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October 23, 1998

Mrs. Blanca S. Bayo
Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 981011 BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition for
Waiver for the West Palm Beach Gardens Central
Office.

Docket No. 981012 BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition for
Waiver for the North Dade Golden Glades Central
Office.

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing are the original and fifteen (15) copies of the Comments of Sprint
Communications Company Limited Partnership in the above referenced dockets.

An extra copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed which I ask you to please date stamp
and return to the undersigned in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance. Should you have any questions regarding this matter,
please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Monica M. Barone

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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

In re:)	
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s)	
Petition for Waiver for the West Palm)	
Beach Gardens Central Office.)	Docket No. 981011-TL
)	
BellSouth Telecommunication, Inc.'s)	
Petition for Waiver for the North Dade)	
Golden Glades Central Office.)	Docket No. 981012-TL
)	

Filed: October 26, 1998

COMMENTS OF
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

I. INTRODUCTION

On August 7, 1998, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth" or "BST") filed two Petitions for Waiver. These Petitions address the West Palm Beach Central Gardens Office and the North Dade Golden Glades Central Office. In each of the Petitions, BellSouth states that it is requesting a waiver of the physical collocation requirements in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") and the Federal Communications Commission's First Report and Order. Specifically, BellSouth states that it is requesting the waivers due to space limitations in the central offices.

Sprint Communications Company ("Sprint") notes that these are among the first requests the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") has received to waive the physical collocation requirements of the Act due to space limitations. As such, the Commission's determinations on these requests will be critical in formulating the policy that will eventually

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emerge. Moreover, as an ALEC who has requested and will continue to request physical collocation, Sprint's substantial interests will be affected by the Commission's determinations in these dockets.

II. CRITERIA

Under Section 251(c)(6) of the Act, Incumbent Local Exchange Companies ("ILECs") have:

The duty to provide, on rates, terms, and conditions that are just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, for physical collocation of equipment necessary for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements at the premises of the local exchange carrier, except that the carrier may provide for virtual collocation if the local exchange carrier demonstrates to the State Commission that physical collocation is not practical for technical reasons or because of space limitations.

As stated above, ILECs must demonstrate to State Commissions that physical collocation is not practical because of space limitations. As with many other provisions of the Act, the State Commissions are in the position of balancing the interests of Alternative Local Exchange Companies ("ALECs") and ILECs while at the same time developing policies that will develop competition in the local exchange market. Similar to the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission"), Sprint must balance its interests as both an ALEC and ILEC in developing regulatory policy on a daily basis. Accordingly, Sprint reviewed BellSouth's Petitions from both perspectives and now submits what it believes to be a balanced approach to space allocation issues associated with COs.

Before addressing the specific criteria Sprint believes the Commission should establish, Sprint believes it is important to emphasize the importance of physical collocation to carriers. It is safe to say that all carriers are concerned about protecting their assets in a CO. In fact, BellSouth requires Sprint to provide a list of people who require access to space in its CO before

they can gain access. Sprint must provide the name, social security number of each person on the list. A picture identification card is required to gain access and an escort is required to enter collocation space if they pass through any BellSouth areas. Sprint, like BellSouth, is very concerned about ensuring that its equipment is secure in a central office. It is for that reason Sprint prefers physical collocation to any other ILEC central office-based form of collocation. Furthermore, "adjacent" collocation, where an ALEC is faced with occupying physical space outside the ILEC central office is sub-optimal because it adds a distance component to the circuit between the customer premise and the ILEC central office. Distance is a critical factor in the performance of broadband technologies. Carriers that are collocated in the ILEC's central office have an advantage over ALECs that may be forced to collocate in an adjacent location to connect to the ILEC CO. Thus, Sprint believes that ILECs should exhaust all reasonable possibilities before denying a request for physical collocation. Sprint suggests the following criteria should be established to support that goal.

First, Sprint believes that if an ILEC denies a physical collocation request on the grounds of space limitations, it should submit detailed floor plans to State Commissions within 5 business days of the denial, and should also allow the carrier seeking collocation to tour its premises. This will give both parties an opportunity to quickly explore whether there is any possibility to physically collocate in the central office at issue. As Sprint indicates above, securing physical space in the ILEC central office is of critical strategic importance.

Second, the Commission should reduce the minimum space that requesting carriers must acquire to collocate in central offices. This will maximize the number of ALECs that can be collocated. Specifically, Sprint urges the Commission to find that ILECs should not be permitted to impose a minimum physical collocation cage space requirement larger than 50 square feet in

their collocation tariffs or interconnection agreements. BellSouth is one of the many ILECS that requires one-hundred (100) square feet of cage space. There is no justification for requiring carriers to order at least 100 square feet of cage space. Sprint has been denied collocation space in instances where it did not need one-hundred (100) square feet to provide telecommunications service to customers. In those instances, fifty (50) feet would have been sufficient. Although fifty (50) feet would be sufficient, if an ILEC believes it is feasible to allow even smaller minimum-sized cages, it should be permitted to do so.

Third, the ILEC should be required to offer “cageless” collocation, which is potentially a more efficient way of providing collocation space in the ILEC end office, particularly in instances where physical collocation space is at or near exhaust. Cageless collocation mirrors physical collocation in that the collocator still owns, installs, and maintains collocated equipment – without the requirement that a cage be erected around the equipment. Rather, the equipment is placed (in per-bay increments) in conditioned space within the ILEC end office. While this is less desirable from an equipment security standpoint, ILECs such as Bell Atlantic are offering this physical collocation option to alleviate those instances where demand for traditional caged physical collocation space in an ILEC end office exceeds available space.

Fourth, Sprint believes that if an ILEC does not have sufficient space available in central offices to meet the demand for collocation, it should be required to take reasonable steps to free up additional space. Specifically, ILECs should remove certain equipment and should move administrative offices under certain circumstances. Regarding removal of equipment, ILECs should not distinguish between “obsolete” and state-of-the-art equipment. Rather, the criterion should be whether there is equipment no longer in active use remaining in the central office, equipment that has been retired, or equipment that is in minimal use, and there is other

operational equipment that could accommodate the customers utilizing the older equipment. If that is the case, then it is reasonable to require the ILEC to warehouse that equipment at another location.

In addition to removing certain equipment, there are instances where administrative offices could easily be moved to other locations. In these instances, relocating the administrative offices may impose net costs on the ILEC, such as the cost of moving and a differential in the cost of leased space between the existing location and other commercial space. If the requesting carrier is willing to compensate the ILEC for only that share of the costs directly attributable to its space request, the ILEC should agree to move these administrative offices unless it can show valid business reasons why these administrative offices need to remain where they are. Space freed up in this manner may be usable by more than one carrier. To the extent other carriers later choose to collocate in this central office, they should bear the costs directly attributable to their requests.

Fifth, there should be a general prohibition against sharing or subletting of space without the approval of the ILEC, with the proviso that the ILEC's approval should not be unreasonably withheld. A requesting carrier could order far more space than it reasonably needs for its own services, with the intent to "share" or sublet that space to others and extract monopoly rents. This is a particular danger in an office that is about to run out of collocation space. If sharing or subletting is approved, ILECs should ensure that the first equipment installed in a collocation space belongs to the carrier that initially requested the space. These actions, Sprint believes, will guard against creating an industry of "space brokers."

Finally, both ILECs and other carriers should be prohibited from warehousing central office space. In addition, ILECs should not be permitted to install new equipment that is has no

plans to use. In order to ensure that sufficient space for those who wish to collocate exists, ILECs should not be able to reserve any space for administrative offices or other non-network purposes. With respect to use of space for network needs, ILECs should only be able to reserve space needed for the deployment of central office equipment within the next year on a rolling basis, and should clearly and convincingly demonstrate the intended operational use of this space. If the space is not earmarked for such use and justified accordingly, it should be available for collocation. By the same token, requesting carriers should be required to make use of their collocation space, i.e., install equipment connected to the ILEC's network, within six months after the space is ready for occupancy. If they fail to do so, and there is insufficient space in the CO to allow collocation by other requesting carriers, they should have to vacate their space or demonstrate that the delay in occupancy and operation of space is caused by factors beyond their direct control, e.g., timing of vendor equipment availability.

III. CRITERIA APPLIED TO CENTRAL OFFICES

Sprint believes that the foregoing criteria can and should be applied to the COs at issue. For example, BellSouth states that the space limitations it faces in each of the offices is the result of both the amount of existing BellSouth equipment, and the planned installation of additional equipment. It is possible that certain equipment could be removed, but this cannot be determined simply by reviewing the Petitions. A detailed floor plan, a tour of the CO, an inquiry as to the feasibility of cageless collocation, and a firm business plan demonstrating the time frame within which additional equipment will be installed should be furnished.

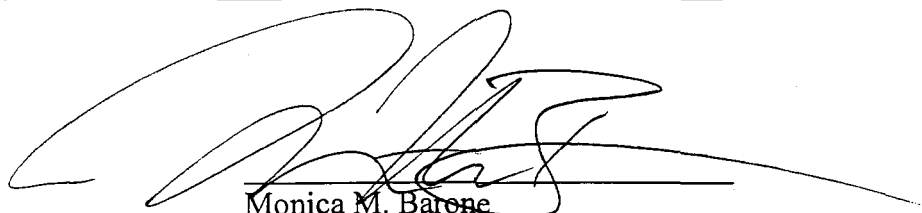
In addition to the above, BellSouth enumerated the procedures it employed to identify space currently available. It determined the total square footage and subtracted the unavailable space, the space currently occupied and the space reserved for future use. Sprint believes

BellSouth's basic formula is reasonable, however, Sprint believes further investigation is necessary to determine whether collocation space could be made available.

In the instant proceedings, Sprint notes that in the North Dade Golden Glades office BellSouth has over 1,700 square feet reserved for administrative purposes and 4,035 square feet reserved for defined future use. Sprint also notes that BellSouth has 3,197 square feet in the West Palm Beach Gardens Central office reserved for future "defined" purposes to meet the needs of its customers through the year 2000. Perhaps there is space is available for collocation in these offices under the above criteria.

These are just a couple of examples of the questions that cannot be answered simply by reviewing the Petitions for Waiver. Therefore, Sprint urges the Commission to consider establishing a road map as outlined above for these and future collocation requests. This, Sprint believes, will narrow the disputes involving physical collocation requests and, in turn, ultimately reduce the need for Commission intervention through later complaint proceedings.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of October, 1998.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing has been furnished by

United States First Class Mail, postage prepaid upon the following:

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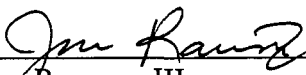
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This 23 day of OCTOBER, 1998.



Joe Ramsey, III
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.