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RECORDS AND
REPORTING

May 17, 1999

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

Re: Docket No. 991745-TP - Petition by e.spire Communications, Inc., et al., for Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced docket is an original and 15 copies of:


e.spire's Notice of Withdrawal of Petition for Arbitration

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours very truly,

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FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS


Norman H. Horton, Jr.

AFA _____
APP _____
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SEC _____
WAW _____
OTH _____

NHH:dle
Enclosures

cc: Will Cox, Esq.
Bennett L. Ross, Esq.
Nancy White, Esq.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by e.spire Communications Inc. and)	
American Communication Services of Tampa, Inc.,)	
American Communications Service of Jacksonville, Inc.)	Docket No. 981745-TP
for Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement with)	Filed: May 17, 1999
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., Pursuant to)	
Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	

**E.SPIRE'S NOTICE OF
WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION FOR ARBITRATION**

COMES NOW e.spire Communications, Inc., together with its above-named subsidiaries (collectively "e.spire"), through undersigned counsel, and withdraws its Petition for Arbitration, stating as grounds the following:

1. On November 25, 1998, e.spire filed a Petition for Arbitration with the Commission under Section 252 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. Section 252, seeking arbitration of certain unresolved issues relating to its replacement interconnection agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth").

2. On April 19, 1999, e.spire and BellSouth (the "Parties") entered into an agreement settling arbitration proceedings in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

3. The agreement is embodied as the Fourth Amendment to the Parties' Interconnection Agreement dated July 25, 1996, as amended, and was filed with the Florida Public Service Commission on May 11, 1999. Approval of the Amendment is pending in Docket No. 990614-TP

4. The Fourth Amendment provides, *inter alia*, for the extension of the Parties' Interconnection Agreement as amended and cited above from September 1, 1996 to December 31.

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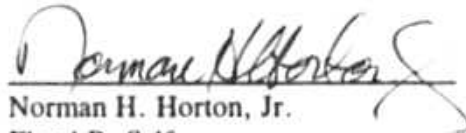
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1999, in exchange for espire's withdrawal of its arbitration petitions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

5. In light of this Fourth Amendment, the Parties assert that there is no longer a need for arbitration at this time.

WHEREFORE, e.spire Communications, Inc., and its Florida operating subsidiaries, respectfully withdraw, without prejudice, its Petition for Arbitration currently before the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman H. Horton, Jr.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished by regular U.S. mail on this 17th day of May, 1999, to the following:

Will Cox, Esq.
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