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REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

July 5, 2000

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

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Dear Ms. Bayo:

Pursuant to the conditions the FCC adopted in approving the Bell Atlantic Corp. ("BA")/GTE Corp. ("GTE") Merger ("the Merger Conditions")¹, GTE Florida Incorporated by this letter is offering to file a tariff for a new lifeline plan.

The tariff would be for a stand-alone new lifeline plan comparable to the Ohio USA lifeline plan set forth in Ameritech's Ohio Alternative Regulation Plan, Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT, as in effect on January 27, 2000, in the areas of subscriber eligibility, discounts and eligible services. The components of the stand-alone new lifeline plan are summarized in Attachment 1.

Under the FCC-approved merger condition, the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) is under no obligation to accept GTE Florida Incorporated's offer, and the existing Lifeline Assistance Plan tariff remains effective unless the Commission chooses to accept this offer within 12 months of the date of this letter. However, if the Commission does choose to accept the offer, then the company proposes that a new stand-alone lifeline plan, subject to any required regulatory and legislative approvals, would replace the current Lifeline Assistance Plan offering in Florida during the period when the new lifeline plan remains in effect.

In that event, GTE Florida Incorporated, as required by the Merger Conditions, will offer the new lifeline plan for 36 months following the effective date of the initial tariff. The company would apply for federal and, where available, state universal service funding for the plan. During the 36-month period, the company would fund all other costs of the new lifeline plan. After 36 months, GTE Florida Incorporated plans to reinstate the previously effective Lifeline Assistance Plan offering and withdraw the new lifeline plan then in effect.

We would appreciate a stamped copy of this letter from your office to acknowledge the receipt of this offer. Please contact me at 813-483-2526 with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Beverly Y. Menard

Beverly Y. Menard

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Attachment

1 - for advice on handling (Daniel)

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¹ Application of GTE Corporation, Transferor and Bell Atlantic Corporation, Transferee, Memorandum Opinion and Order, CC Docket No. 98-184, FCC 00-221 (rel. June 16, 2000)

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

PROPOSED LIFELINE PLAN – KEY COMPONENTS**Subscriber Eligibility:**

Customers must be currently participating in one of the following programs to be eligible:

- Home Energy Assistance Plan (HEAP)
- State or Municipality Funded Energy Credit Program (ECP)
- Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) on the basis of blindness, age or disability (federal program)
- State or Municipality Funded Disability Assistance
- Medicaid
- Federal Housing or Section 8 Assistance

Discounts:

The monthly discount is equal to the price of basic residential measured rate service (i.e., access to the network not including any local usage) plus the Federal Subscriber Line Charge. The discount is capped at \$10.20 monthly, but no customer's charge can be reduced below zero. Toll restriction, call trace and automatic blocking of 900 and 976 calls is provided free. Service Connection charges over \$5 are waived. Deposits are waived for local service. May be required for toll service if customer does not select toll restriction.

Eligible Services:

Customer may have Residence Flat Rate, Measured Rate and Message Rate Services (where offered). Customers may also have access to Message Toll Service. Customers may not have optional services (e.g., Wire Maintenance Plans, Toll Plans or other vertical services) unless medically necessary. Customers will be restricted to households with a single access line.

Operational Characteristics:

Past Due Bills – Initial payment not to exceed \$25 on local service with the balance to be paid in 6 equal monthly installment payments. Toll restriction is required for customers with past due bills for toll service until outstanding charges have been paid in full.

Verification of Eligibility – Customers self-verify, company has right to audit.

On-Line Verification of Eligibility – Will make available where on-line access can be negotiated with state agencies.

Publicity – Company will spend \$76,000 annually

Business Office Access – Company will provide a toll-free telephone number and fax numbers for new lifeline inquiries and receipt of new lifeline documentation; where technically possible will include information about new Lifeline on the Voice Response Unit menu.

Conversion of Existing Lifeline customers – GTE will convert qualifying customers within 180 days of implementation of the new plan.