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February 18, 2002

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Blanca Bayó, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Room 110, Easley Building
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: FPSC Docket No. 990649B-TP

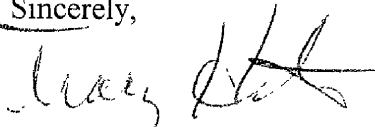
Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. and MCI WorldCom, Inc. are an original and fifteen copies of Response to Verizon Florida's Motion for Extension of Time to File Surrebuttal Testimony.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the same to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,



Tracy W. Hatch

TWH/amb
Enclosure

cc: Jim Lamoureux, Esq.
Parties of Record

01876-02

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation into pricing of unbundled
network elements (Sprint/Verizon track))
_____)

Docket No. 990649B-TP
Filed: February 18, 2002

**RESPONSE OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES, LLC
AND MCI WORLDCOM, INC. TO
VERIZON FLORIDA'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
TO FILE SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

AT&T Communications of the Southern States, LLC ("AT&T") and MCI WorldCom, Inc. ("WorldCom"), through its undersigned counsel, responds to the motion of Verizon Florida, Inc. ("Verizon") for an extension of time to file surrebuttal testimony in this proceeding, and states:

1. On February 11, 2002, Verizon filed its motion, in which Verizon requests an extension of time through and including April 9, 2002 to file surrebuttal testimony. In support of its motion Verizon notes that it currently is allowed only twenty days in which to file its surrebuttal testimony to the joint rebuttal testimony of AT&T, WorldCom, Florida Digital Network (collectively the "ALEC Coalition") as well as the testimony of Z-Tel's witness Dr. Ford and KMC Telecom's witness, Frank Wood. The vast bulk of Verizon's motion is devoted to justifying its request for extension of time with respect to the testimony of Dr. Ford. AT&T and WorldCom do not address Verizon's contentions with respect to the rebuttal testimony of Dr. Ford.

2. In its motion, Verizon states that the rebuttal testimony of the ALEC Coalition's witness Dr. Ankum "makes a number of claims that are not supported by any information in his testimony." Based on this, Verizon argues that it must receive its proffered discovery in order to respond substantively to Dr. Ankum. Verizon served its First Set of Interrogatories and First Requests for Production of Documents on the ALEC Coalition on February 8, 2002, some eight

days after the Testimony of Dr. Ankum and the other Coalition witnesses was filed. Verizon notes that its discovery is due to be received on February 28, 2002, and proceeds to state that it needs until April 9, 2002, "which is just over a week after it receives the discovery responses," to adequately respond to the rebuttal testimony. April 9, 2002, is almost six weeks after the first sets of interrogatories and requests for production are due.

3. AT&T and WorldCom object to Verizon's request for extension time to file surrebuttal testimony until April 9, 2002. The procedural schedule in this proceeding initially allowed for two weeks to file surrebuttal testimony. Verizon requested additional time and was granted twenty-three days in which to file surrebuttal testimony. If Verizon desired sufficient in time for discovery to be served and received prior to the filing of surrebuttal testimony, it could have and should have asked for such when it requested its initial extension. Moreover, Verizon received the electronic versions of the ALEC Coalition's rebuttal testimony. Under the compressed timeframes in this proceeding, if Verizon desired discovery on the rebuttal testimony prior to filing surrebuttal, it would not seem that waiting eight days to serve the first sets of interrogatories and document requests is diligent behavior.

4. Verizon notes in its motion that its time to file surrebuttal testimony was reduced by three days when AT&T's and WorldCom's motion for extension of time to file its rebuttal testimony was granted. Verizon further states that "it has filed its motion in a timely manner" unlike the Motion for Extension of Time filed by AT&T and WorldCom where "Verizon did not even know that motion had been filed until after it was granted." Notwithstanding Verizon's intimation that it was unaware of AT&T and WorldCom's Motion for Extension of Time until after it was granted, Counsel for AT&T spoke personally with Counsel for Verizon, as required by Rule 28-106.204, Florida Administrative Code, to inform her that AT&T and WorldCom were going to file a motion seeking an extension of time to file rebuttal testimony. Counsel for Verizon expressly did not object to the extension as long as Verizon retained its twenty-three day period in which to file surrebuttal. See Order No. PSC-02-0090-PCO-TP.

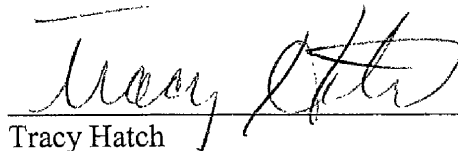
5. With respect to the short time to respond to the testimony of the Staff's witness, Mr. Draper, all parties are in the same position with respect to file rebuttal testimony. Verizon has advanced no argument why an extension should be granted in this instance.

6. AT&T and WorldCom are acutely aware of the difficulties presented by preparing testimony regarding complex costing matters on a compressed timeframe. However, an extension of time to file surrebuttal testimony until April 9, 2002, is patently unreasonable. Since the discovery cutoff in this proceeding is ten days before the hearing, filing surrebuttal testimony on April 9, 2002, would preclude any written discovery on Verizon's surrebuttal leaving depositions as the only discovery option available and this only for a short period of time. This would be a significant impediment to our trial preparation time and be grossly prejudicial to all other parties.

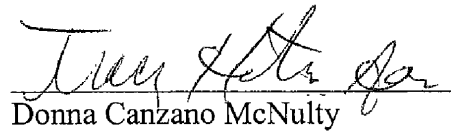
7. AT&T and WorldCom note that Verizon lost three days that it had originally been given to file surrebuttal testimony. The loss of time was directly a result of the extension of time granted to AT&T and WorldCom and the short time remaining before the hearing. Since the hearing has been moved to April 29-May 1, 2002, AT&T and WorldCom support granting a one week extension to Verizon to file its surrebuttal testimony directed at Dr. Ankum and the remaining witnesses other than Dr. Ford. AT&T and WorldCom note that Z-Tel, in its response to Verizon's motion, would support an extension until March 15, 2002 for responding to Dr. Ford. AT&T and WorldCom do not oppose this extension solely for responding to Dr. Ford.

WHEREFORE, AT&T and WorldCom oppose Verizon's Motion for Extension of Time until April 9, 2002, for the reasons set forth above. AT&T and WorldCom agree to an extension of time of one week from the current date within which Verizon may file surrebuttal to the ALEC. AT&T and MCI do not oppose an extension until March 15, 2002, within which Verizon may file surrebuttal testimony to Dr. Ford's testimony.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED 18th day of February, 2002.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of Response of AT&T and MCI to Verizon Florida's Motion for Extension of Time to File Surrebuttal Testimony in Docket 990649B-TP has been served on the following parties by Hand Delivery (*) and/or U. S. Mail this 18th day of February, 2002.

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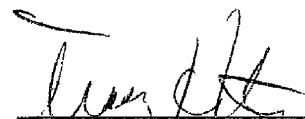
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