

HOPPING GREEN SAMS & SMITH

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

123 SOUTH CALHOUN STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 6526

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32314

(850) 222-7500

FAX (850) 224-8551

FAX (850) 425-3415

www.hgss.com

Writer's Direct Dial No.

(904) 425-2313

ERIC T. OLSEN
GARY V. PERKO
MICHAEL P. PETROVICH
DAVID L. POWELL
JOHN K. POWELL
WILLIAM D. PRESTON
CAROLYN S. RAEPPEL
DOUGLAS S. ROBERTS
D. KENT SAFRIET
GARY P. SAMS
TIMOTHY G. SCHOENWALDER
ROBERT P. SMITH
DAN R. STENGLE
CHERYL G. STUART
W. STEVE SYKES

OF COUNSEL
ELIZABETH C. BOWMAN

JAMES S. ALVES
BRIAN H. BIBEAU
ROCHELLE A. BIRNBAUM
RICHARD S. BRIGHTMAN
KEVIN B. COVINGTON
PETER C. CUNNINGHAM
RALPH A. DEMEO
JODY L. FINKLEA
WILLIAM H. GREEN
WADE L. HOPPING
GARY K. HUNTER, JR.
JONATHAN T. JOHNSON
LEIGH H. KELLETT
ROBERT A. MANNING
FRANK E. MATTHEWS
RICHARD D. MELSON
ANGELA R. MORRISON
SHANNON L. NOVEY

January 29, 2001

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

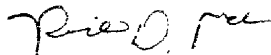
Re: UNE Docket No. 990649-TP

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of WorldCom, Inc. is its
Response In Opposition To Verizon's Request to Extend and Amend
Schedule For Cost Study Filings.

By copy of this letter, this document has been furnished to
the parties on the attached service list.

Very truly yours,



Richard D. Melson

RDM/kcg
Enclosures
cc: Parties of Record

129471.4

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

01277 JAN 29 01

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation into pricing) Docket No. 990649-TP
of unbundled network elements)
_____) Filed: January 29, 2001

**WORLDCOM'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO VERIZON'S
REQUEST TO EXTEND AND AMEND SCHEDULE FOR COST STUDY FILINGS**

WORLDCOM, INC. ("WorldCom") objects to the request by Verizon Florida Inc. ("Verizon") to extend the schedule for cost study filings in this docket to the extent that it seeks any extension beyond July 2, 2001. As grounds for this response, WorldCom states:

1. On January 5, 2001, Sprint-Florida filed its Petition to Amend Order Granting Motions to Bifurcate and Suspend Proceedings in which it asked that the Commission extend the date for Sprint-Florida to file UNE cost studies from April 2, 2001 to July 2, 2001. WorldCom did not object to this request, and chose not to file a written response.

2. On January 15, 2001, under the guise of responding to Sprint's petition, Verizon asked for additional relief as follows: (i) that any schedule change apply to Verizon as well as Sprint; (ii) that the cost study filings be delayed "until after the federal pricing methodology has been finally determined"; and (iii) in the alternative, that the filing be extended until *at least* July 2, 2001. Because this response asked for affirmative relief beyond that requested in Sprint's petition, and to which WorldCom does object, WorldCom has treated Verizon's pleading as a separate petition.

3. WorldCom does not object to an extension from April 2, 2001 to July 2, 2001 for the filing of UNE cost studies by either Sprint or Verizon. As Sprint indicated in its petition, this extension will allow the filing parties to conform the methodology of their cost studies to any

decisions regarding methodology that the Commission makes in the BellSouth portion of this proceeding.

4. WorldCom does object to any extension beyond July 2, 2001, and particularly the indefinite extension requested by Verizon "until after the federal pricing methodology has been finally determined." An extension to July 2, 2001 makes it likely that the Commission will still be able to render a final decision on the Sprint and Verizon cost studies by the end of 2001. Any delay beyond that date would jeopardize the ability to have new UNE rates in effect this year.

5. There is no legitimate basis to delay action by this Commission until after the federal pricing methodology has been finally determined. The U.S. Supreme Court has recently granted certiorari to review the decision of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the validity of the FCC's current pricing rules. As Verizon acknowledges, the 8th Circuit's decision has been stayed pending appeal, so the FCC's pricing rules remain in full force and effect.

6. If the Supreme Court reverses the 8th Circuit decision, then the FCC's existing pricing rules will remain valid and rates established in this proceeding will not have to be revisited. If the Supreme Court affirms or remands the 8th Circuit's decision, then the "federal pricing methodology" will not be "finally determined" until the FCC adopts new rules consistent with the courts' rulings. Including the time the case is on review before the Supreme Court, it could easily be two years or more before any changed rules become effective. While a decision reached in this docket might have to be revisited at that time, as Commissioner Deason observed during the BellSouth phase of this docket, two years is a lifetime in the telecommunications industry.

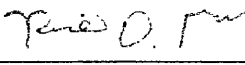
7. WorldCom disputes Verizon's contention that no party will be harmed by a delay because Verizon has rates for many UNEs in place today. WorldCom believes that the results of

a properly conducted cost study will show that Verizon's current rates are simply too high. Every day that UNE rates continue at artificially high levels is a day that the introduction of full local competition in Florida is hindered.

WHEREFORE, WorldCom requests that Verizon's petition to delay the filing of its cost studies until after the federal pricing methodology has been finally determined be denied, and that the filing not be extended to any date beyond July 2, 2001.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 26th day of January, 2001.

HOPPING GREEN SAMS & SMITH, P.A.

By: 

Richard D. Melson
P.O. Box 6526
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Attorneys for WorldCom, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was furnished to the following parties by U.S. Mail, hand delivery (*) this 29th day of January, 2001.

*Beth Keating
Staff Counsel
Florida Public Service
Commission
Division of Legal Services
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

BellSouth Telecommunications,
Inc.
Nancy B. White
c/o Nancy H. Sims
150 S. Monroe Street,
Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1556

Joseph A. McGlothlin
Vicki Gordon Kaufman
McWhirter, Reeves, McGlothlin,
Davidson, Decker, Kaufman,
Arnold, & Steen, P.A.
117 South Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Floyd Self/Norman Horton, Jr.
Messer, Caparello & Self
P.O. Drawer 1876
215 S. Monroe Street Suite 701
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1876

Marsha Rule
AT&T Communications
101 N. Monroe Street
Suite 700
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Susan Hither
Rick Heater
M.C. Communications, Inc.
3301 Worth Buffalo Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

James C. Falvey, Esq.
e.spire Communications, Inc.
133 National Business Parkway
Suite 200
Annapolis Junction, MA 20701

Jeremy Marcus
Kristen Smith
Blumenfeld & Cohen
1625 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

Terry Monroe
Vice President, State Affairs
Competitive Telecomm. Assoc.
1900 M. Street, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Kimberly Caswell
Verizon Select Services, Inc.
One Tampa City Center
201 North Franklin Street
Tampa, FL 33601-0110

Carolyn Marek
Vice President of Regulatory
Affairs
Southeast Region
Time Warner Communications
233 Bramerton Court
Franklin, TN 37069

Donna Canzano McNulty, Esq.
MCI WorldCom
325 John Knox Road Suite 105
Tallahassee, Fl 32303

Michael A. Gross
VP Reg. Affairs & Reg. Counsel
Florida Cable Telecomm. Assoc.
246 East 6th Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303

TCG South Florida
c/o Rutledge Law Firm
Kenneth Hoffman
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302-0551

Karen M. Camechis
Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson &
Dunbar
P.O. Box 10095
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Scott A. Sapperstein
Sr. Policy Counsel
Intermedia Communications
3625 Queen Palm Dr.
Tampa, FL 33619

Cathy Boone
Covad Communications, Co.
10 Glen Lake Parkway
Suite 650
Atlanta, GA 30328

Charles J. Rehwinkel
Sprint
P.O. Box 2214
Tallahassee, FL 32316

Bettye Willis
ALLTEL Communications
Services, Inc.
One Allied Drive
Little Rock, AR 72203-2177

J. Jeffrey Wahlen
Ausley & McMullen
P.O. Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Florida Digital Network, Inc.
390 N. Orange Ave., Suite 2000
Orlando, FL 32801

KMC Telecom, Inc.
John McLaughlin
Suite 170
3025 Breckinridge Blvd.
Duluth, Ga 30096

MCI WorldCom, Inc.
Mr. Brian Sulmonetti
Concourse Corporate Center Six
Six Concourse Parkway
Suite 3200
Atlanta, GA 30328

Office of Public Counsel
Stephen C. Reilly
c/o The Florida Legislature
111 W. Madison Street, Rm. 812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400
Holland Law Firm

Bruce May
P.O. Drawer 810
Tallahassee, FL 32302

John Fons
Ausley & McMullen
P.O. Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302

George S. Ford
Chief Economist
Z-Tel Communications, Inc.
601 South Harbor Island Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

Genevieve Morelli
Eric D. Jenkins
Kelley Dry & Warren, LLP
1200 19th Street, NW,
Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Rodney L. Joyce
Shook, Hardy & Bacon, L.L.P.
600 14th Street, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005-2004

Hope G. Colantonio
Cleartel Communications, Inc.
1255 22nd Street N.W.
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20037

John Spilman
Broadslate Networks of
Florida, Inc.
675 Peter Jefferson Parkway
Suite 310
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Network Access Solutions
Corporation
100 Carpenter Drive, Suite 206
Sterling, VA 20164

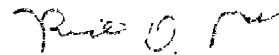
Sprint Communications Company
Limited Partnership
3100 Cumberland Circle
Mailstop GAATLN0802
Atlanta, GA 30339

Patrick K. Wiggins, Esq.
Charles J. Pellegrini
Katz Kutter Law Firm 12th Fl
106 East College Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Brent E. McMahan
Vice President-Regulatory and
Government Affairs
Network Telephone Corporation
815 South Palafox Street
Pensacola, FL 32501

Jim Lamoureux, Esq.
AT&T Communications of the
Southern States, Inc.
1200 Peachtree Street.
Suite 8068
Atlanta, GA 30309

Michael C. Sloan
Swidler Berlin Shereff
Friedman
3000 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007



Attorney