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Thomas B. Alexander
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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
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RECORDS AND
REPORTING

January 11, 2000

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

Re: 991786-TP (Tel-Link)

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed is an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Response to a Request by Tel-Link, L.L.C. for Extension of Time, which we ask that you file in the captioned docket.

A copy of this letter is enclosed. Please mark it to indicate that the original was filed and return the copy to me. Copies have been served to the parties shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Alexander
(sw)

Thomas B. Alexander

AFA _____ Enclosures
APP _____
CAF _____

CMU 1
CTR _____
EAG _____
LEG 1
MAS 5
OPC _____
RPR _____
SEC 1
VWV _____
OTH _____

cc: All Parties of Record
Marshall M. Criser III
R. Douglas Lackey

RECEIVED & FILED

Thomas B. Alexander
FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

00481 JAN 11 8

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

In re:)
)
Petition for Arbitration of the Interconnection)
Agreement Between BellSouth Telecommunications,) Docket No. 991786-TP
Inc. and Tel-Link, LLC and Tel-Link of Florida, LLC)
Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)
_____)

**RESPONSE OF BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TO REQUEST BY TEL-LINK, L.L.C. FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

COMES NOW BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and responds to the Request by Tel-Link, LLC ("Tel-Link") for Extension of Time seeking to have the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") essentially to hold this proceeding in abeyance for a period of ninety (90) days. BellSouth states as follows:

Tel-Link states as grounds for its request of a ninety (90) day extension of time in the schedule of this proceeding that it has entered into negotiations with a prospective purchaser of substantially all of Tel-Link's assets in the business of reselling telephone services. (Request at 1). Tel-Link further states that it advised BellSouth of its negotiations and had requested an extension of time for its existing contract. Tel-Link then states that BellSouth declined Tel-Link's request. (*Id.* at 2).

While it is true that BellSouth did decline Tel-Link's most recent request for another extension, it is important to note that BellSouth agreed to an extension of time from September 13, 1999 (date original arbitration window closed) until November 30, 1999, a period of some two and one-half (2 ½) months. Despite this extension of time, the parties were still unable to reach agreement on a new resale agreement. It is also important to note that since at least April 6, 1999, the parties have been negotiating toward a new resale agreement.

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

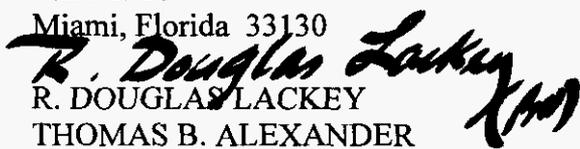
Although BellSouth is not involved in the sale/purchase of Tel-Link's assets, and takes no position here in that matter, BellSouth will not oppose Tel-Link's request for a ninety (90) day extension of time in this Arbitration proceeding. However, such an extension of time in the procedural calendar should act only to "freeze-frame" this proceeding as it currently exists, especially since the Commission has already conducted its Issue Identification Conference (January 4, 2000) and established the issue in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, BellSouth does not oppose Tel-Link's request for an extension of ninety (90) days in the procedural calendar of this proceeding, however, BellSouth respectfully requests that the Commission simply hold this matter in abeyance for this time period in as much as the Commission has already conducted its Issue Identification Conference and established the issue to be decided by the Commission in this Arbitration.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of January, 2000.



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COUNSEL FOR BELL SOUTH
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Petition for Arbitration with Tel-Link

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via

U.S. Mail this 11th day of January, 2000 to the following:

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