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February 24, 1999

ORIGINAL

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RECORDS AND
REPORTING

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Blanca Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Room 110, Easley Building
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 981745-TP

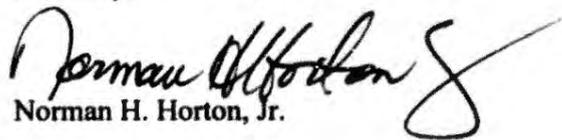
Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of e.spire Communications, Inc. are an original and fifteen copies of e.spire's Motion for Continuance in the above captioned docket.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the same to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,


Norman H. Horton, Jr.

ACK _____ NHH/amb
AFA _____ Enclosure
APP _____ cc: James C. Falvey, Esq.
CAF _____ Parties of Record
CMU _____
CTR _____
EAG _____
LEG _____ 3
LIN _____ 5
OPC _____
RCH _____
SEC _____ 1
WAS _____
OTH _____

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FPSC BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

In re: Petition by e.spire Communications, Inc.)
and American Communication Services of)
Tampa, Inc. and American Communication)
Services of Jacksonville, Inc. for Arbitration)
of an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth)
Telecommunications, Inc. pursuant to Section)
252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)

Docket No. 981745-TP
Filed: February 24, 1999

MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

Comes now American Communications Services, Inc. - Jacksonville, Inc., d/b/a e.spire™ Communications, Inc. ("e.spire"), pursuant to Rule 28-106.210, Florida Administrative Code and requests a continuance of the hearings scheduled in this docket. As a basis for the request, e.spire would state:

1. On November 25, 1998, e.spire filed a Petition for Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Florida Public Service Commission has scheduled hearings on the petition for March 18, 22, 23 and 24 and e.spire herewith requests these dates be continued to a date after May 14, 1999.

2. A continuance of the scheduled hearings is requested to enable further discussions between the parties relative to the resolution of the issues in the proceeding in Florida. Since the petition was filed, the parties have continued to discuss resolution of the numerous issues and, in fact, several have been settled. A continuance of the hearings would enable the parties to devote their efforts in Florida to resolving further issues.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02408 FEB 24 99

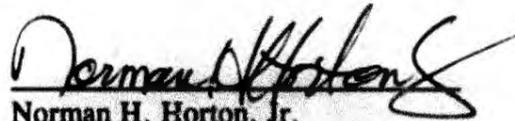
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

3. In conjunction with a continuance of the hearings, e.spire also requests that the procedural schedule be modified and all pending activities be held in abeyance to be rescheduled at a later date. Among other items this would include prehearing statements, rebuttal testimony, responses to discovery, depositions, and the prehearing conference. These activities can be rescheduled for a later date, if necessary.

4. This request has been discussed with counsel for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the undersigned can represent that BellSouth has no objections to the continuance.

Wherefore, for the reasons cited, e.spire requests a continuance of the hearings in this docket and a postponement of all other activities currently scheduled in the docket.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman H. Horton, Jr.
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Attorneys for e.spire Communications, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

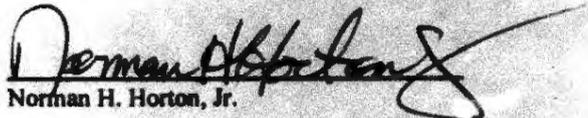
I HEREBY CERTIFY that true and correct copies of e.spire' Motion for Continuance in Docket No. 981745-TP have been served upon the following parties by Hand Delivery (*) and/or U. S. Mail this 24th day of February, 1999.

June McKinney, Esq.*
Division of Legal Services, Room 370
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c/o Ms. Nancy Sims
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Mary Jo Peed, Esq.
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