit GC-12. For
2		business customers in Florida, there is a space on a DOE screen
3		where a service representative can input a due date; this is shown in
4		Exhibit GC-13. By these methods, the service representative sends an
5		inquiry to, and receives a response from, the BellSouth database
6		containing due date information, known as the Direct Order Entry
7		Support Application Program (DSAP).
8		
9	Q.	How does an ALEC obtain due dates?
10		
11	Α.	The ALEC uses the due date fields in LENS. A copy of the screen
12		seen by the ALEC using LENS for this purpose is provided as Exhibit
13		GC-14. Using this screen, the ALEC representative sends an inquiry to,
14		and receives a response from, DSAP; this is the same BellSouth
15		database containing due date information that is accessed by RNS and
16		DOE. DSAP provides due date information without regard to whether
17		the request originates from an ALEC or from BellSouth.
18		
19	Q.	Are due dates calculated as a stand-alone pre-ordering function for
20		either BellSouth retail customers or ALEC customers?
21		
22	Α.	No. During the arbitrations we became accustomed to calling due
23		dates "pre-ordering" because the due date is information that typically
24		is given to customers for basic exchange services while discussing a
25		customer's order. In actuality, though, the due date cannot be

-29-

calculated by BellSouth's system until that system has all the
 information about what is actually being ordered and can evaluate the
 service order as a package. Due date calculation from a system
 perspective is not a stand-alone pre-ordering function.

5

6 Q. How are due dates calculated through LENS?

7

Α. Due dates are calculated through LENS via real-time, interactive 8 access to BellSouth's due date information, in substantially the same 9 time and manner as through BellSouth's access. LENS obtains due 10 date information from the Direct Order Entry Support Application 11 Program (DSAP), just as BellSouth's negotiation systems do. DSAP 12 13 calculates due dates based on an intricate set of logic incorporating all the variables that can influence due dates. For both LENS orders and 14 BellSouth retail orders, DSAP looks at the totality of the services on a 15 particular order, determines the nature of the work that must be 16 performed (such as whether an outside technician is required). 17 evaluates such factors as the work load for the area in which service 18 will be provided, and returns the due date that should be offered to the 19 customer. For both retail and ALEC orders, however, for this 20 21 evaluation to take place, DSAP must know which services are being 22 ordered, and must look at the entire order as a package. Although 23 DSAP does not calculate a due date for a LENS due date inquiry that is 24 not associated with an order, this is not discriminatory. Due dates are 25 not calculated independently of the ordering function for BellSouth's

-30-

1		retail customers, either. BellSouth service representatives using DOE
2		can view the installation calendar from DSAP. Likewise, BellSouth has
3		loaded LENS with an installation calendar from DSAP that contains a
4		dynamic table of projected service intervals and other due-date
5		affecting information from DSAP that the ALEC can use to respond to
6		inquiries not associated with the ordering function. This accommodates
7		ALECs who wish to use LENS for pre-ordering and another option for
8		ordering.
9		
10	Q.	Does LENS provide due date information for all products and services?
11		
12	Α.	No. LENS does not contain due date information for all products and
13		services, however, due dates are not available electronically for all
14		BellSouth retail services, either. For example, due dates for complex
15		services can vary considerably, depending upon the complexity and
16		scope of the service involved, and typically are offered on either a
17		negotiated or "Customer Desired Due Date" basis.
18		
19	Custo	omer Record Information
20		
21	Q.	Has this Commission required BellSouth to provide ALECs with on-line
22		access to customer service record (CSR) information?
23		
24	А.	Yes. This Commission required BellSouth to develop a real-time
25		operational interface to deliver CSRs to ALECs, and further ordered that

-31-

1		the interface should provide only the customer information necessary for
2		MCI and AT&T to provide telecommunications services.
3		
4	Q.	Has BellSouth complied with this requirement?
5		
6	Α.	Yes. On-line access to customer service record information is available
7		through LENS. Copies of actual customer service record screens seen
8		by ALECs using LENS are provided as Exhibit GC-15.
9		
10	<u>LENS</u>	ARCHITECTURE
11		
12	Q.	In similar proceedings in other states, AT&T has raised concerns about
13		the "web-based architecture" in LENS, and introduced decisions from
14		state commissions outside the BellSouth region about a supposedly-
15		similar interface provided by U.S. West. Is there a state commission
16		decision within the BellSouth region that addressed the actual pre-
17		ordering interface being provided by BellSouth?
18		
19	А.	Yes. During the AT&T arbitration proceedings, the Georgia Public
20		Service Commission heard extensive testimony from both AT&T and
21		BellSouth on the technical aspects of the interface BellSouth proposed
22		for pre-ordering, now known as LENS. In that proceeding, the Georgia
23		Commission heard AT&T's claims that LENS requires a new entrant to
24		manually re-enter data, or that the web server architecture would result
25		in inferior access to pre-ordering information.

-32-

1

# 2 Q. What did the Georgia Commission decide?

3

Ŷ		
4	Α.	The Georgia Commission found that BellSouth's proposed interfaces,
5		which included the "web-based" interface for pre-ordering information
6		now known as LENS complied with previous orders of that
7		commission; those previous orders required BellSouth to provide
8		access to resellers equivalent to that of the incumbent LEC. (Orders of
9		Georgia Public Service Commission dated December 3, 1996 in
10		Docket No. 6801-U, and June 13, 1996 in Docket No. 6352-U.)
11		
12	Q.	In the other state proceedings, has AT&T provided any information to
13		support its contention that BellSouth's LENS pre-ordering interface and
14		the U.S. West "web page" interface are technically alike?
15		
16	Α.	No. First, other than AT&T's assertion that U.S. West's and
17		BellSouth's interfaces are both "web-based" (and the fact that the word
18		"web" web-based vs. web page appears in descriptions of both),
19		AT&T provides no facts to indicate that the interfaces are technically
20		alike. Furthermore, based on my review, the state commission orders
21		cited by AT&T do not contain any information indicating that the U.S.
22		West interface is comparable to BellSouth's LENS interface. In
23		contrast, the Georgia Public Service Commission looked specifically at
24		the merits of BellSouth's interface in reaching its decision that
25		BellSouth's proposed development was consistent with that

-33-

1		commission's requirements.
2		
3	ORDE	ERING AND LOCAL ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE
4		
5	<b>Q</b> .	How does the FCC define ordering information?
6		
7	Α.	Again, the FCC's Part 51 Local Interconnection Rules define pre-
8		ordering and ordering together as including the exchange of
9		information about current or proposed customer products and services
10		or unbundled network elements or some combination thereof.
11		
12	Q.	Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to ordering information in
13		substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its
14		retail customers?
15		
16	Α.	Yes.
17		
18	Q.	Has this Commission previously required BellSouth to provide
19		electronic ordering?
20		
21	Α.	Yes. In its order in the AT&T and MCI arbitration proceeding, this
22		Commission noted that BellSouth was developing electronic interfaces
23		for this process, and required BellSouth to continue to develop the
24		electronic interfaces for order processes.
25		

-34-

- 1 Q. Has BellSouth complied with this requirement?
- 2

3 A. Yes.

4

5 Q. How does BellSouth handle ordering and local account maintenance
6 transactions for its retail customers?

7

Α. BellSouth primarily uses four systems. BellSouth has different systems 8 for residence and business customers, for local exchange service and 9 for access. The systems also vary by customer location. Three of 10 these systems -- RNS, DOE and SONGS -- are the same ones already 11 described in the pre-ordering section of this testimony. The fourth 12 system is the Exchange Access Control and Tracking system (EXACT), 13 which has been used for access orders for all BellSouth states for 12 14 15 years. Each system functions somewhat differently, and they vary considerably in their degree of "user friendliness." In general, however, 16 17 these systems accomplish the task of accumulating and formatting the information, such as the pre-ordering information described earlier in 18 this testimony, required to enter an order into BellSouth's Service Order 19 20 Control System, also known as "SOCS." For RNS and DOE, 21 BellSouth's service representatives use RNS and DOE screens such 22 as those provided as exhibits for the pre-ordering section of this testimony, as well as additional ordering screens of the same nature. 23 24 Copies of EXACT screens used to process access service requests are provided as Exhibit GC-16. 25

-35-

1

### 2 Q. Please describe BellSouth's ALEC ordering systems.

3

Α. There are two industry-standard ALEC ordering systems, depending on 4 the service type. The first is Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for 5 resale orders and simple unbundled network elements such unbundled 6 7 ports. The second is the same Exchange Access Control and Tracking (EXACT) system used for access orders; EXACT is used by ALECs for 8 9 interconnection trunking and other complex unbundled network elements. In addition, while LENS is primarily a pre-ordering interface, 10 11 BellSouth offers an interactive, direct order entry capability through LENS. While there is no industry standard for the pre-ordering 12 13 capability in LENS, the LENS ordering capability does support the 14 Ordering and Billing Forum's (OBF)-approved local service ordering 15 requests. 16 Q. 17 Please describe the EXACT ordering interface in more detail. 18 Α. 19 The EXACT ordering system is the same industry-standard interface used by BellSouth for processing access service requests from 20 21 interexchange carriers. This interface also supports ALEC

"infrastructure" orders, primarily for interconnection trunking and many
unbundled network elements. This system supports industry standard
ordering processes.

25

-36-

- 1 Q. Please describe the EDI ordering interface in more detail.
- 2

Α. EDI is the electronic interface sanctioned by the national Ordering and 3 Billing Forum (OBF) for local service request communications. Using 4 this interface, the ALEC will transmit service requests in OBF standard 5 format to BellSouth. BellSouth has no way of knowing precisely how 6 7 the screens used by an ALEC using EDI will look, because EDI defines only the standards for the exchange of information, and not for how it is 8 9 displayed by either party's computer system. However, to provide this Commission with a view of how an ALEC can use EDI to order resold 10 11 services or simple unbundled network elements from BellSouth, I have attached several prints of screens from a commercially-available 12 version of EDI-compatible software that an ALEC can use to order from 13 BellSouth via EDI if the ALEC chooses not to develop its own 14 presentation system. Copies of those screens are attached as Exhibit 15 GC-17. 16 17 18 Q. Are there other EDI options available?

19

A. Yes. For ALECs choosing to use an off-the-shelf, commercially
available version of EDI desktop software, training and documentation
on that software is provided by Harbinger, the third party that
developed the software package based on the specifications that
BellSouth made available. That software package also is covered in
the ALEC conferences.

-37-

1		
2		
3	Q.	Which services can be ordered via the EDI interface today?
4		
5	Α.	The EDI interface currently supports electronic ordering for 34 resale
6		services, and some unbundled network elements.
7		
8	Q.	Does this include any complex business services?
9		
10	Α.	Yes. EDI currently can be used to order some complex business
11		services, including PBX trunks, SynchroNet® (a private line data
12		service), ISDN-Basic-Rate service, and hunting. Complex services
13		requiring account team handling, such as MultiServ® service, are not
14		currently supported by EDI, but are handled in the same manner for
15		both ALEC and BellSouth retail customers.
16		
17	Q.	Can ALECs order unbundled network elements (UNEs) via the EDI
18		interface?
19		
20	Α.	Yes. While it is important to note that many unbundled network
21		elements are infrastructure elements, such as trunking, that are
22		ordered via EXACT, EDI supports the simpler, more end user
23		customer-oriented elements and combinations, such as loops, ports,
24		and interim number portability that have been defined by the Ordering
25		and Billing Forum. These UNEs also can be ordered via LENS. As

-38-

1		shown on page one of Exhibit GC-17 (the EDI ordering screens), in the
2		"Document Type" column, the menu includes purchase orders (PO-
3		850) and purchase order confirmations (PO-860) for both resale and
4		unbundled network elements. Page two of that exhibit shows the UNE
5		folder of a local service request, with the appropriate quantity fields to
6		request the number of paths for a ported number.
7		
8	Q.	Please describe the LENS ordering capability.
9		
10	Α.	For ALECs who choose to forego the industry-standard EDI interface,
11		LENS offers an integrated ordering capability. ALECs choosing to
12		order through LENS use LENS screens such as those provided as
13		exhibits for the pre-ordering section of this testimony, as well as
14		additional LENS ordering screens of the same nature.
15		
16	Q.	When an ALEC submits orders through either EDI or LENS, what is the
17		first step in processing those orders on BellSouth's side of the ordering
18		interface?
19		
20	Α.	Requests successfully received and processed by EDI or LENS will be
21		passed to BellSouth's Local Exchange Ordering (LEO) database. This
22		is depicted in the drawing provided as Exhibit GC-18. LEO will
23		perform certain edit checks and data formatting checks to determine if
24		the required information has been provided. If not, the system will
25		return error messages similar to those received by BellSouth service

-39-

v

- representatives. This helps to ensure a complete and correct order
   entry.
- 3

4 Q. What is the next step?

5

6 Α. LEO will pass a complete and correct service request to BellSouth's Local Exchange Service Order Generator (LESOG) for mechanized 7 order generation, or to a Local Carrier Service Center worklist for 8 further handling by a BellSouth service representative. This also is 9 depicted on Exhibit GC-18. LESOG will mechanically format many 10 service requests into BellSouth service order record formats which can 11 be handled by SOCS and the other downstream systems through 12 which BellSouth's service orders are also processed; LESOG requires 13 no manual intervention by a BellSouth service representative. 14 15 Q. Which orders are mechanically generated by LESOG? 16 17 Α. Exhibit GC-19 lists the orders for which mechanized order generation is 18 available. Collectively these services represent most of BellSouth's 19 20 total retail operating revenue. 21 Q. Does BellSouth's EDI ordering interface nonetheless provide ordering 22

functionality in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth'saccess for its retail customers?

25

-40-

- A. Yes, because BellSouth does not use mechanized ordering, with the
   customer on the line, for all of its retail services.
- 3

4 Q. Can you give an example of a complex service for which retail ordering5 is not fully mechanized?

6

7 Α. SmartRing® service is a private line service available to both retail customers and to resellers. In both cases, the pre-ordering and 8 ordering processes for SmartRing® service are largely manual. 9 Nonetheless, the pre-ordering and ordering processes are virtually 10 11 identical for both retail and ALEC orders, except that retail services are 12 handled primarily by the appropriate business unit for each situation --13 BellSouth Business Systems (BBS) personnel for retail services, and InterConnection Services (ICS) personnel for resale services. 14

15

Q. Please describe some of the manual activities involved in providing a
 retail or resold SmartRing® service.

18

A. To perform the pre-ordering activity known as the "service inquiry", a
systems designer on the appropriate account team fills out an
extensive paper form, and then provides that form to a project manager
for further manual activities. This is done for both retail and resale
orders. Upon approval of either the retail customer or the ALEC, as
appropriate, the paper service inquiry is re-initiated as a firm order,
which also is an extensive paper form with subsequent manual

-41-

1 distribution. In both the retail and the resale cases, the Firm Order 2 Package is manually handed off to the service center, where paper service order worksheets are created to assist in initiating service 3 orders in the ordering system. At that point, orders are typed into the 4 appropriate service order system for the customer's location, which is 5 6 substantially the same system regardless of whether the SmartRing® service order is for a retail or ALEC customer. This subsequent order 7 entry is the same for both the retail and the resale situations, and thus 8 does not result in a different customer "experience" in either case. 9 10 After the typist inputs the service orders, the account team and project 11 manager are notified by e-mail of the service order numbers and due 12 dates. The account team then manually reviews the service orders for accuracy and follows up as necessary. Again, these processes, with 13 their substantial reliance on manual handling and paper forms, are 14 15 common to both retail and ALEC orders.

16

Q. Does a BellSouth Interconnection Services Account Team provide the
same level of support to ALECs ordering complex services as the
BellSouth Business Systems Account Team provides to retail
customers ordering such services?

21

A. Yes. Account teams have a critical role in pre-ordering and ordering
 activities for both retail and resale complex services. For complex
 services such as SmartRing® service, the appropriate BellSouth
 account team is an integral part of the pre-ordering and ordering

-42-

1		processes for both retail and ALEC customers. For both retail and
2		ALEC SmartRing® service orders, as well as for other types of complex
3		orders, the process involves manual intervention and is handled by an
4		account team. The outcome therefore is competitively neutral.
5		
6	Q.	Does the "batch" nature of the EDI interface mean that an ALEC's
7		orders will be delayed?
8		
9	Α.	No. Batch times can be adjusted to accommodate the needs of
10		ALECs. While the EDI batches currently are set up to run every 30
11		minutes, they can be adjusted to accommodate specific market needs.
12		For example, access service requests sent through the EXACT batch
13		method are processed every fifteen minutes; the intervals can be even
14		shorter, depending on the market need.
15		
16	PRO\	<u>/ISIONING</u>
17		
18	Q.	How does the FCC define provisioning?
19		
20	Α.	According to the FCC's Part 51 Local Interconnection Rules,
21		"provisioning" involves the exchange of information between
22		telecommunications carriers where one executes a request for a set of
23		products and services or unbundled network elements or combination
24		thereof from the other with attendant acknowledgments and status
25		reports. The type of information to which these rules refer generally is

-43-

	described in terms of firm order confirmations, completion notifications,
	and other types of order status reports, such as those indicating missed
	appointments.
Q.	Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to provisioning information
	in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its
	retail customers?
Α.	Yes.
Q.	How does BellSouth obtain a notification that an order has been
	released for processing?
Α.	When a BellSouth service representative using RNS releases a service
	order, the system returns a message indicating that the order has been
	issued. This is a confirmation that the order has been released for
	processing by BellSouth's Service Order Control System (SOCS), and
	is not a confirmation that the order has passed all SOCS edit checks.
	A copy of the RNS message screen is attached as Exhibit GC-20.
Q.	How would an ALEC obtain similar information?
Α.	If the ALEC were ordering through LENS, the ALEC would receive a
	message similar to that received by the BellSouth service
	A. Q. A.

-44-

1		the relevant LENS screen is provided as Exhibit GC-21; that screen
2		provides the same level of detail available to a BellSouth service
3		representative through RNS, as seen on Exhibit GC-20.
4		
5	Q.	Can ALECs obtain other provisioning information?
6		
7	A.	Yes. ALECs can obtain firm order confirmations, completions
8		information, error notifications, and other status information. For
9		example, Exhibit GC-22 shows a LENS screen used to obtain firm
10		order confirmations and completions information. Exhibit GC-23 shows
11		a LENS error notification screen. Exhibit GC-24 shows a LENS status
12		information screen.
13		
14	Mainte	enance and Repair
15		
16	Q.	How does the FCC Order define maintenance and repair?
17		
18	Α.	The FCC rules define "maintenance and repair" as involving the
19		exchange of information between telecommunications carriers where
20		one initiates a request for maintenance or repair of existing products
21		and services or unbundled network elements or combination thereof
22		from the other with attendant acknowledgments and status reports.
23		
24		
25		

-45-

1	Q.	Has BellSouth provided ALECs with access to the maintenance and
2		repair function in substantially the same time and manner as
3		BellSouth's access for its retail customers?
4		
5	A.	Yes.
6		
7	Q.	Has this Commission ordered BellSouth to provide a trouble reporting
8		interface?
9		
10	Α.	Yes. In the AT&T and MCI arbitration proceedings, this Commission
11		ordered BellSouth found that a real-time interactive operational interface
12		for trouble reporting is necessary, and should be provided by BellSouth.
13		
13 14	Q.	Has BellSouth complied with this requirement?
	Q.	Has BellSouth complied with this requirement?
14	Q. A.	Has BellSouth complied with this requirement?
14 15		
14 15 16		
14 15 16 17	A.	Yes.
14 15 16 17 18	A.	Yes. What system is used by BellSouth's repair attendants when handling
14 15 16 17 18 19	A.	Yes. What system is used by BellSouth's repair attendants when handling
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	Yes. What system is used by BellSouth's repair attendants when handling trouble reports for basic exchange service customers?
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	Yes. What system is used by BellSouth's repair attendants when handling trouble reports for basic exchange service customers? BellSouth repair attendants process these trouble reports using a
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	Yes. What system is used by BellSouth's repair attendants when handling trouble reports for basic exchange service customers? BellSouth repair attendants process these trouble reports using a system known as the Trouble Analysis Facilitation Interface (TAFI).

-46-

- 1 Q. Please describe the BellSouth TAFI system.
- 2

A. TAFI is a user friendly interface that often enables trouble reports to be
cleared remotely, by the repair attendant handling the initial customer
contact, often with the customer still on the line. With this system, any
repair attendant can correctly handle a trouble report on any BellSouthprovided basic exchange service.

- 8
- 9 Q. Does TAFI provide electronic access to other BellSouth systems that10 might be involved in resolving a trouble report?
- 11

12 Α. Yes. TAFI automatically interacts with the correct BellSouth system for a given situation. The system will automatically go to the correct 13 14 system associated with a given telephone number, and will execute the 15 appropriate test or retrieve the appropriate data. For example, if a customer were to report that the customer's call forwarding feature was 16 not working, the TAFI system might check the customer's records to 17 18 see if the line should be equipped with the feature, and would electronically verify that the feature was programmed in the switch 19 serving that customer's line. Once the TAFI analysis of the trouble is 20 complete, TAFI provides a recommendation of what is needed to 21 22 correct the problem, and in some cases actually implements the corrective action. In the above example, TAFI might instruct the repair 23 24 attendant to have the customer contact the business office to add the 25

-47-

1		feature, or might correct the trouble by implementing a translation
2		change in the switch to add the feature to the line.
3		
4	Q.	How does a repair attendant use TAFI ?
5		
6	Α.	TAFI is a common presentation expert system that provides rapid,
7		consistent, and efficient automated trouble receipt, screening and
8		problem resolution. It is an interactive system that prompts the repair
9		attendant with questions and instructions while automatically interacting
10		with other internal systems as appropriate. TAFI also provides for the
11		queuing of reports enabling the repair attendant to work on several
12		customer troubles simultaneously, and it also provides on-line
13		reference tools. TAFI also can be used to view maintenance histories.
14		
15	Q.	Has BellSouth provided ALECs with access to its TAFI system in
16		substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's access for its
17		retail customers?
18		
19	Α.	Yes, and in some respects, the access is superior. The ALEC TAFI
20		system contains all the functionality described above that is contained
21		in the BellSouth TAFI system. Furthermore, the ALEC TAFI systems
22		combines the functionality of the separate business and residence
23		versions of TAFI used by BellSouth's repair attendants, giving the
24		ALEC a single system for all types of basic exchange service trouble
25		reports. In addition, by providing access to TAFI, BellSouth is making

-48-

- available to ALECs the functionality inherent in the many systems with
   which TAFI connects.
- 3

4 Q. Are there any differences between the ALEC TAFI system functionality
5 and the BellSouth TAFI system functionality?

6

7 Α. The only difference is a security step that occurs electronically and nearly instantaneously. The ALEC TAFI system contains a security 8 screening step that is required to ensure the confidentiality of each 9 ALEC's information, because the ALEC TAFI system will be used by 10 11 repair attendants from multiple ALECs. Therefore, TAFI identifies each ALEC's repair attendants by company, and allows each ALEC's repair 12 13 attendants to access records only for that ALEC's customers. Once that validation check has been performed, the ALEC repair attendant 14 has access to the full range of TAFI functionality that is available to 15 16 BellSouth repair attendants for both business and residence exchange services. 17

18

19 Q. What services does TAFI support?

20

A. BellSouth uses TAFI to handle trouble reports for both business and
residence basic local exchange services, including a wide range of
features and functions associated with both residence and business
basic exchange services. The function and sub-function menus
included in Exhibit GC-25 provide an indication of the depth of TAFI's

-49-

1		abilities to process troubles. Furthermore, even for trouble reports on
2		complex services that involve exchange services, such as MultiServ®
3		service or PBX trunks, an ALEC can use TAFI to input trouble reports,
4		obtain commitment times, and check the status of previously entered
5		reports. A ALEC also can use TAFI in this manner to report troubles
6		associated with unbundled network elements that can be identified with
7		a telephone number, such as unbundled ports or interim number
8		portability.
9		
10	Q.	Other than the security check described above, does TAFI function
11		identically for ALECs and for BellSouth?
12		
13	Α.	Yes. Exhibits GC-25 provides examples of the screens seen by both
14		ALEC and BellSouth repair attendants for a trouble report involving the
15		call forwarding feature. While there are numerous screens that could
16		be involved depending on the nature of the trouble report, the key point
17		is that no matter what the situation, both the ALEC and BellSouth repair
18		attendants have access through TAFI to substantially the same
19		information and functions.
20		
21	Q.	Do ALECs use TAFI in substantially the same time and manner as
22		BellSouth's use for its retail customers?
23		
24		
25		

-50-

1	А.	Yes, and again, the ALEC access is superior in that, unlike BellSouth's
2		systems, ALECs have a single interface for both residence and
3		business services.
4		
5	Q.	Do ALECs have other options for electronic trouble reporting?
6		
7	Α.	Yes. For "designed" or "special" services principally those identified
8		with a circuit number rather than the telephone number-identified
9		services handled by TAFI ALECs can report troubles through the
10		same electronic bonding interface currently used by interexchange
11		carriers for access services. In addition, at AT&T's request, BellSouth
12		has agreed to develop a local exchange trouble reporting system
13		similar to the existing interexchange carrier gateway, known as the
14		Electronic Communications Gateway. This will be developed by
15		December, 1997.
16		
17	<u>Billing</u>	Interfaces
18		
19	Q.	How does the FCC define billing?
20		
21	Α.	The FCC's Part 51 Local Interconnection Rules define "billing" as
22		involving the provision of appropriate usage data by one
23		telecommunications carrier to another to facilitate customer billing with
24		attendant acknowledgments and status reports. It also involves the
25		

1		exchange of information between telecommunications carriers to
2		process claims and adjustments.
3		
4	Q.	Does BellSouth provide ALECs with access to billable usage
5		information in substantially the same time and manner as BellSouth's
6		access for its retail customers?
7		
8	Α.	Yes.
9		
10	Q.	Is a Carrier Access Billing System (CABS)-formatted bill for all services
11		a requirement for non-discriminatory access to billing information?
12		
13	Α.	While this is a requirement of this Commission's AT&T and MCI
14		arbitration decision, BellSouth does not bill its end user customers
15		through a single CABS bill for all services. Therefore, this is not
16		necessary for BellSouth to offer ALECs access to BellSouth's billing
17		information and functions in substantially the same time and manner as
18		BellSouth's access. Nonetheless, BellSouth is implementing this
19		capability, and is scheduled to begin testing with ALECs in July.
20		
21	Q.	Through which billing systems does BellSouth render bills to its end
22		user customers?
23		
24	Α.	BellSouth uses two billing systems to bill its end user customers.
25		Depending on the services being provided, the same customer will

-52-

1		receive two types of bills. For services ordered from the General
2		Subscriber Services Tariff (GSST) and the Private Line Services Tariff
3		(PLT), BellSouth renders bills from CRIS. For services ordered from
4		the Access Services Tariff (AST), BellSouth renders bills from the
5		CABS, even if the access service is ordered by and billed to the end
6		user customer. This means that one end user customer with services
7		from both billing systems will receive both CABS and CRIS bills.
8		BellSouth's non-discrimination obligation is to provide new entrants with
9		access to information and functions in substantially the same time and
10		manner as BellSouth's access; BellSouth currently does just that.
11		
12	Q.	Please describe BellSouth's billing interface for customer billable usage
13		data.
• •		
14		
	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known
14	A.	
14 15	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known
14 15 16	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides
14 15 16 17	Α.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or
14 15 16 17 18	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number
14 15 16 17 18 19	Α.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an unbundled port. The specific types of data provided include:
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an unbundled port. The specific types of data provided include: intraLATA toll, billable local calls, billable feature activations, operator
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an unbundled port. The specific types of data provided include: intraLATA toll, billable local calls, billable feature activations, operator services, and WATS/800 service. The file provides billable call detail
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A.	An electronic interface for customer billable usage data transfer, known as the Billing Daily Usage File, is an optional interface that provides ALECs with a daily file including items such as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an unbundled port. The specific types of data provided include: intraLATA toll, billable local calls, billable feature activations, operator services, and WATS/800 service. The file provides billable call detail records in a BellCore-supported, industry-standard format known as

-53-

1		
2	Q.	Does this Commission's AT&T and MCI arbitration order require
3		BellSouth to provide such an interface?
4		
5	Α.	Yes, and as noted by the Commission in its order, BellSouth already
6		has the capability to do so.
7		
8	Q.	Does the billable usage data provided through this interface provide
9		ALECs with timely and useful access to billable usage information?
10		
11	А.	Yes. Usage data is provided in substantially the same time frame as it
12		is available to BellSouth. In addition, for ALECs who choose the option
13		of receiving rated usage, the billable call detail records are provided in
14		a manner that adds significant value compared with the original
15		message recording BellSouth receives from its switches. BellSouth
16		performs extensive processing to add such details as the From Place,
17		To Place, jurisdiction, retail charge and other items in each call detail
18		record. Also, regardless of whether the ALEC chooses to receive
19		unrated usage or rated usage, BellSouth performs extensive edits to
20		ensure the integrity of the data. BellSouth runs its billing system five
21		work days a week. Usage processing begins each morning and the
22		billing system cycle completes the following morning with the creation
23		of actual bills. For ALECs who establish electronic data transmission
24		capability with BellSouth, the usage is then transmitted immediately.
25		

•

-54-

1		SYSTEM AVAILABILITY AND ACTUAL USE
2		
3	Q.	Are BellSouth's interfaces for each required function currently available
4		for use by ALECs?
5		
6	Α.	Yes. Exhibit GC-26 provides a summary of BellSouth's currently
7		available electronic interfaces for each function, and provides the
8		availability date for each.
9		
10	Q.	How long have the EXACT, EDI and LENS ordering interfaces been
11		available for use by ALECs?
12		
13	Α.	EXACT has been available for about 12 years. The BellSouth ALEC
14		EDI interface has been available since December, 1996; EDI itself has
15		been used in commerce for about 30 years. LENS has been available
16		since April, 1997.
17		
18	Q.	Are any ALECs actually using these interfaces?
19		
20	Α.	Yes. EXACT is substantially the same mechanized process that IXCs
21		have used for years to order access trunks, and as such, is a "tried and
22		true" process with which both BellSouth and many potential ALECs
23		have significant experience. ALECs currently are using EXACT to
24		process orders for local interconnection trunking and unbundled
25		network elements. AT&T has used BellSouth's EDI interface to

-55-

1		conduct testing that AT&T's local interconnection agreement with
2		BellSouth calls "Service Readiness Testing" and "Market Readiness
3		Testing". Several ALECs have been trained on LENS, and ALECs are
4		actually using LENS to conduct business with BellSouth.
5		
6	Q.	How long have the ALEC TAFI system and the Electronic
7		Communications Interface for Trouble Reporting been available to
8		ALECs?
9		
10	Α.	The ALEC TAFI system was released to the ALEC community on
11		March, 1997. The electronic bonding trouble reporting interface has
12		been available since December, 1995.
13		
14	Q.	Are these interfaces currently in use by ALECs?
15		
16	Α.	Yes. Two ALECs have entered trouble reports via TAFI. BellSouth
17		also has conducted TAFI training for personnel from ten other ALECs,
18		and has scheduled training for ten additional ALECs. The electronic
19		bonding trouble reporting interface is in use by two interexchange
		bonding trouble reporting interface is in use by two interexcitange
20		carriers (IXCs) who also are ALECs. BellSouth build these systems by
20 21		
		carriers (IXCs) who also are ALECs. BellSouth build these systems by
21		carriers (IXCs) who also are ALECs. BellSouth build these systems by which ALECs enter trouble reports based on the forecasts provided to
21 22		carriers (IXCs) who also are ALECs. BellSouth build these systems by which ALECs enter trouble reports based on the forecasts provided to BellSouth by the ALECs. These forecasts indicated a much higher

-56-

1		substantial level of available capacity for additional ALEC trouble
2		reporting.
3		
4	Q.	Is the billing daily usage file currently available to ALECs?
5		
6	Α.	Yes. This interface has been available to ALECs since March, 1996.
7		An AT&T-requested modification to the original design also was
8		completed in September, 1996.
9		
10	Q.	Are any ALECs currently obtaining billing data through this interface?
11		
12	Α.	Yes. BellSouth has twelve ALEC customers now receiving the daily
13		usage files. Nine other ALEC customers are currently working with
14		BellSouth in preparation for receiving daily usage. There exists today a
15		substantial level of available capacity for handling additional ALEC
16		demand.
17		
18		SYSTEM TESTING
19		
20	Q.	Please describe the general steps undertaken by BellSouth in testing
21		its ALEC systems.
22		
23	Α.	As with any other software development effort, testing generally
24		consists of five steps. In generic terms, the first of these is unit testing,
25		in which small units of programming code are tested independently by

-57-

1 the software developers. For example, in LENS a small unit of code is used to handle a single field, such as the street name, for the address 2 validation function. The next step is called string testing, in which the 3 smaller units of code are strung together and tested using test input 4 data in a test database with a planned set of expected results. The 5 third step is called system testing, in which units of code are tested at a 6 7 subsystem and then at a complete system level. For example, the address validation subsystem in LENS was tested separately prior to 8 testing the complete LENS system. This step verifies that the software 9 meets the identified business requirements for the system. The fourth 10 step is interoperability testing, which tests the hardware, software and 11 12 network interfaces between the new system and external systems. For 13 example, this stage of LENS testing verified that the connections between LENS and the pre-ordering databases were operating 14 properly. The last step is called acceptance testing, which involved 15 BellSouth personnel, other than computer professionals, testing the 16 systems to determine whether the systems met the business 17 requirements provided to the systems developers. 18 19 20 Q. Has BellSouth undertaken additional testing to determine the capacity

- 21 of its systems?
- 22
- A. Yes. BellSouth has conducted volume testing, also known as loadtesting.
- 25

-58-

1	Q.	Based on that testing, what is the capacity of BellSouth's EDI and
2		LENS ordering systems?

3

Α. The combined ordering capacity of these systems, including the 4 mechanized order generation capability in LESOG, has been verified 5 as being at least 5000 local service requests per day for the BellSouth 6 region, which is the capacity for which these systems initially were 7 designed. These volumes are depicted on Exhibit GC-27. It is 8 important to note that local service *requests* do not equate to 9 lines, because a single service request can involve multiple lines. 10 11 Q. On what basis were the systems sized? 12 13 14 Α. BellSouth has sized the initial capacity on the basis of BellSouth forecast information for 1997, incorporating ALEC forecast information, 15 where available. For effective system capacity management, it is 16 essential that ALECs cooperate in providing appropriate forecast 17 18 information that can be used to estimate their system usage. 19 Q. Can this capacity be readily increased should that become necessary? 20 21 Α. 22 Yes. Exhibit GC-27 also shows that the additional capacity available for rapid turn-up would double the ordering capacity of these systems 23 to at least 10,000 orders per day. For LENS and LESOG, this is 24

25 because "hot spare" arrangements, i.e., additional processors, already

1		are in place. These protect not only against unforeseen demand
2		surges but also against equipment failure. For EDI and LEO, the
3		additional capacity is available because these systems are operating
4		on a small portion of large, well-established mainframe systems, and
5		significant excess capacity exists on both mainframes.
6		
7	Q.	Beyond the LENS ordering capacity, does LENS have additional
8		capacity for pre-ordering transactions?
9		
10	Α.	Yes. LENS has been designed to support multiple pre-ordering
11		transactions for the expected 5,000 per day combined volume of LENS
12		and EDI orders.
13		
14	Q.	Has BellSouth discontinued its volume testing of these systems?
15		
16	Α.	No. Having established through load testing that the systems could
16 17	A.	No. Having established through load testing that the systems could sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test
	Α.	
17	Α.	sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test
17 18	Α.	sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is
17 18 19	A. Q.	sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is
17 18 19 20		sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is designed to determine the true upper limits of the systems.
17 18 19 20 21		sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is designed to determine the true upper limits of the systems.
17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is designed to determine the true upper limits of the systems. Has BellSouth tested its LENS and EDI systems with ALECs?
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	sustain the forecasted volumes, BellSouth continues to maintain test copies of the systems used for ongoing stress testing. Stress testing is designed to determine the true upper limits of the systems. Has BellSouth tested its LENS and EDI systems with ALECs? Yes. As each ALEC is added to LENS, BellSouth works cooperatively

-60-

1		working properly. Also, BellSouth has engaged in extensive EDI
2		testing with AT&T.
3		
4	Q.	Has ALEC pre-ordering or ordering activity come close to approaching
5		the forecasted volumes?
6		
7	Α.	No. The combined peak daily ordering volume over the EDI and LENS
8		interfaces has thus far been about 200 orders, which is significantly
9		less than the current capacity of at least 5,000 orders per day.
10		BellSouth established the required capacity for these systems based
11		on a series of discussions and negotiations with the CLECs as well as
12		on internal BellSouth forecasts, and has provide adequate capacity to
13		handle those volumes, even though the current volume of orders is not
14		even close to the forecast.
15		
16	Q.	What is the capacity of the ALEC TAFI system?
17		
18	Α.	TAFI currently will support 65 simultaneous users with a volume of
19		1300 troubles handled per hour for the BellSouth region. In addition,
20		as this testimony is being filed, a second processor is being activated
21		that will double the capacity, to 130 simultaneous users and 2600
22		troubles handled per hour. A "hot spare" arrangement also is in place
23		for TAFI. This can be activated almost immediately if necessary, and
24		would increase capacity by an additional 65 users and 1300 troubles
25		per hour, for a combined total of 195 simultaneous users and 3900

-61-

1		troubles handled per hour. The spare arrangement also protects
2		against equipment failure should one of the primary processors fail.
3		
4	Q.	Can this capacity be readily increased if that should become
5		necessary?
6		
7	Α.	Yes. Additional processors can be added within 60 days to continue
8		increasing capacity should that become necessary.
9		
10	Q.	Is the current capacity adequate to meet the needs of ALECs who have
11		indicated their intent to use TAFI?
12		
13	Α.	Yes, it is far more than adequate, and will accommodate additional
14		potential users as well.
15		
16	Q.	How does this compare with the actual ALEC use of TAFI to date?
17		
18	Α.	The current capacity of the ALEC TAFI system far exceeds the current
19		usage. Between March 28 and May 30, 1997, a total of two ALECs,
20		with one user each, had generated a combined total of 12 trouble
21		reports using TAFI. However, as the usage of TAFI currently is
22		increasing as additional ALECs are trained, I plan to provide an update
23		with the most current information available at the time of the hearings in
24		this docket. The current capacity also exceeds what is required to
25		

-62-

1		support the expected number of repair reports associated with the
2		forecasted volume of ALEC lines.
3		
4	Q.	Has the ALEC TAFI system been tested to ensure it could handle
5		commercial volumes?
6		
7	Α.	Yes. From March 17, 1997 until April 16, 1997, BellSouth repair
8		attendants from BellSouth's business and residence repair centers
9		used the ALEC TAFI system in a live mode to process actual trouble
10		reports from BellSouth retail customers. During that month
11		approximately 10,000 customer trouble reports were successfully
12		processed using a single ALEC TAFI processor.
13		
14	Q.	Has BellSouth tested TAFI with ALECs?
15		
16	Α.	
17		Yes. BellSouth engages in connectivity testing with each new ALEC.
17		res. BellSouth engages in connectivity testing with each new ALEC.
18	Q.	Has BellSouth tested its ALEC daily billable usage file?
	Q.	
18	Q. A.	
18 19		Has BellSouth tested its ALEC daily billable usage file?
18 19 20		Has BellSouth tested its ALEC daily billable usage file? Yes. In order to test both the service order process and the new
18 19 20 21		Has BellSouth tested its ALEC daily billable usage file? Yes. In order to test both the service order process and the new applications for delivery of daily usage data, BellSouth established test
18 19 20 21 22		Has BellSouth tested its ALEC daily billable usage file? Yes. In order to test both the service order process and the new applications for delivery of daily usage data, BellSouth established test accounts for resale in the production environment. Employee accounts

-63-

1 associated with the test accounts was captured and flowed to the Daily Usage File application to test the process. Since the end-to-end test 2 data contained limited volumes, data was also contrived to further test 3 the Daily Usage File functions prior to their deployment more than a 4 year ago. 5 6 7 Q. What is BellSouth's capacity to provide daily billable usage information? 8 9 Because these files are generated through mainframe-based systems 10 Α. 11 with existing spare capacity, BellSouth has not identified any constraints to its capacity to process daily usage files for ALECs. 12 Average daily message volumes delivered to the combined twelve 13 ALECs during April was 13,040 messages per day for the BellSouth 14 region. Total regional average daily volume for May was 22,213 15 16 messages per day. 17 Q. Has BellSouth tested its processes for providing the billing daily usage 18 file with ALECs? 19 20 21 Α. Yes. In addition to the initial testing conducted to validate the process prior to offering the service, BellSouth conducts individual tests with 22 each ALEC prior to their establishing a daily production feed. 23 BellSouth provides a comprehensive test file containing many 24 examples of record types that the ALEC may encounter in the live 25

-64-

1		environment. The test data is delivered in the manner specified by the
2		ALEC i.e., magnetic tape or data transmission. BellSouth also
3		conducts testing in a 'live' mode if an ALEC requests it. The ALEC can
4		actually establish 'live' accounts, such as services involving the ALECs'
5		employees, or friendly users, and place calls of varying types keeping
6		manual records of each call. BellSouth delivers the associated billable
7		usage in the production mode, and the ALEC can verify that the daily
8		usage records match the test calls that were made.
9		
10	Q.	How will the capacity of BellSouth's ALEC interfaces be managed on a
11		going forward basis?
12		
13	Α.	The same process of monitoring usage and making any needed
14		adjustments that is used to manage BellSouth's other computer
15		systems will be used to maintain the ALEC systems.
16		
17		
18		SYSTEM TRAINING, DOCUMENTATION AND ONGOING SUPPORT
19		
20	Q.	Has BellSouth provided new entrants with training and documentation
21		on its systems?
22		
23	Α.	Yes. BellSouth has conducted ALEC training sessions that include
24		many aspects of doing business with BellSouth, including systems
25		training. BellSouth also provides appropriate system user guides and

-65-

other information. The most recent of BellSouth's ongoing series of
 ALEC conferences, which also include systems demonstrations and
 hands-on experience with the systems, was held on June 24-26, 1997.

4

5 Q. Please describe LENS training.

6

Α. Initial LENS training was held May 13, 1997 at the BellSouth Learning 7 Center in Atlanta. Invitations were sent to all ALECs who had signed 8 interconnection agreements or were in the process of negotiating 9 10 agreements. During the training the ALEC representatives sat at computer terminals, and the trainer guided them step by step through 11 pre-ordering inquiries and order processing. There were as many as 12 eight BellSouth staff working in the room in addition to the trainer to 13 help the ALEC representatives as they worked through the exercises. 14 15

There also is a training lab in Birmingham with a staff focused on
providing training, where BellSouth trains the ALECs' trainers. ALECs
are offered this training as part of the process of connecting them to the
system. During LENS training the ALECs also are provided with a
LENS User Guide. BellSouth also has provided technical assistance at
ALECs' premises.

- 22
- 23

Q. Please describe BellSouth's training and documentation on EDI.

- 24
- 25

-66-

1	А.	Training on EDI is conceptually different, because of the fact that an
2		ALEC has the option of developing its own systems on its side of the
3		EDI interface. For example, BellSouth has worked extensively with
4		AT&T to develop the EDI ordering interface, and has worked
5		cooperatively with AT&T as AT&T brings its ordering processes on-line.
6		The documentation for BellSouth's EDI interface is contained in two
7		large volumes known as the Local Exchange Ordering Implementation
8		Guide that have been provided to ALECs.
9		
10	Q.	Has BellSouth changed the supporting documentation for its EDI
11		interface since that interface was deployed in December, 1996?
12		· ·
13	Α.	Yes. In an effort to accommodate the early market entry of ALECs,
14		BellSouth began its EDI implementation on the basis of the industry's
15		recommendation to use EDI, but prior to the time the industry actually
16		had undertaken its more detailed development work. As the industry's
17		standards work has progressed, BellSouth has updated its
18		implementation guides to reflect changes resulting from the standards
19		developed by the national Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), as
20		BellSouth had indicated all along it would.
21		
22	Q.	Please describe TAFI training and documentation.
23		
24	Α.	TAFI training is provided in the Birmingham training lab, where
25		BellSouth trains the ALECs' trainers. ALECs are offered this training as

-67-

1		part of the process of connecting them to the system. During this
2		training the ALECs are provided with an extensive TAFI User Guide,
3		which consists of approximately 300 pages of reference material.
4		
5	Q.	In a similar proceeding in another state, AT&T has suggested that
6		BellSouth's ALEC systems training is not as lengthy as the training for
7		BellSouth's customer support personnel. Is this an appropriate
8		comparison?
9		
10	Α.	No, not at all. The scope is not intended to be the same. Therefore, it
11		is inappropriate to compare the length of BellSouth's ALEC systems
12		training with BellSouth's internal employee training. BellSouth's
13		training for service representatives and repair attendants trains new
14		employees on many aspects of BellSouth's business, not just systems.
15		ALECs are in the best position to teach their employees how the ALEC
16		chooses to do business. For example, training for new BellSouth
17		representatives may include non-system training such as customer
18		contact skills and role-playing, basic concepts of telephony, basic
19		keyboard skills, and product and service training. While not part of
20		systems training, product and service training, also is available to
21		ALECs.
22		
23	Q.	Does BellSouth offer "help desk" support for ALECs using its
24		interfaces?
25		

-68-

1	Α.	Yes. A help desk is in place to handle LENS and TAFI problems. That
2		desk is staffed from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. central time. After hours
3		assistance is available via pager access. Information on the help desk
4		is included in both the LENS and TAFI user guides. BellSouth has a
5		group known as EDI Central that handles EDI matters for BellSouth's
6		other EDI applications, such as those involving the exchange of
7		information with BellSouth suppliers. ALEC EDI problems requiring
8		BellSouth involvement also would be handled by the EDI Central
9		group.
10		
11	Q.	Does BellSouth provide training or other support to ALECs using the
12		interface for the billable daily usage file?
13		
15		
14	A.	Yes. BellSouth has provided generic training on the daily usage file at
	A.	Yes. BellSouth has provided generic training on the daily usage file at the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The
14	A.	
14 15	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The
14 15 16	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization
14 15 16 17	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their
14 15 16 17 18	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their monthly bills from BellSouth or the daily usage files. They involve the
14 15 16 17 18 19	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their monthly bills from BellSouth or the daily usage files. They involve the appropriate subject matter experts needed to respond to any needs the
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Α.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their monthly bills from BellSouth or the daily usage files. They involve the appropriate subject matter experts needed to respond to any needs the ALECs may have. Further, in preparation for establishing daily usage
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their monthly bills from BellSouth or the daily usage files. They involve the appropriate subject matter experts needed to respond to any needs the ALECs may have. Further, in preparation for establishing daily usage file service for each individual ALEC, BellSouth personnel from both
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A.	the ALEC conferences held in December, 1996 and April, 1997. The Billing Administrators in the Customer Billing Services organization serve as initial contacts for ALECs with questions about either their monthly bills from BellSouth or the daily usage files. They involve the appropriate subject matter experts needed to respond to any needs the ALECs may have. Further, in preparation for establishing daily usage file service for each individual ALEC, BellSouth personnel from both Customer Billing Services and Information Technology routinely

-69-

- resolve any issues that may arise. General Daily Usage File
   information is provided in the ALEC Daily Usage File (CDUF)
   Requirements Document, which is provided as Exhibit A of the
   contract ALECs sign to obtain this service.
- 5

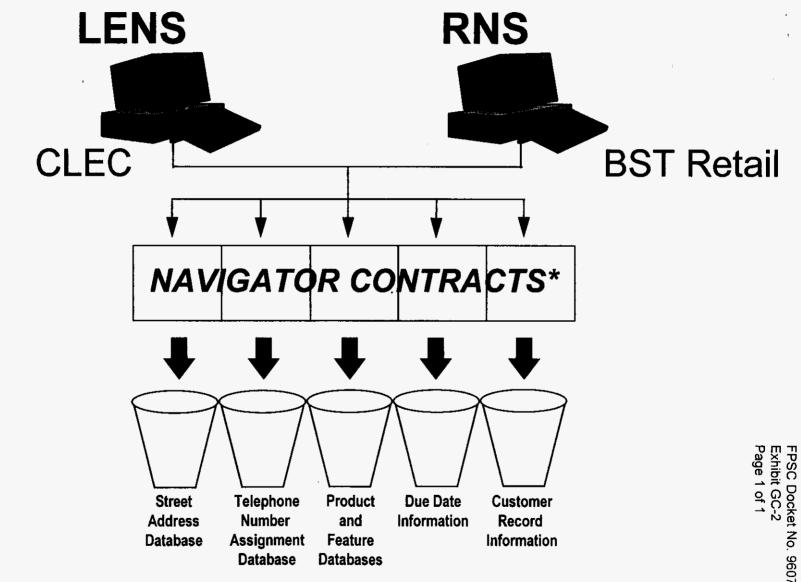
6 Q. Please summarize your testimony.

7

BellSouth's interfaces should be evaluated in accordance with the 8 Α. 9 principle of non-discriminatory access as articulated by the FCC. 10 BellSouth's interfaces provide ALECs with access to the required 11 information and functions in substantially the same time and manner as 12 BellSouth's access for its retail customers; such access provides 13 competitively neutral outcomes in the marketplace. Therefore, 14 BellSouth respectfully asks this Commission to find that BellSouth's 15 interfaces provide non-discriminatory access to BellSouth's operational 16 support systems for the functions of pre-ordering, ordering and 17 provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing. 18 19 Q. Does this conclude your testimony? 20 Α. Yes. 21 22 23 24 25

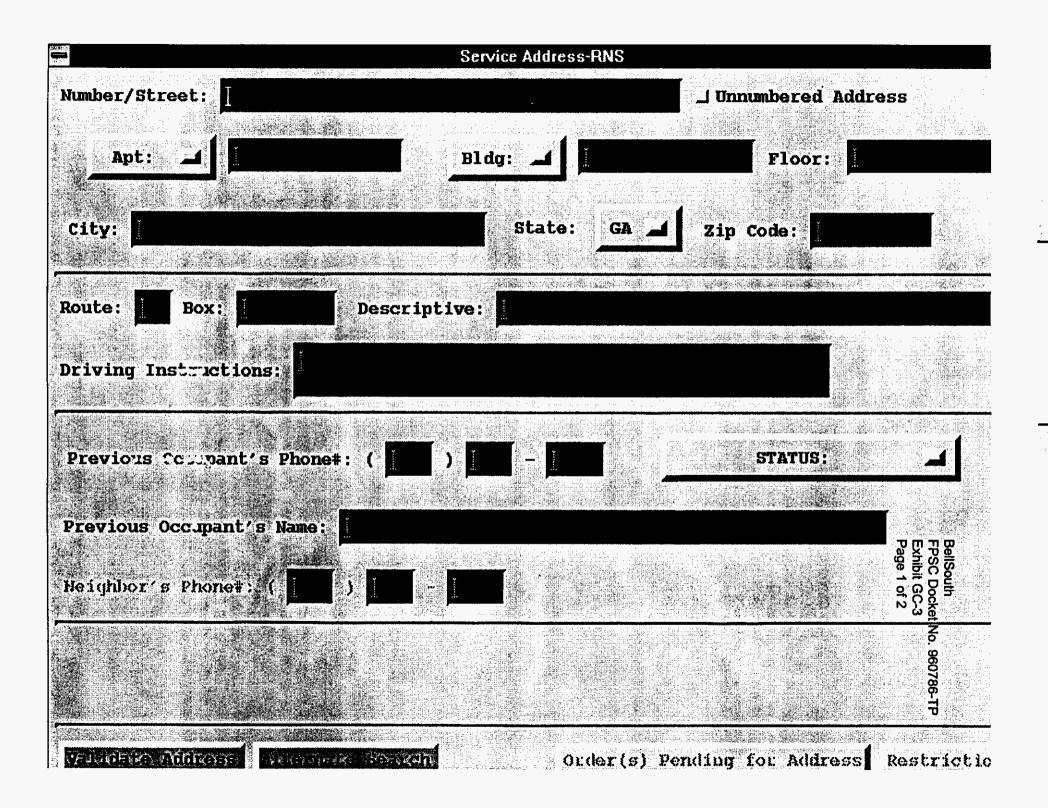
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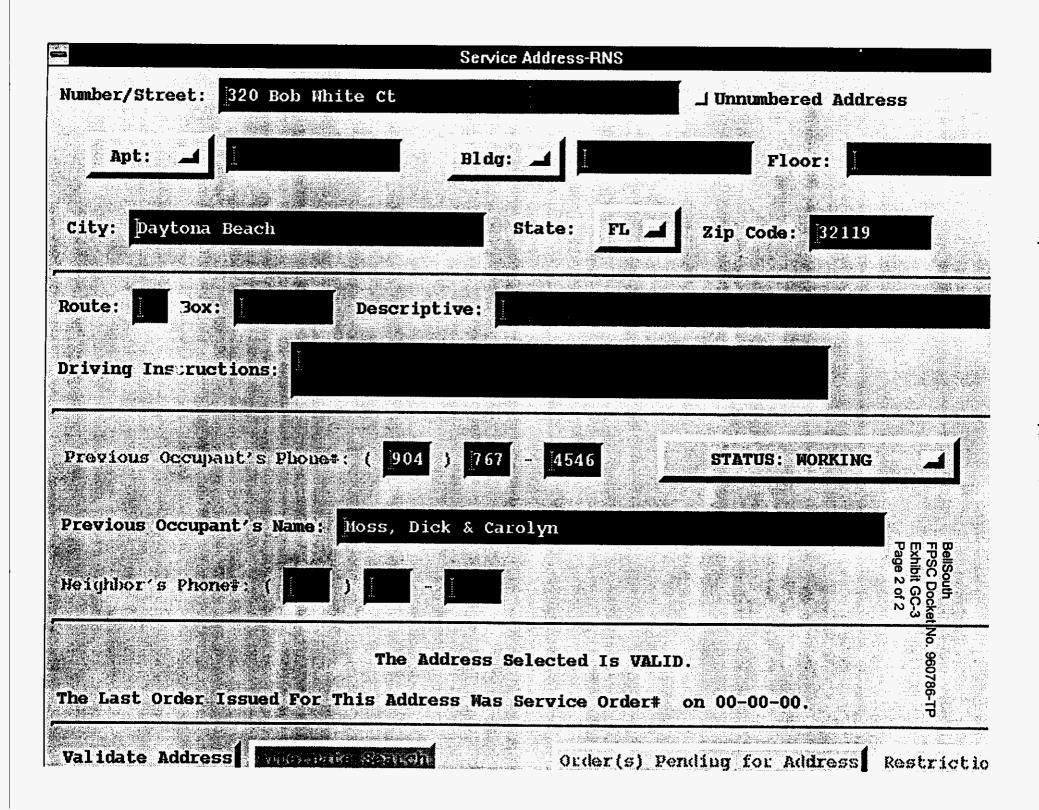
## **CLEC and BellSouth Access to Pre-Ordering Information**



\*Navigator contracts refer to software that defines a set of queries and responses to and from a database.

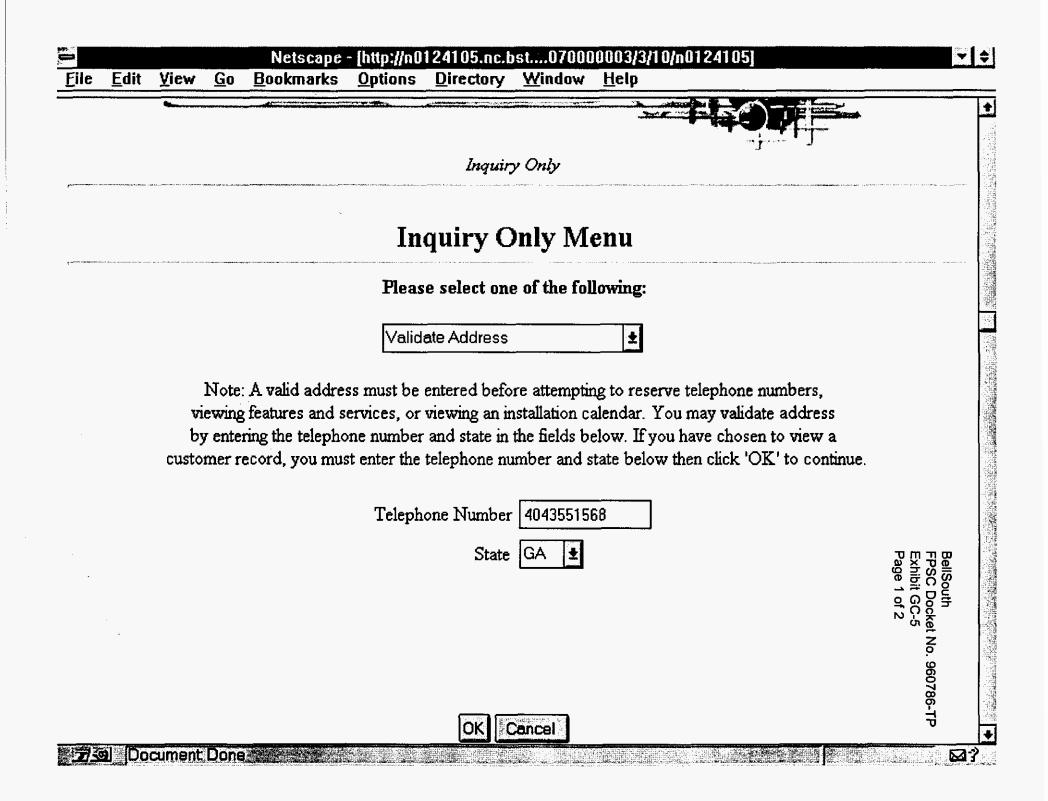
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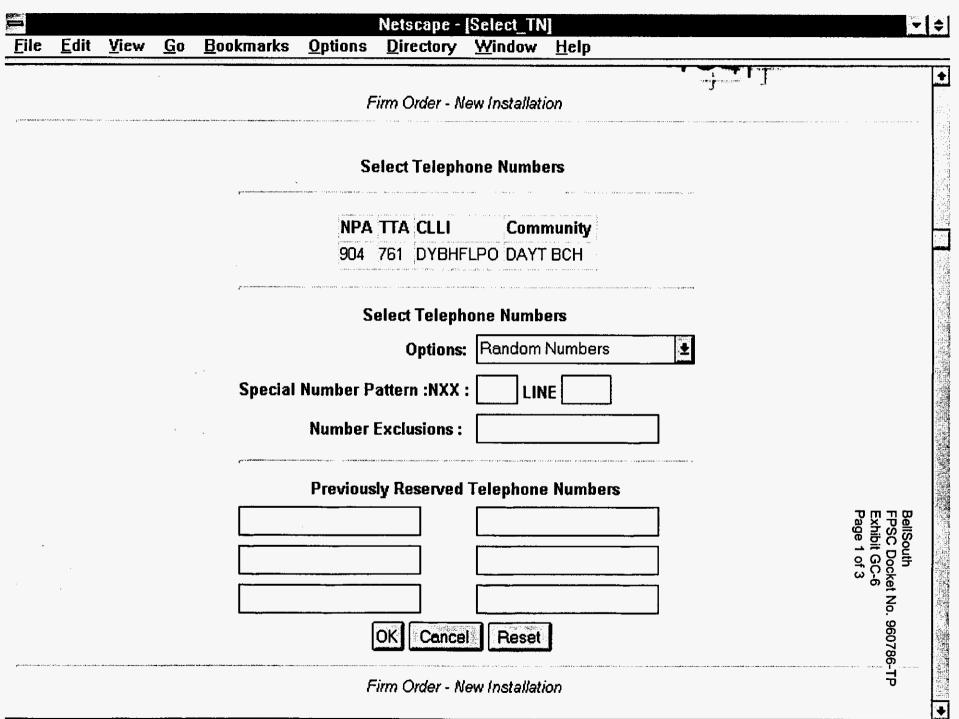


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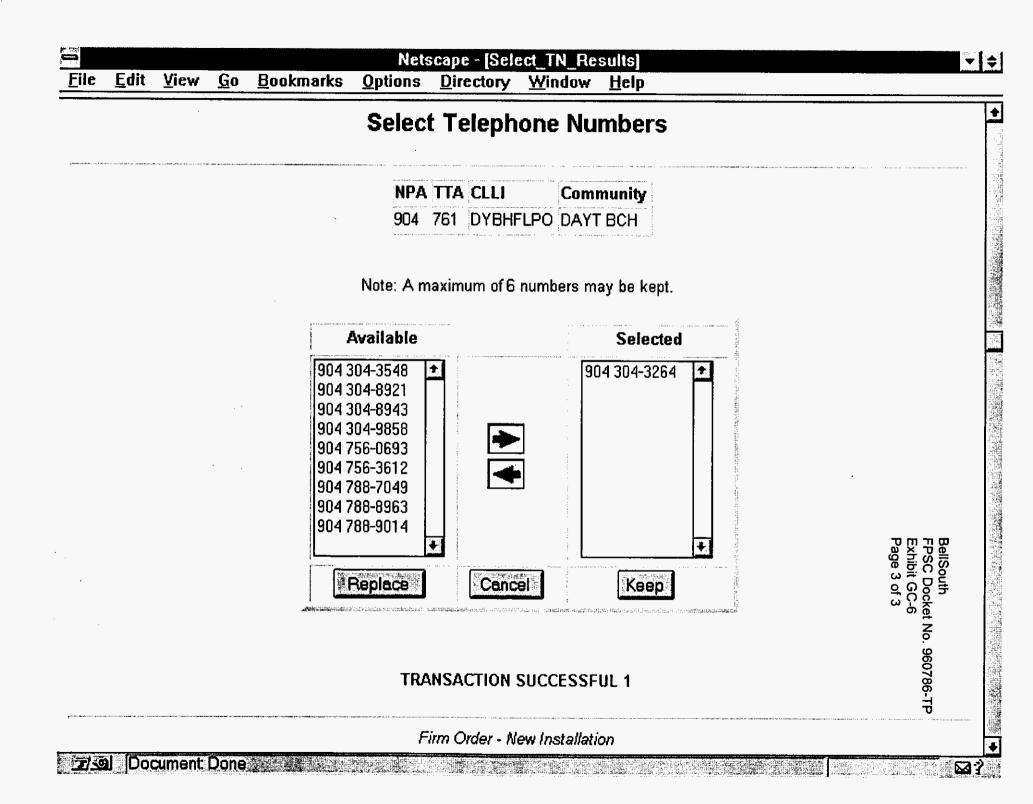


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Return to Switch Details

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BellSouth FPSC Docket Exhibit GC-7

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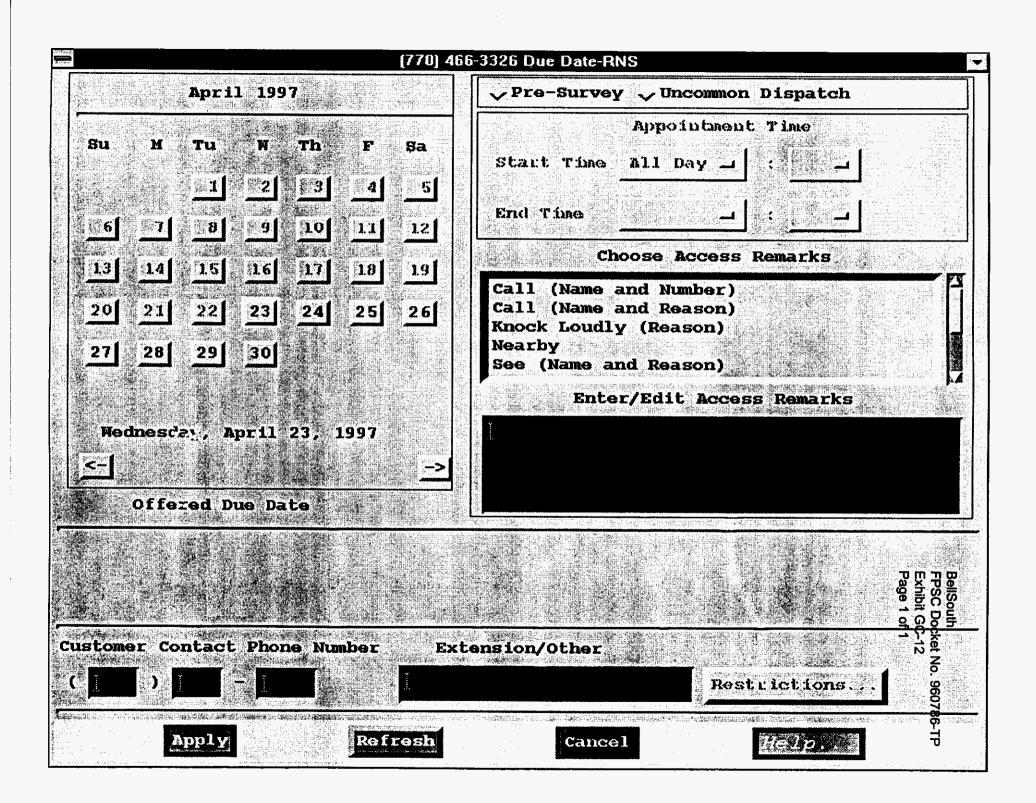
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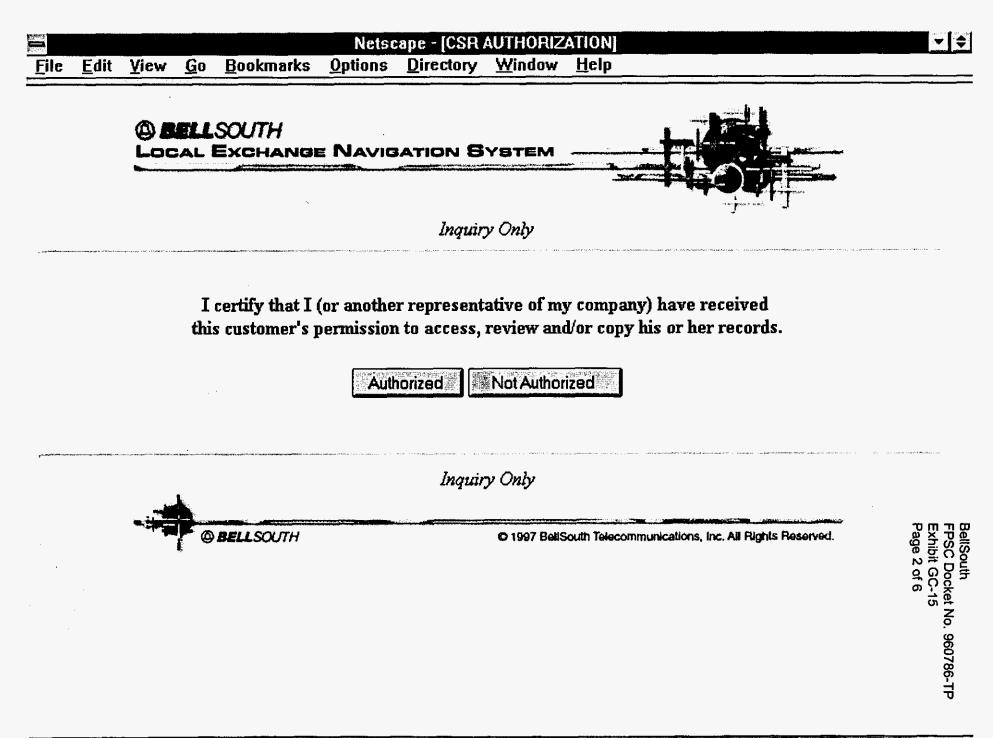
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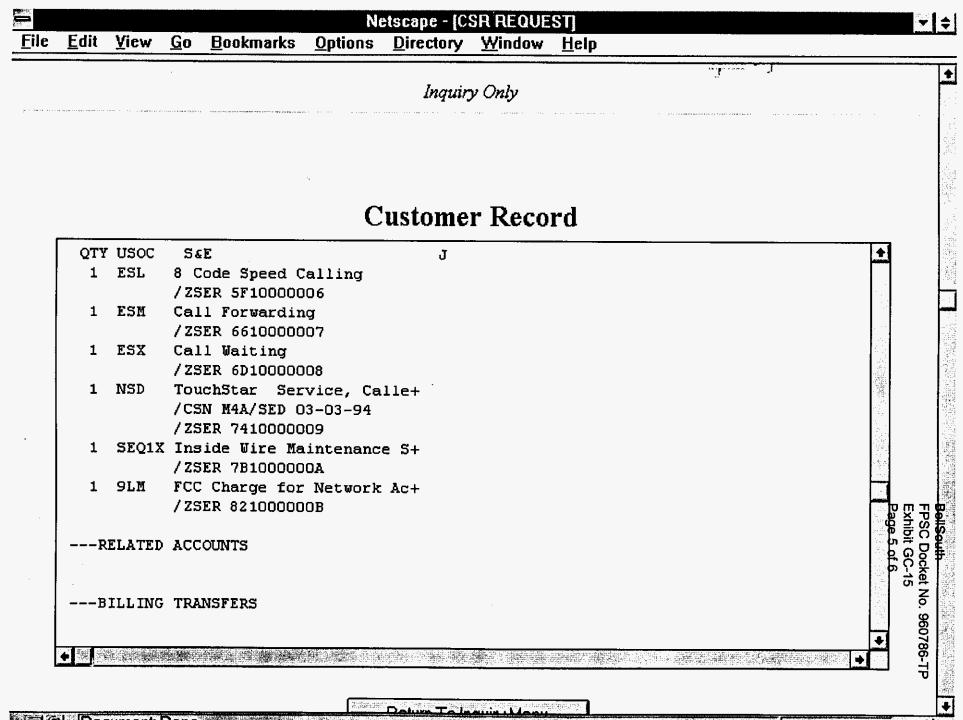
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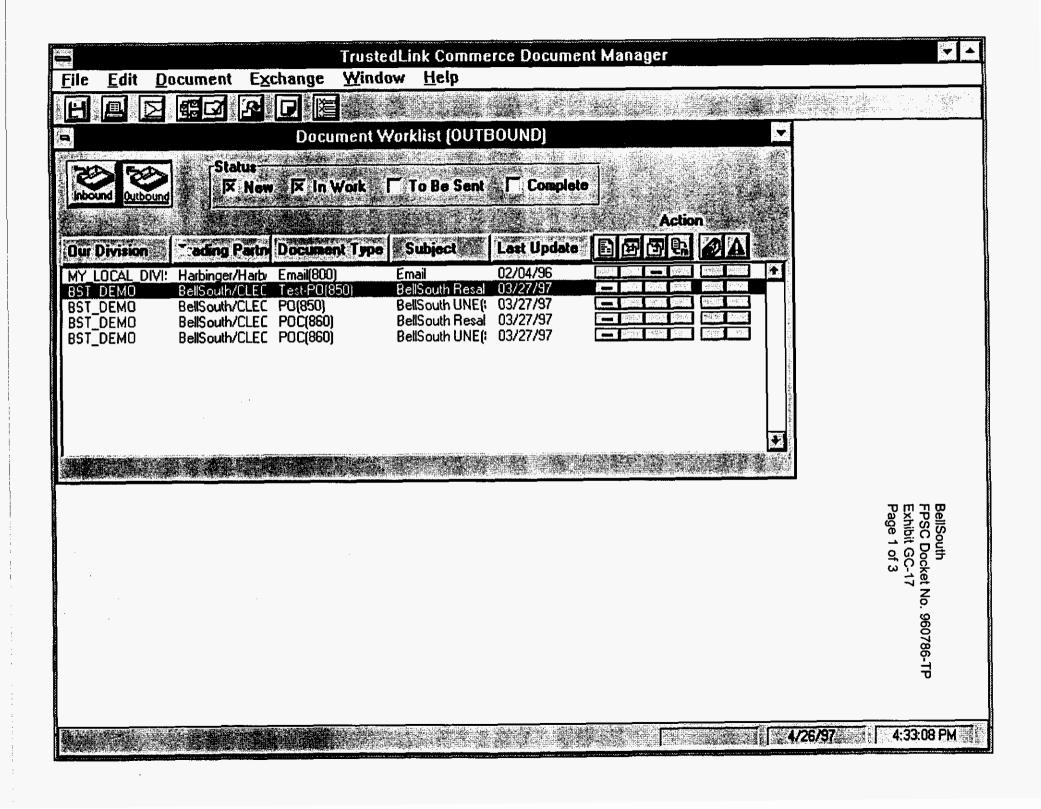
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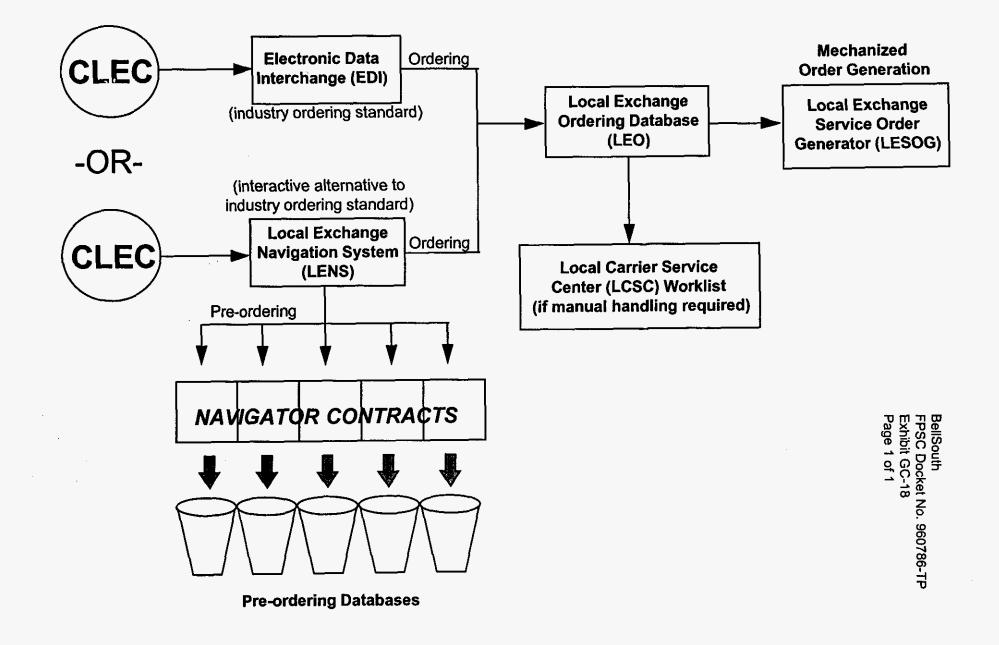
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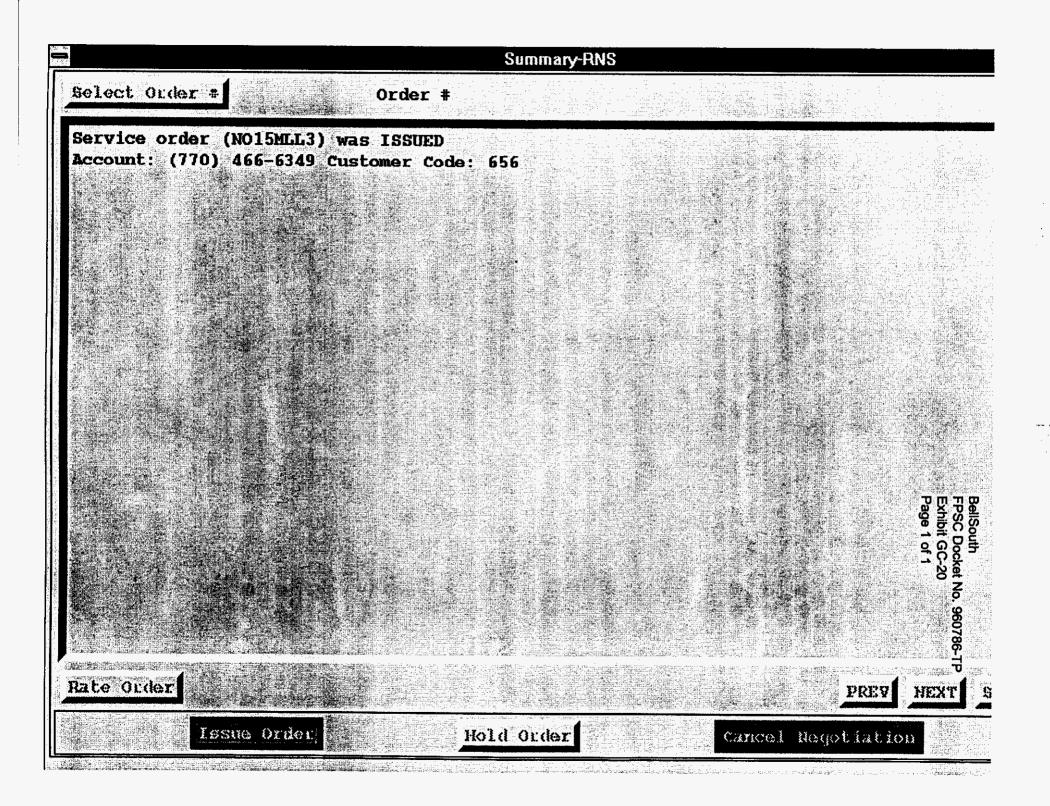
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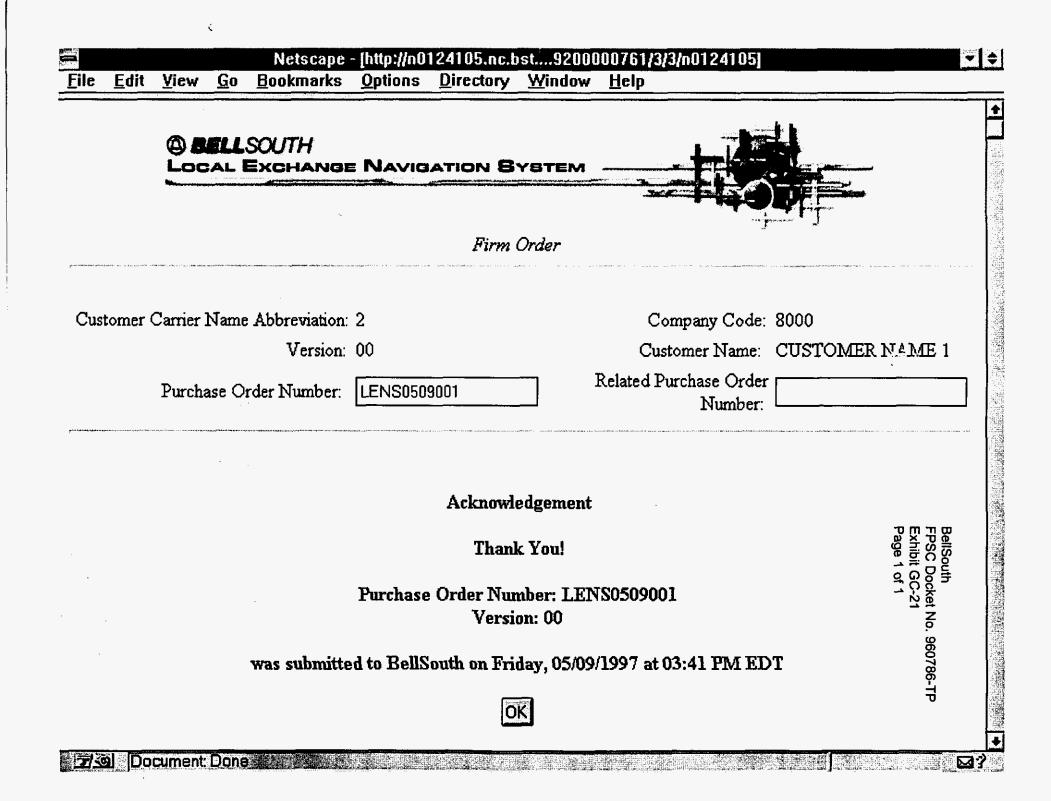


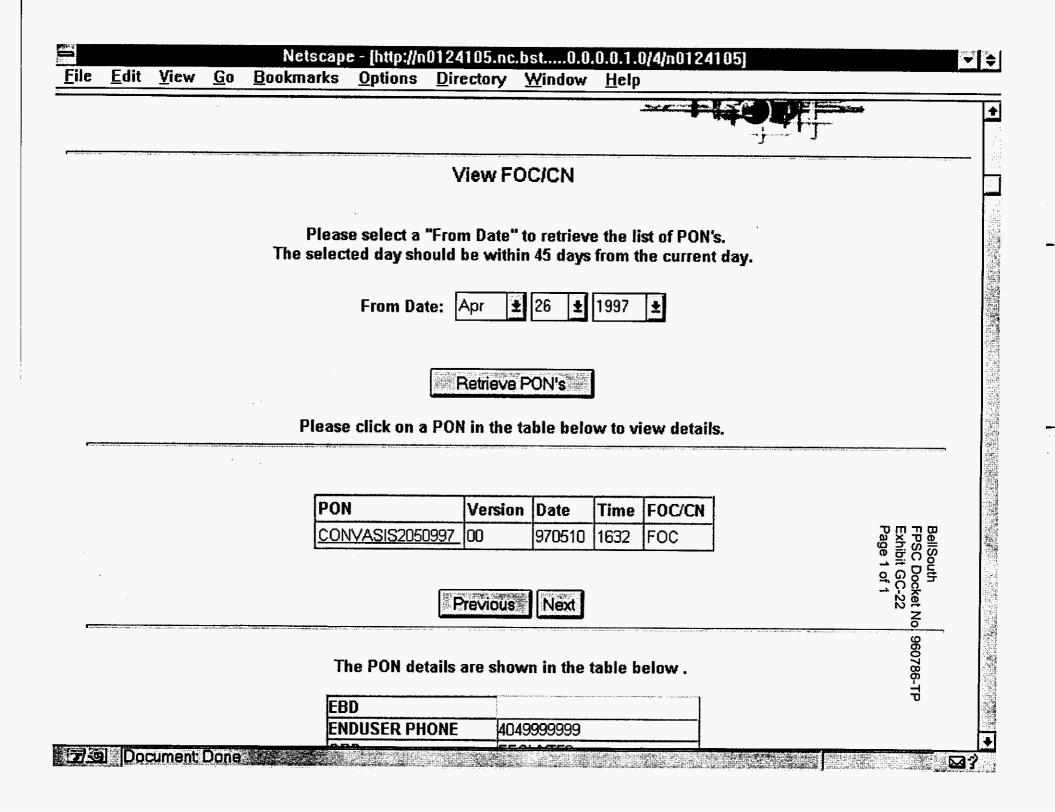
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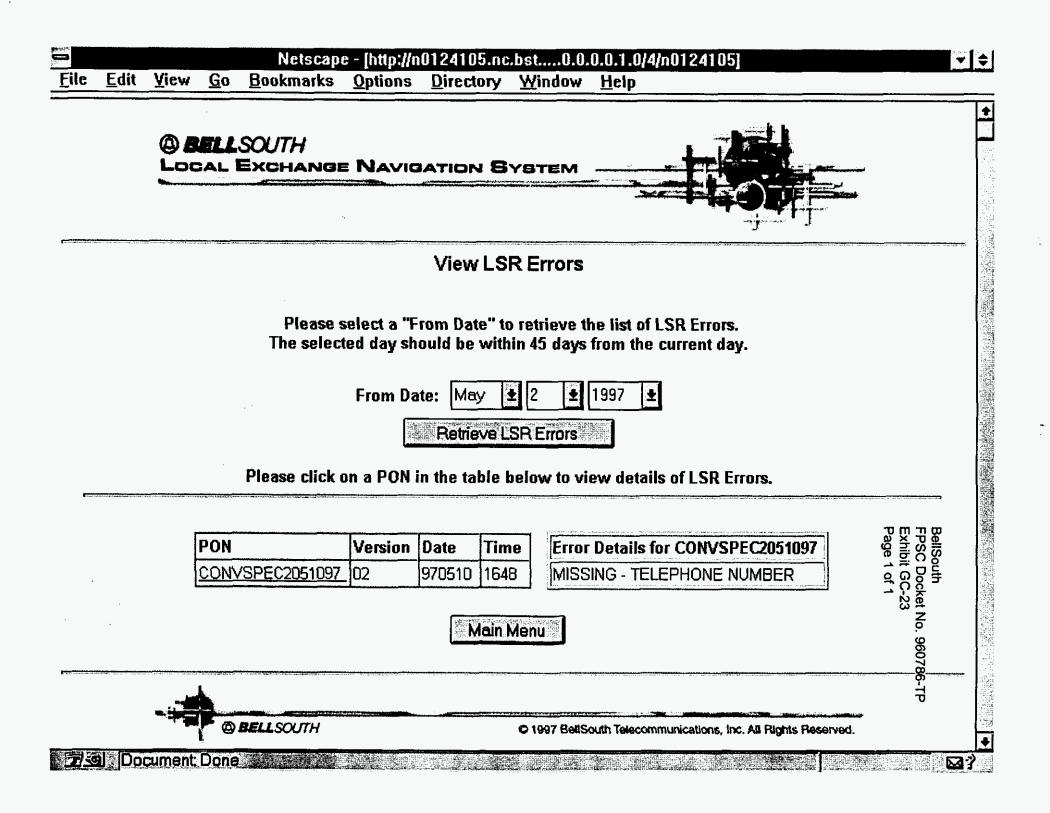
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- 2. Call Waiting Deluxe
- 3. Call Waiting
- 4. Caller ID
- 5. Speed Calling
- 6. 3-Way Calling
- 7. Call Forwarding Variable
- 8. Remote Access to CF
- 9. Enhanced Caller ID
- 10. Flat Rate/Residence
- 11. Flat Rate/Business
- 12. Georgia Community Calling
- 13. Independent Payphone Provider
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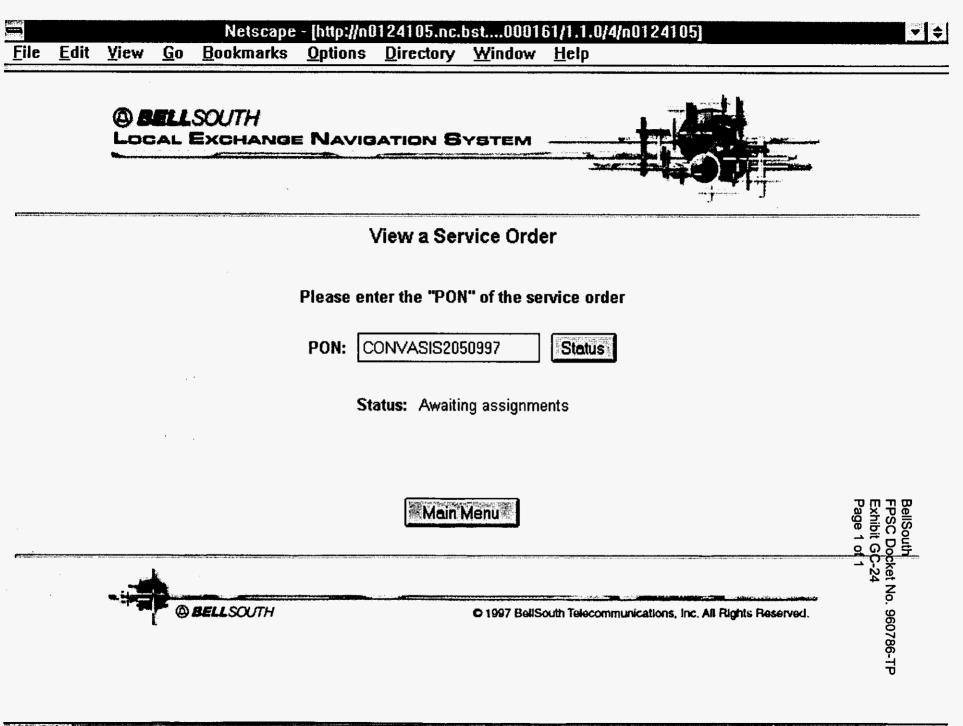
- 15. Measured Rate/Residence
- 16. Measured Rate/Business
- 17. Memory Call
- 18. Memory Call Answering Service
- 19. MTS
- 20. Optional Calling Plan
- 21. RCF
- 22. RingMaster® Services
- 23. Call Tracing
- 24. Call Block
- 25. Repeat Dialing
- 26. Call Selector
- 27. Call Return
- 28. Preferred Call Forwarding
- 29. Touchtone
- 30. Visual Director









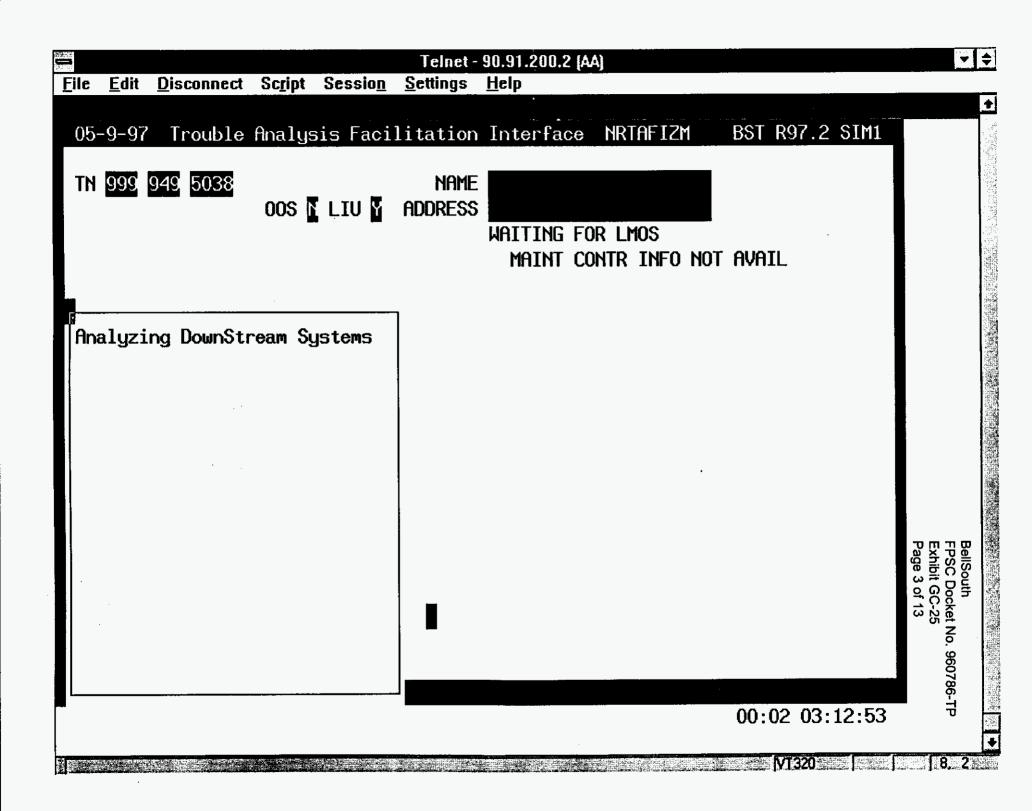


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## **BellSouth's Currently Available Electronic Interfaces\***

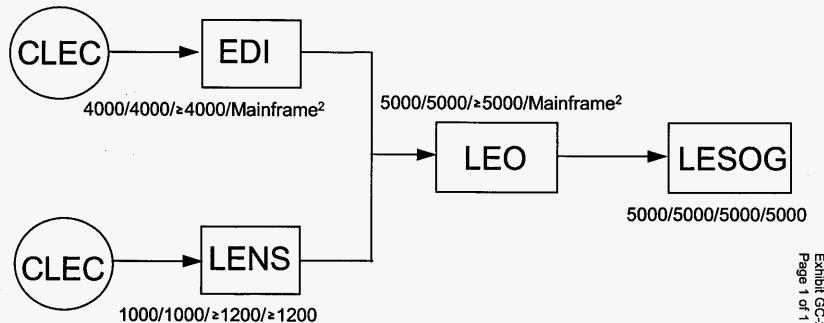
Process	CLEC Interface	Functions	Available Since
Pre-Ordering	Local Exchange Navigation System (LENS) Provides electronic, real-time, interactive access to the same databases from which BellSouth obtains pre-ordering information	<ul> <li>Address validation</li> <li>Telephone number selection</li> <li>Products and services information</li> <li>Due dates</li> <li>Customer service record information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>April 1997</li> <li>April 1997</li> <li>April 1997</li> <li>April 1997</li> <li>April 1997</li> <li>June 1997</li> </ul>
Ordering/ Provisioning	Industry-standard Electronic Data     Interchange (EDI) interface	34 resale services, including four complex services, plus unbundled loop, port, and interim number portability	December     1996
	Industry-standard Exchange Access Control and Tracking system (EXACT)	Complex network elements (trunking, transport, tandem switching, etc.)	• 1985
	Interactive ordering through LENS	30 resale services plus unbundled loop, port, and interim number portability	• April 1997
Maintenance and Repair	Trouble Analysis Facilitation Interface (TAFI) Provides electronic, real-time interactive access to the same trouble handling system used by BellSouth for exchange services	Trouble reports for both business and residence local exchange services and unbundled network elements identified with telephone numbers (e.g., port)	• March 1997
	<ul> <li>Industry-standard Electronic Gateway Interface Same electronic bonding interface currently used by interexchange carriers</li> </ul>	Trouble reports for designed resold services and circuit-number identified unbundled network elements (e.g., trunks)	• 1995
Billing	<ul> <li>CLEC Daily Usage File Provided in industry standard data format</li> </ul>	Daily file containing such items as directory assistance or other billable usage associated with a resold line, interim number portability account, or unbundled network element such as an unbundled port	• March 1996

\*This chart describes BellSouth's recommended interfaces for each process. In addition, some CLECs have chosen to continue using certain manual or interim electronic interfaces BellSouth deployed prior to 1997 to support the earlier market entry of local exchange competitors, so BellSouth continues to make those available. BellSouth also is building customized interfaces for some functions in accordance with individual interconnection agreements.

## **Ordering Capacity**

Daily ordering stated as aa/bb/cc/dd, where:

- aa = Forecast by year-end 1997
- bb = Designed capacity of each system<sup>1</sup>
- cc = Capacity verified through internal volume testing
- *dd* = Additional capacity available for rapid turn-up



<sup>1</sup>Assuming a 10-hour production day as a conservative estimate. Systems actually are available approximately 20 hours per day on average.

<sup>2</sup>Both EDI and LEO account for a small fraction of the currently used capacity on two BST mainframe systems. Significant excess capacity (35% to 40%) exists on both mainframes.

BellSouth FPSC Docket No. 960786-TP Exhibit GC-27 Page 1 of 1