

ORIGINAL



**GTE SERVICE CORPORATION**  
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Kimberly Caswell  
Counsel

June 12, 2000

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

Re: Docket No. *000704-TP*  
Petition of GTE Florida Incorporated for Approval of Line Sharing Amendment to  
the Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement with Rhythms Links, Inc.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed for filing an original and five copies of GTE Florida Incorporated's  
Petition for Approval of Line Sharing Amendment to the Interconnection, Resale and  
Unbundling Agreement with Rhythms Links, Inc.. The amendment consists of a total of  
13 pages. Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there  
are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (813) 483-2617.

Very truly yours,

*bc* Kimberly Caswell

KC:tas  
Enclosures

A part of GTE Corporation

RECEIVED & FILED

*[Signature]*  
FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

07121 JUN 12 8

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of GTE Florida Incorporated for ) Docket No.  
Approval of Line Sharing Amendment to ) Filed: June 12, 2000  
Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling )  
Agreement with Rhythms Links, Inc. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**PETITION OF GTE FLORIDA INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL OF  
LINE SHARING AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION, RESALE AND  
UNBUNDLING AGREEMENT WITH RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.**

GTE Florida Incorporated (GTE) files this petition before the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking approval of the line sharing amendment to the interconnection, resale and unbundling agreement with Rhythms Links, Inc. In support of this petition, GTE states:

The above agreement was approved by the Commission by Order No. PSC-99-1461-FOF-TP issued July 27, 1999 in Docket No. 990728-TP. The attached amendment implements the FCC's Third Report and Order in CC Docket No. 98-147 and Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-98, released December 9, 1999.

GTE respectfully requests that the Commission approve the attached amendment and that GTE be granted all other relief proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted on June 12, 2000.

By:   
Kimberly Caswell  
P. O. Box 110, FLTC0007  
Tampa, Florida 33601-0110  
Telephone No. (813) 483-2617

Attorney for GTE Florida Incorporated

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
07121 JUN 12 8  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

**LINE SHARING AMENDMENT TO  
INTERCONNECTION, RESALE AND UNBUNDLING AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
GTE FLORIDA INCORPORATED  
AND  
RHYTHMS LINKS, INC.**

**THIS LINE SHARING AMENDMENT** to Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement (the "Agreement") which became effective July 27, 1999, is by and between GTE Florida Incorporated and Rhythms Links, Inc. ("Rhythms") (GTE and Rhythms being referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party"). This Line Sharing Amendment covers services in the state of Florida (the "State").

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement was approved by the Commission's Order dated July 27, 1999 in Docket No. 990728 ("Agreement"); and

**WHEREAS**, GTE and Rhythms are entering into this Amendment to implement the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Third Report and Order in CC Docket No. 98-147 and Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-98 (released December 9, 1999) (FCC 99-355) ("Line Sharing Order").

1. The Agreement shall be amended by the addition of the following Article:

**ARTICLE VII A  
LINE SHARING**

1. General.

1.1 Description of Service. For purposes of this Agreement, line sharing is access to the high frequency spectrum network element, which is defined as the frequency range above the voiceband on a copper loop facility that is being used by GTE to carry analog circuit-switched voiceband transmissions. GTE shall provide line sharing to the Rhythms on a nondiscriminatory basis for use only in the provision of telecommunications service in accordance with, and subject to, the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Applicable Law.

1.2 Basic Requirements. The following requirements shall serve as conditions to GTE's obligation to provide line sharing hereunder:

(a) Line sharing will be permitted for any ADSL or voice compatible xDSL ("DSL") technologies that are presumed acceptable for deployment pursuant to applicable FCC rules and orders, including without limitation Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line ("ADSL"), G.Lite, Rate-Adaptive ADSL and Multiple Virtual Lines. As additional technologies that may be compatible with existing services on a loop become

available, the parties will address their possible deployment, consistent with the requirements of applicable FCC rules and orders. The DSL technology used by Rhythms will be within the PSD mask parameters set forth in T1.413 or other applicable industry standards.

(b) GTE provides retail analog circuit switched voice band service ("Voice Service") on the loop to the same end-user for which Rhythms provides the DSL line sharing service. If GTE discontinues the provision of such Voice Service for any permissible reason not prohibited by Applicable Law, GTE shall provide notice to Rhythms via e-mail that the Voice Service has been discontinued. Within five (5) business days after such notice, Rhythms shall notify GTE via e-mail that it desires to: (i) discontinue the end-user's line sharing DSL service; or (ii) continue providing DSL service to the end-user over an unbundled loop without line sharing. If Rhythms does not make an affirmative election during said five (5) business day period, option (i) shall be implemented. If option (ii) is implemented, the Parties shall cooperate to transition the continuation of such DSL service without line sharing and without interruption.

(c) For existing end-users with line sharing DSL service, GTE shall provide no less than five (5) business days notice to Rhythms via e-mail that it intends to decommission the line shared copper loop. During such five (5) business day period, Rhythms shall notify GTE via e-mail that it desires to: (i) discontinue the end-user's line sharing DSL service; or (ii) continue providing DSL service to the end-user over an unbundled loop without line sharing. If Rhythms does not make an affirmative election during said five (5) business day period, option (ii) shall be implemented. If option (ii) is implemented, the Parties shall cooperate to transition the continuation of such DSL service without line sharing and without interruption.

1.3 Availability. Provided that the requirements of this Agreement are met, line sharing shall be available under the following circumstances:

(a) The end-user has Voice Service from GTE and wishes to add DSL service from Rhythms.

(b) The end-user has Voice Service and DSL service from GTE and wishes to convert the DSL service to Rhythms.

(c) The end-user wishes to establish both new Voice Service from GTE and new DSL service from Rhythms, subject to the requirement that Voice Service must be established prior to the implementation of DSL service.

(d) The end-user has Voice Service from GTE and DSL service from another competitive local exchange carrier and wishes to convert the DSL service to Rhythms.

At this time, line sharing will not be available where the end-user has had its Voice Service number ported out to another local service provider either through interim number portability or long-term local number portability. In addition, GTE shall not provide line sharing to more than one competitive local exchange carrier per loop.

1.4 Reservation of Rights. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, the Parties do not waive, and hereby expressly reserve, their rights: (a) to challenge, or to continue to challenge, the legality and/or propriety of, FCC Rule 51.319, the FCC Line Sharing Order (CC Docket No. 96-98 and 98-147; FCC 99-355) and/or any other related FCC orders or rules, including, without limitation, the FCC Collocation Order in CC Docket No. 98-147 (rel. March 31, 1999) which was remanded and vacated in part by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on March 17, 2000 (*See, GTE Service Corporation, et. al. v. Federal Communications Commission and United States of America*, No. 99-1176, consolidated with No. 99-1201, 2000 U.S. App. LEXIS 4111 (D.C. Cir. 2000)); (b) to continue to prosecute the current appeal of the FCC pricing rules pending before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals; (c) to assert or continue to assert that certain provisions of the FCC's First, Second and Third Report and Order in FCC Docket No. 96-98 and other FCC orders or rules are unlawful, illegal and improper; (d) to assert that modifications to this Agreement from a pricing and/or policy standpoint may be necessary to address or account for the use of line sharing for the provision of voice service, including, without limitation, voice over IP or voice over DSL service; (e) to assert or continue to assert any rights or challenges already reserved or existing under the Agreement, including, without limitation, any litigation related to the Agreement; (f) to continue to assert that the discontinuance of Splitter Option No. 2 is unlawful, illegal, and improper, and (g) to take any appropriate action relating to the offering of line sharing based on the outcome of any of the actions or challenges described in subparagraphs (a)-(f) above or any other actions. Rhythms further reserves the right to seek to have this Article be construed and interpreted to enable Rhythms to offer the broadest possible array of advanced services to consumers in the State. The Parties' consent herein shall not be considered a waiver of any rights granted or clarified by the FCC or the Commission. The Parties enter into this Agreement without waiving current or future relevant legal rights and without prejudicing any position the Parties may take on relevant issues before industry fora, state or federal regulatory or legislative bodies, or courts of competent jurisdiction. The provisions of this Section shall survive the termination, rescission, modification or expiration of this Agreement without limit as to time.

1.5 Further Assurances. The Parties agree to cooperate in any reasonable arrangement designed to facilitate the development of necessary and appropriate standards and processes for the implementation of line sharing, and to document the same for purposes of this Agreement.

1.6 Customer Education. GTE and Rhythms shall make end-users aware of the following conditions and requirements:

(a) The end-user should call GTE for problems related to its Voice Service. The end-user should call its Rhythms contact for problems related to its DSL service.

(b) The end-user's line shared DSL service is dependent on its Voice Service. If there is a problem with the physical line that causes the Voice Service to be

inoperative, the end-user may also be unable to use DSL services for some period of time.

(c) Subject to the requirements of Sections 1.2(b) and (c), end-users will not be able to use Rhythms line shared DSL services if GTE Voice Services on the shared line are cancelled or terminated for any reason.

## 2. Operations Matters.

2.1 Copper Network. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2.2, GTE shall provide line sharing to Rhythms utilizing an all-copper pair between an end-user customer demarcation location and the main distribution frame in GTE's serving wire center that is jumpered and cross-connected to a Rhythms collocation arrangement located in said serving wire center. At the serving wire center, GTE shall connect the line to a Rhythms tie cable via a GTE-provided jumper; provided, however, that Rhythms must first have obtained said tie cable from GTE to connect to Rhythms's collocation arrangement.

2.2 Fiber-Fed DLC Network. GTE shall provide line sharing to Rhythms over Digital Loop Carrier ("DLC") to the extent required pursuant to Applicable Law, and without waiving any rights to challenge any such requirement. Fiber-fed DLC consists of an all-copper pair from the end-user customer demarcation location to a remote terminal (i.e., controlled environmental vault, fiber hut, cabinet or other structure with DSL-capable DLC equipment installed). Fiber fed DLC includes a fiber feeder loop from the central office to the remote terminal.

2.3 Splitter Options. To utilize line sharing, Rhythms must obtain access to a splitter that meets the requirements for equipment collocation set by the FCC in its Collocation Order in CC Docket No. 98-147 (rel. March 31, 1999) in the central office that serves the end-user of the shared line. Rhythms may obtain access to said splitter via the following options. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to June 6, 2000, GTE shall equip as many central offices as possible with a GTE-owned splitter as described in Option No. 2 below. Rhythms agrees to use this configuration for initial line sharing in the central offices that GTE commits to have fully operational on or before June 6, 2000 (assuming that unforeseen delays in the availability of necessary equipment and/or labor, or other circumstances beyond GTE's control, do not occur) as set forth on Exhibit 1 attached hereto. For those central offices that GTE cannot commit to have fully operational with a GTE-owned splitter on or before June 6, 2000, Rhythms may choose to deploy its own splitter as described in Option No. 1 below. GTE shall provide Rhythms with written notice in the event that Exhibit 1 needs to be revised due to unforeseen delays or other circumstances beyond GTE's reasonable control. For any central office in which Rhythms chooses to install its own splitter, GTE agrees to install any additional tie cables required by Rhythms, in accordance with, and subject to, the terms of collocation set forth in this Agreement and/or applicable GTE tariffs. GTE will discontinue Option No. 2 effective on the earlier to occur of December 15, 2000 or the termination of this Agreement (the "Option No. 2 Termination Date"). GTE, at its

discretion however, may continue Option No. 2 past the Option No. 2 Termination Date. Rhythms shall have the right to the Option No. 2 alternative during the period until the Option No. 2 Termination Date, provided, however, that GTE shall discontinue deploying splitters effective on such date. GTE's discontinuance of Option No. 2 shall not diminish its obligation to complete initial splitter deployment in the central offices identified on Exhibit 1. Rhythms will be permitted to continue to utilize GTE owned splitters that have been assigned to it as of the Option No. 2 Termination Date, until the line sharing service applicable to such splitter as of such date has been discontinued or terminated by Rhythms. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any splitter installed by Rhythms or GTE shall: (1) comply with ANSI T1E1 standards and NEBS standards; (2) employ DC blocking capacitors or equivalent technology to assist in isolating high bandwidth trouble resolution and maintenance to the high frequency portion of the frequency spectrum; and (3) be designed so that the analog voice "dial tone" stays active when the splitter card is removed for testing or maintenance.

(a) Option No. 1: CLEC Owned Splitter Located in the Collocation Arrangement of Rhythms. Rhythms may choose to obtain the splitter directly and place the splitter in its collocation arrangement. Rhythms shall purchase and own the splitter. Under this option, both the non-Rhythms voice traffic and the Rhythms-provided DSL services will arrive at the Rhythms collocation arrangement via a tie cable obtained from GTE. At the collocation arrangement, the tie cable will terminate at the splitter, which will separate the voice traffic and the DSL traffic. Rhythms will retain the DSL traffic and will return the voice traffic to GTE, over a separate CLEC tie pair assignment.

(b) Option No. 2: GTE Owned Splitter Located in an Area of the Serving Wire Center Controlled Exclusively by GTE. Rhythms may choose to have GTE purchase and own the splitter and locate the splitter in an area in the serving wire center to which Rhythms does not have access (e.g., on or as close to the main distribution frame as practical). Said splitter shall be installed in any of the following locations within the central office, at GTE's discretion--the main distribution frame, in a relay rack mounted arrangement or intermediate frame arrangement. In this scenario, Rhythms shall obtain the splitter functionality on an individual "port-at-a-time" basis. GTE shall perform all maintenance and repair work (as detailed further below in Section 2.11). Rhythms shall receive its DSL traffic via a tie cable obtained from GTE, running from the main distribution frame to the splitter and then from the splitter to Rhythms's collocation arrangement. Under this Option, GTE shall provide to Rhythms loop and splitter functionality that is compatible with any transmission technology that Rhythms seeks to deploy using the high frequency portion of the loop, provided that such transmission technology is presumed to be deployable pursuant to applicable FCC rules and orders.

(c) Option No. 3: CLEC Owned Splitter Located in an Area of the Serving Wire Center Controlled Exclusively by GTE Via Virtual Collocation. GTE shall offer Rhythms an additional option under which it may choose to purchase and own the splitter and have it located via a virtual collocation arrangement in an area in the serving wire center to which Rhythms does not have access. In this scenario, Rhythms shall obtain the

splitter functionality on a "shelf at-a-time" basis. GTE shall perform all maintenance and repair work. Rhythms shall receive its DSL traffic via a tie cable obtained from GTE, running from the main distribution frame to the virtually collocated splitter and then from the splitter to Rhythms's collocation arrangement. GTE shall offer Rhythms virtual collocation under this Option in accordance with the terms of the GTE federal collocation tariff (FCC Tariff No. 1), provided, however, that for purposes of this Agreement, the Parties shall treat the tariff rates applied to the virtual collocation of a splitter as interim, and subject to true-up, in accordance with the terms outlined in Section 3.1. During the sixty (60) day period following the effective date of this Article, the Parties agree to cooperate in the negotiation and development of any terms necessary to implement virtual collocation for line sharing. Any interim rates established pursuant to such negotiation shall be subject to true-up in accordance with the terms outlined in Section 3.1.

2.4 Collocation. GTE will revise collocation applications to include requests for information regarding line sharing equipment. Rhythms will specify its requirements for line sharing on the collocation application for that central office. If Rhythms's collocation application is accepted, GTE will make the office ready for line sharing during the interval applicable to Rhythms's request for collocation. GTE shall complete the installation and provisioning of any tie cable ordered by CLEC in accordance with, and subject to, the terms of collocation set forth in this Agreement and/or applicable GTE tariffs. GTE shall process all Rhythms applications and firm orders for augmenting its collocation arrangements to use line sharing in accordance with, and subject to, the terms of collocation set forth in this Agreement and/or applicable GTE tariffs.

2.5 Transport. GTE shall make available to Rhythms interoffice transport to transport its high frequency traffic between its collocation arrangement in the serving wire center and its point-of-presence, node, or collocation arrangement in a different wire center in accordance with, and subject to, the terms of this Agreement and/or applicable GTE tariffs.

2.6 End-User Premises Equipment. Rhythms must provide the end-user with, and is responsible for the installation of, a modem, splitter, filter(s) and/or other equipment necessary at the end-user premises to receive separate Voice Services and DSL services across the same loop. Rhythms is also responsible for the installation and maintenance of such equipment. Rhythms shall determine the necessary customer premises equipment.

2.7 Pre-ordering. During pre-ordering, GTE shall provide Rhythms with nondiscriminatory access to the loop qualification information required by applicable FCC rules and orders including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) The composition of the available loop material (including without limitation fiber optics and copper);

- (b) The existence, location and type of electronic or other equipment on the loop (including without limitation DLC or other remote concentration devices, feeder/distribution interfaces, bridged taps, load coils, pair gain devices, repeaters, remote switching units, range extenders, AMI T-1s in the same or adjacent binder groups, and other potential disturbers);
- (c) Loop length, including the segment length and location of each type of transmission media;
- (d) Loop length by wire gauge; and
- (e) The electrical parameters of the loop.

GTE shall enable Rhythms to perform all pre-ordering functions via a real-time, electronic interface, including accessing the information available to GTE contained in all systems and databases containing loop qualification information, as soon as possible after the interface becomes available. Until such time as a real-time, electronic interface is made available to Rhythms by GTE, GTE shall enable Rhythms to perform all pre-ordering functions via a Web GUI, including accessing the information available to GTE contained in all systems and databases containing loop qualification information.

2.8 Ordering. GTE shall enable Rhythms to perform all ordering functions via a real-time, electronic interface, as soon as possible after the interface becomes available. Until such time as a real-time, electronic interface is made available to Rhythms by GTE, GTE shall enable Rhythms to order line sharing, or the conditioning of lines via a Web GUI.

2.9 Provisioning. GTE will work cooperatively with Rhythms to prioritize the order and timeframe in which GTE will complete deployment of POTS splitters and other equipment necessary to provision line sharing in GTE's offices where Rhythms is currently collocated or where collocation is in the process of being provisioned capable of supporting shared lines. After this Article becomes effective, for offices where Rhythms notifies GTE of its intent to deploy line sharing, it must provide a rolling six (6) month forecast of line sharing orders, which is updated every three (3) months. These forecasts will be utilized to assist the Parties in the more efficient provisioning of line sharing, but shall not be binding on either Party. These forecasts will be treated as confidential information pursuant to the Agreement and shall be used by GTE solely for wholesale capacity planning purposes. As soon as a central office has a splitter installed, GTE will begin accepting orders for lines served by that office. GTE will initially provision line sharing within its current standard DSL retail provisioning intervals for unconditioned (five (5) business days) and conditioned loops (eleven (11) business days). The Parties acknowledge that these intervals are subject to change based on systems mechanization, changes in Applicable Law (including, without limitation new OSS requirements), order volumes and other agreed upon procedures that better facilitate line sharing, provided, however, that such intervals shall remain at parity with GTE's actual DSL retail provisioning intervals.

2.10 Conditioning. Rhythms may order conditioning of shared lines, which may involve the removal of bridge taps, filter, extenders and load coils. GTE will perform loop conditioning if the loop loss for voice services is less than -8.0dB.

2.11 Testing, Repair and Maintenance.

(a) GTE shall test the line shared loop to confirm copper continuity and for pair balance prior to completing the installation.

(b) GTE will provide Rhythms with access to the loop facility for testing, repair and maintenance activities via its Wholesale Internet Service Engine ("WISE") website (<http://www.gte.com/wise>) 4-Tel loop testing mechanism. GTE shall provide CLECs with equivalent electronic access to any testing functionality which GTE and/or GTE's affiliates utilize to provide DSL services. GTE is responsible for all testing of facilities and equipment terminated to its main distribution frame and Rhythms is responsible for all testing of facilities located within its collocation space. Rhythms shall have physical and/or remote test access to the GTE loop testing mechanism twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. For line sharing testing purposes (i.e., high frequency spectrum only), Rhythms's point of demarcation will be within the Rhythms's collocation space.

(c) GTE will be responsible for repairing Voice Service and the physical line between the network interface device at the end-user premises and Rhythms demarcation point in the central office. Rhythms will be responsible for repairing its DSL services and any end user related DSL component at the end-user premises. Each entity will be responsible for maintaining its own equipment. In response to a trouble ticket opened by Rhythms, GTE shall conduct any necessary repair work for line sharing on a twenty-four-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week basis, and shall maintain a mean-time-to-repair interval of twenty-four (24) hours, applied monthly, on a parity basis with GTE's actual retail repair intervals. GTE is responsible for all repair and maintenance of facilities and equipment terminated to its main distribution frame and Rhythms is responsible for all repair and maintenance of facilities located within its collocation space. Where GTE owns the splitter and does not provide Rhythms with access to the splitter, GTE shall conduct any necessary repair work on the splitter on a twenty-four-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week basis, and shall maintain a mean-time-to-repair interval of twenty-four (24) hours, applied monthly, on a parity basis with GTE's actual retail repair intervals. Where Rhythms owns the splitter, Rhythms is responsible for performing maintenance, repair and testing on the splitter.

(d) GTE and Rhythms agree to coordinate in good faith any testing, repair and maintenance that will significantly impact the line shared service provided by the other party. GTE and Rhythms will work together to diagnose and resolve any troubles reported by the end-user and to develop a permanent process for repair of shared lines. In the interim, GTE and Rhythms will work together to address end-user initiated repair requests and to prevent adverse impacts to the end-user. Where GTE has isolated a

trouble with the Voice Service to be in Rhythms provided equipment, GTE shall notify Rhythms and Rhythms will be required to clear the trouble associated with the GTE lifeline voice services. Where such troubles are not cleared within 3 hours, or if Rhythms consents before the end of such 3 hour period, GTE has the right to strap-through the voice service on the GTE main distribution frame, isolating Rhythms equipment from the GTE loop facility. This strap-through arrangement shall be limited in duration to the time necessary to repair the trouble. Rhythms is responsible for informing GTE of any life line data services (e.g. heart monitor), which may be being provided over the high frequency portion of the loop, that would preclude any such strap-through activity by GTE.

2.12 End-Users with Burglar Alarm Systems. GTE shall not be liable for any damages, costs, expenses, etc. which arise in connection with, are caused by or result from line sharing services interference with, or impairment of, the end-user's burglar alarm systems.

2.13 DAML Removal. Upon Rhythms request, GTE shall be required to remove a Digital Added Main Line ("DAML") when the DAML is used to serve a single end-user and that end-user agrees to the removal. Rhythms shall be obligated to obtain consent from the end-user prior to requesting such DAML removal. Said consent shall evidence that the end-user knowingly and voluntarily agrees to the discontinuation of any and all services associated with the additional lines which shall be terminated as a result of such DAML removal. Rhythms is only obligated to obtain said consent so long as GTE obtains the same consent for its own end-users.

### 3. Financial Matters.

3.1 Interim Pricing. The rates and charges for line sharing services provided pursuant to this Agreement are set forth on Exhibit 2.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, these rates and charges are interim pending the outcome of the Commission's rate proceeding regarding line sharing. It is GTE's position that the interim pricing proposal does not reflect all the costs associated with line sharing for all configurations (e.g., the costs associated with collaborative testing, costs associated with OSS-related implementation costs, loop conditioning costs, etc.). GTE reserves the right to present its costs and rates, and seek recovery for them (including a retroactive true-up) in the line sharing pricing proceeding. Rhythms does not agree with GTE's position. It is Rhythms's position that the interim prices for line sharing services in this Agreement exceed TELRIC. Rhythms reserves the right to present costs and rates that it believes are TELRIC compliant in the line sharing pricing proceeding, and to seek a retroactive refund for overpayment. To the extent that the line sharing rates for GTE (the "Line Sharing Rates"), or the terms and conditions for application of the Line Sharing Rates,

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<sup>1</sup> Collocation is a prerequisite to line sharing. Rhythms must first collocate digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM) equipment and splitters (under Option No. 1 described in Section 2.3) in GTE's central office and order applicable tie cables in connection therewith. The applicable conditions, rates, and charges for satisfying these collocation requirements are contained within the collocation provisions of the Agreement and are separate from the interim line sharing rates and charges proposed herein.

are different than specified in this Section, the Line Sharing Rates will be applied prospectively pending the issuance of a final, binding and non-appealable order. Upon the issuance of such an order, the Line Sharing Rates will be applied retroactively to the effective date of this Agreement. The Parties will true up any resulting over or under billing. Any underpayment shall be paid, and any overpayment shall be refunded, within forty-five (45) business days after the date on which any such Line Sharing Rate order becomes final, binding and non-appealable. Such true-up payments, if any, shall also include interest computed at the prime rate of the Bank of America, N.A. in effect at the date of said order.

3.2 Nonwaiver. The Parties do not waive, and hereby expressly reserve, their rights to assert or continue to assert that certain of the rates, charges or terms established in any other proceeding (including, without limitation, the Line Sharing Rates) are unlawful, illegal and improper. The Parties further expressly reserve their past, present and future rights to challenge and seek review of any and all such rates, charges or terms in any court or commission of competent jurisdiction or other available forum. Such terms, rates or charges are further subject to change and/or modification resulting from future orders or decisions of any commission, court or other governmental authority having competent jurisdiction that address the following: (a) GTE's costs (e.g., actual costs, contribution, undepreciated reserve deficiency, or similar GTE costs (including GTE's interim universal service support charge)); (b) the establishment of a competitively neutral universal service system; (c) any and all actions seeking to invalidate, stay, vacate or otherwise modify any FCC order in effect as of the effective date, or during the term, of this Agreement which impact such terms, rates and/or charges, including, without limitation, the matters described in Section 1.4; or (d) any other relevant appeal or litigation. If any such rates, charges and/or terms are adjusted or otherwise modified, in whole or in part, in the proceeding or in any other proceeding, then this Agreement shall be deemed to have been automatically amended, and such amendment shall be effective upon the date of the applicable order. Such adjusted or modified rates and charges will be applied prospectively pending the issuance of a final, binding and non-appealable order in the subject proceeding. At such time as the applicable order becomes final, binding and non-appealable, the adjusted or modified rates and charges established therein shall be applied retroactively to the effective date of the amendment to this Agreement regarding line sharing. The Parties will true-up any resulting over or under billing in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.1. The Parties agree that the provisions of this Section shall survive the termination, rescission, modification or expiration of this Agreement without limit as to time. The Parties acknowledge that either Party may seek to enforce the provisions of this Section before a commission or court of competent jurisdiction.

3.3 Loop Costs. In developing its interim prices set forth in Section 3.1, GTE did not include any loop costs. GTE's pricing methodology, however, is premised on the assumption that GTE will be afforded an opportunity to recover all its actual costs -- including the total actual cost of the loop -- in prices for services and in explicit universal service support. If GTE cannot recover all its costs, then GTE's pricing methodology must change and GTE reserves the right to require such a change. Also, GTE does not agree with the FCC's UNE pricing rules, which do not allow prices to be based on an

ILEC's actual costs or opportunity costs. The Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit is considering the substantive validity of the FCC's pricing rules, and GTE reserves its right to change its prices if the court stays, vacates, or modifies the FCC's rules.

3.4 Billing. Billing for line sharing will be handled via the GTE CBSS system, consistent with the billing for UNE loops.

2. Except as specifically modified by this Amendment, the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
3. If any provision in the Agreement conflicts with this Amendment, this Amendment shall control.
4. This Amendment shall become effective upon the later to occur of June 6, 2000 or the date the Parties shall execute the same (the "Effective Date"). The term of this Amendment shall be coterminous with the Agreement. The Parties agree that all of their obligations and duties hereunder shall remain in full force and effect pending the final disposition of the Commission review and approval process.
5. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
6. This Amendment, together with its preamble and recitals and with any exhibits, schedules, appendices or other attachments hereto, each of which is incorporated by this reference, sets forth the entire understanding of the Parties, supersedes all prior agreements between the Parties and merges all prior discussions between the Parties, with respect to the subject matter contained herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each Party has executed this Amendment and it shall be effective upon the Effective Date.

GTE Florida Incorporated

By: Connie Nicholas

Name: Connie Nicholas

Title: Assistant Vice President  
Wholesale Markets-Interconnection

Date: June 5, 2000

Rhythms Links, Inc.

By: Eric H. Geis

Name: Eric H. Geis

Title: Secretary

Date: 6/3/00

APPROVED BY	
LEGAL DEPT	
TDP	6/1/00
ATTORNEY	DATE

**GTE CENTRAL OFFICE INITIAL SPLITTER DEPLOYMENT  
Florida**

Beach Park  
Bradenton Bay  
Bradenton Main  
Brandon  
Carrollwood  
Clearwater  
Countryside  
Dunedin  
Feathersound  
Gandy  
Highlands  
Hyde Park  
Lakeland Main  
Largo  
Lealman  
New Port Richey  
Palma Sola  
Pinellas  
Sarasota Main  
Sarasota Southside  
Sarasota Springs  
St. Petersburg Main  
St. Petersburg South  
Sulphur Springs  
Sweetwater  
Tampa East  
Tampa Eax  
Tampa Westside  
Tarpon Springs  
Temple Terrace  
University  
Wallcraft  
Winter Haven

**Interim Line Sharing Prices for Florida**

		Ordering		Provisioning	
		100% Manual	Semi Mech.	Initial Unit	Add'l Unit
CLEC Owned Splitter					
CLEC Splitter Connection - Initial	NRC	\$32.19	\$22.52	\$53.04	\$47.29
GTE Owned Splitter					
GTE Splitter	MRC	\$3.57			
GTE Splitter Connection - Initial	NRC	\$32.19	\$22.52	\$67.46	\$59.80
Loop Conditioning	No charge for loops 12,000 feet or less. For loops more than 12,000 feet, the following charges shall apply:				
	Bridge Taps		\$318.71		
	Load Coils		\$249.91		
	Bridge Taps/Load Coils		\$568.62		

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of GTE Florida Incorporated's Petition For Approval of Line Sharing Amendment to the Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement with Rhythms Links, Inc. was sent via overnight delivery on June 9, 2000 to:

Staff Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Rhythms Netconnections, Inc.  
Attention: Eric Geis  
9100 E. Mineral Circle  
Englewood, CO 80112

  
for Kimberly Caswell