

Kimberly Caswell
Vice President and General Counsel, Southeast
Legal Department



FLTC0007
201 North Franklin Street (33602)
Post Office Box 110
Tampa, Florida 33601-0110

Phone 813 483-2606
Fax 813 204-8870
kimberly.caswell@verizon.com

January 10, 2001

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

001815-TP

Re: Negotiations Agreement Between Verizon Services Group and MCI WorldCom
Communications, Inc.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

On December 22, 2000, MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc. (MCI) sent the above-referenced Negotiations Agreement to the Commission, asking the Commission to approve it pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act). MCI indicated that such approval was necessary because the Negotiations Agreement amended the parties' interconnection agreements. (Letter from D. Canzano McNulty, MCI, to B. Bayo, FPSC, Dec. 22, 2000.)

MCI is mistaken. There is no need for the Commission to approve the Negotiations Agreement. The Negotiations Agreement between Verizon Services Group and MCI sets forth the procedures that will govern the negotiations of future interconnection agreements between the respective local exchange carrier affiliates of Verizon and MCI. It does not amend the existing interconnection agreements between Verizon Florida Inc. and MCImetro and MCI WorldCom, respectively. Rather, the Agreement recognizes the parties' intention to continue the "operational effectiveness" of their existing interconnection agreements pending completion of the negotiations. If the parties had intended to amend their existing interconnection agreements, they would have executed amendments to those agreements. Section 252(e) of the Act does not require Commission approval of carriers' negotiating procedures.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

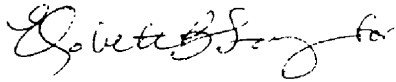
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FPSC RECORDS/REPORTING

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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kimberly Caswell".

Kimberly Caswell

KC:tas

c: Staff Counsel
Donna Canzano McNulty, Esq.