James Meza III Attorney

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 150 South Monroe Street Room 400 Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (305) 347-5561

July 12, 2002

Mrs. Blanca S. Bayo Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Docket No. 001305-TP (Supra)

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed is an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Opposition to Supra Telecommunications & Information Systems, Inc.'s Motion to Stay Commission Orders PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP and PSC-02-0878-FOF-TP, which we ask that you file in the captioned docket.

A copy of this letter is enclosed. Please mark it to indicate that the original was filed and return a copy to me. Copies have been served to the parties shown on the attached certificate of service.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

cc: All Parties of Record Marshall M. Criser III R. Douglas Lackey Nancy B. White

> DOCUMENT NUMPER-DATE 07239 JUL 128 FPSC-COMPRESSION CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE Docket No. 001305-TP

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via

(*) Hand Delivery and Federal Express this 12th day of July, 2002 to the following:

Beth Keating, Staff Counsel (*) Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 Tel. No. (850) 413-6212 Fax. No. (850) 413-6250 bkeating@psc.state.fl.us

Wayne Knight, Staff Counsel (*) Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 Tel. No. (850) 413-6232 Fax. No. (850) 413-6250 wknight@psc.state.fl.us

Ann Shelfer, Esq. (+) Supra Telecommunications and Information Systems, Inc. 1311 Executive Center Drive Koger Center - Ellis Building Suite 200 Tallahassee, FL 32301-5027 Tel. No. (850) 402-0510 Fax. No. (850) 402-0522 ashelfer@stis.com Brian Chaiken Paul Turner (+) Kirk Dahlke Supra Telecommunications and Information Systems, Inc. 2620 S. W. 27th Avenue Miami, FL 33133 Tel. No. (305) 476-4248 Fax. No. (305) 443-1078 bchaiken@stis.com pturner@stis.com kdahlke@stis.com

(+) Signed Protective Agreement

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for Arbitration of the Interconnection) Agreement Between BellSouth Telecommunications,) Inc. and Supra Telecommunications & Information) System, Inc., Pursuant to Section 252(b) of the) Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Docket No. 001305-TP

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Filed: July 12, 2002

BELLSOUTH'S OPPOSITION TO SUPRA'S MOTION TO STAY COMMISSION ORDER NOS. PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP AND PSC-02-0878-FOF-TP

Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") opposes Supra Telecommunications & Information Systems, Inc.'s ("Supra") Motion to Stay Commission Order Nos. PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP and PSC-02-0878-FOF-TP ("Motion" or "Motion to Stay"). The Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") should deny Supra's Motion because it is nothing more than Supra's latest attempt to game the regulatory process and to delay operating under a new Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth.

INTRODUCTION

With nothing else to protest or challenge and on the eve of having to execute, file, and operate under a new Interconnection Agreement, Supra is seeking to indefinitely stay the Commission's denial of Supra's various post-hearing motions, including two motions for reconsideration, in Order No. PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP ("Order Denying Reconsideration"), issued on July 1, 2002, and the Commission's Final Order ("Order No. PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP") issued on March 25, 2002. This "last-ditch" effort by Supra to avoid operating under a new Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth is identical in nature to (1) the Motion



to Stay Supra filed on June 10, 2002, which the Commission denied on June 14, 2002; (2) the Motion to Stay Supra filed with the First District Court of Appeal, _ which the court denied on June 11, 2002; and (3) various other motions Supra has filed requesting reversal or at least delay of the Commission's Final Order and include:

- 1. Supra's Motion to Defer Agenda Item 27 or In the Alternative Request for Oral Argument, filed on February 13, 2002;
- 2. Supra's Motion for Rehearing, Motion for Appointment of Special Master, Motion for Indefinite Deferral; and Motion for Oral Arguments, filed on February 18, 2002;
- 3. Supra's Renewed Motion for Indefinite Stay of Docket 001305-TP and in the Alternative Renewed Motion for Oral Arguments, filed February 21, 2002;
- 4. Supra's Motion for Oral Arguments on Procedural Question Raised by Commission Staff and Wrongful Denial of Due Process, filed February 27, 2002;
- 5. Supra's Motion to Extend Due Date for Filing Motion for Reconsideration, filed April 1, 2002;
- 6. Supra's Motion for Reconsideration of Order No. PSC-02-0464-PCO-TP (Order denying extension to file motion for reconsideration), filed April 10, 2002;
- Supra's Motion for Reconsideration and Clarification of Order No. PSC-02-0464-PCO-TP, filed April 8, 2002;
- Supra's Motion for Reconsideration of the Denial of Its Motion for Rehearing of Order PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP, filed April 10, 2002;
- 9. Supra's Motion to Disqualify and Recuse Commission Staff and Commission Panel from All Further Consideration of this Docket and to Refer Docket to DOAH for All Future Proceedings, filed April 17, 2002;

- 10. Motion to Strike and Reply to BellSouth's Opposition to Supra's Motion for Reconsideration for a New Hearing in Docket No. 001305-TP, filed on April 24, 2002;
- 11. Motion for Extension of Time to File Interconnection Agreement, filed on April 24, 2002;
- 12. Verified Supplemental Motion to Disqualify and Recuse FPSC from all Further Consideration of this Docket and to Refer This Docket to the Division of Administrative Hearings for All Further Proceedings, filed April 26, 2002;
- 13. Motion to Strike and Reply to BellSouth's Opposition to Supra's Motion to Disqualify and Recuse, filed May 1, 2002;
- 14. Motion to Strike BellSouth's Letter of April 25, 2002 to Blanco Bayo with Attached Proposed Interconnection Agreement, filed May 7, 2002;
- 15. Second Verified Motion to Disqualify and Recuse FPSC From All Further Consideration of this Docket and to Refer this Docket to the Division of Administrative Hearings for All Further Proceedings, filed June 5, 2002;
- Emergency Motion for Stay Pending Judicial Review of Order Nos. PSC-02-0772-PCO-TP and PSC-02-0773-PCO-TP and Notification of Exercise of Rights Under Rule 25-22.060, filed June 10, 2002, and;
- 17. Motion to Strike BellSouth's Letter of October 30, 2001 to Blanca Bayo; Strike BellSouth's Post-Hearing Position/Summary with Respect to Issue B; and to Alter/Amend Final Order Pursuant to Rule 1.540(B), filed June 17, 2002.

As with the motions referenced above, Supra filed the instant Motion to

Stay for one reason – to avoid entering into the new Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth, because the new agreement will end Supra's current ability to avoid its payment obligations to BellSouth. Simply put, once the new Agreement is filed and approved, Supra will be required to pay BellSouth all undisputed amounts, which now total over approximately of service. Faced with the eventual inability to continue to pocket money it receives from its end users instead of paying BellSouth, Supra has and will do or say anything, including filing multiple, baseless motions, like the instant Motion to Stay, to put off the day it must pay BellSouth for services received. For the reasons discussed in detail below, the Commission should summarily deny - Supra's most recent request for delay.

LAW AND ARGUMENT

I. THE COMMISSION AND FIRST DCA HAVE ALREADY REJECTED SUPRA'S ARGUMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR A STAY.

On June 10, 2002, Supra filed an Emergency Motion for Stay Pending Judicial Review of Order Nos. PSC-02-0772-PCO-TP and PSC-02-0773-PCO-TP, wherein Commissioner Jaber and Commissioner Palecki denied Supra's Motions to Recuse ("First Motion to Stay"). In a fashion identical to the arguments Supra raises in the instant Motion, Supra claimed in the First Motion to Stay that it will prevail on appeal because the Commission purportedly violated its due process rights by not immediately addressing and granting its Motions to Recuse.¹ The Commission denied this First Motion to Stay on June 14, 2002 in Order No. PSC-02-0808-PCO-TP because it found that Supra did not meet the standard for obtaining a stay.

In addition, on June 7, 2002, Supra filed a Motion to Stay with the First District Court of Appeal ("Appellate Motion to Stay") upon the same grounds as the First Motion to Stay – namely, that the Commission violated Supra's due

¹ Supra raised the same arguments in its Petition for Emergency Issuance of Writ of Mandamus, Writ of Prohibition and Other Relief, which it filed with the First District Court of Appeal. Supra premised its Motion for Stay with the appellate court on this filing.

process rights by not immediately addressing Supra's Motions to Recuse. The First District Court of Appeal, however, denied Supra's request for a stay as well as its Petition for Writ of Mandamus or Writ of Prohibition without opinion on June 11, 2002.

Identical to the First Motion to Stay, Supra sought the instant stay pursuant to Rule 25-22.061, Florida Administrative Code. Furthermore, identical to the First Motion to Stay and the Appellate Motion to Stay, Supra raises the same, if not identical arguments, and cites to the same, inapplicable authority as in its current request for a stay, while also adding a few arguments. Indeed, in all three motions, Supra raises the same facts in support and makes the same due process arguments. In this third request for a stay, Supra presents no new legitimate reasons as to why it is entitled to a stay. Essentially, with this Motion, Supra is attempting to relitigate an issue that both the Commission and an appellate court have rejected. For this reason alone, the Commission should deny Supra's Motion.

II. Supra's Motion Is Barred by Law of the Case Doctrine.

Similar to <u>res judicata</u>, the doctrine of law of the case is a principle of judicial estoppel that applies to proceedings within the same case. <u>Florida Dep't</u> <u>Transp. v. Juliano</u>, 801 So. 2d 101, 107 (Fla. 2001). Under this doctrine, "[a]Il points of law which have been adjudicated become the law of the case and are, except in exceptional circumstances, no longer open for discussion or consideration in subsequent proceedings in the case." <u>Strazzulla v. Hendrick</u>, 177 So. 2d 1, 3 (Fla. 1965). Pursuant to this doctrine, "a trial court is bound to

follow prior rulings of the appellate court as long as the facts on which such decision are based continue to be the facts of the case." <u>McGregor v. Provident</u> <u>Trust Co.</u>, 162 So. 2d 323, 327 (Fla. 1935). Additionally, the law of the case doctrine may "foreclose subsequent consideration of issues implicitly addressed or necessarily considered by the appellate court's decision." <u>Juliano</u>, 801 So. 2d at 106 (citing <u>Dade County Classroom Teachers' Ass'n v. Rubin</u>, 238 SO. 2d 284, 289 (Fla. 1970); <u>Dicks v. Jenne</u>, 740 So. 2d576, 578 (Fla. 4th DCA 1999).

Florida courts have used both law of the case and <u>res judicata</u> to deny subsequent motions that are based upon same or similar grounds as a previously denied motion. <u>See Mercantile Invest. & Holding Co. v. Gilliland</u>, 197 So. 538, 539 (Fla. 1940); <u>see also</u>, Johnson <u>v. Singletary</u>, 618 So. 2d 731, 731 (Fla. 1993); <u>Isley v.</u> State, 652 So. 2d 409, 410 (Fla. 5th DCA 1995).² For instance, in <u>Mercantile Invest. & Holding Co.</u>, a defendant filed a motion to stay a writ of execution on a judgment the first defendant filed a second motion to stay based on additional grounds, which the trial court also denied. On appeal of the second denial of the motion to stay, the Supreme Court held that, as a matter of law, the second motion to stay was barred under the doctrine of <u>res judicata</u> because it found that the first denial of the motion to stay resolved all of the issues raised in the second motion to stay.

² As evidenced by the cited case law, Florida courts have often confused <u>res judicata</u> and law of the case doctrine. The Supreme Court distinguished the two doctrines in <u>Juliano</u>, 801 So. 2d at 106. Notwithstanding what doctrine is used, the concepts of judicial economy prohibit Supra from continually raising the same arguments over and over in an attempt to delay and frustrate the regulatory process.

While the latter motion presents additional grounds to the motion filed December 16, 1939, the two motions were presented under Section 4516, C.G.L. We think the order entered by the lower court dated June 24, 1940, to which writ of error was taken, was fully adjudicated in the order dated December 22, 1939, and the same is <u>res ajudicata</u>, and the case at bar is ruled by <u>Dr. P. Phillips Co. v. Billo</u>, 109 Fla. 316, 147 So. 579.

197 So. at 539.

Similarly, in <u>Isley v. State</u>, a defendant in a petition for habeas corpus relief raised the same arguments that he previously raised in motion to vacate sentence. 652 So. 2d at 410. Among other reasons, the court denied the defendant's petition pursuant to the doctrine of "<u>res judicata</u> and the law of the case." Specifically, the court found that the defendant's "repetitive arguments concerning withdrawing his pleas and ineffective assistance of counsel" were barred because "[t]hey have been heard, considered and rejected." <u>Id.</u> The court concluded by stating that to "raise them again was an abuse of process" and that "enough was enough." In addition, "in order to protect the limited judicial resources to our judicial system and this court," the court prohibited the defendant from filing any further pleadings concerning his conviction and sentence. Id. at 410, 411.

In the instant case, law of the case bars Supra's third Motion to Stay because it raises the same issues, facts, and causes of action that it raised in the Appellate Motion to the Stay, which the First District Court of Appeal previously denied. Like the Fifth District Court of Appeal found in <u>Isley</u>, the First District Court of Appeal has 'heard, considered and rejected' Supra's repetitive due

process arguments and request for a stay. "To raise them again is an abuse of process . . . Enough is enough." 652 So. 2d at 410-11.

III. SUPRA HAS NOT MET THE STANDARD FOR OBTAINING A STAY.

Assuming arguendo that res judicata or law of the case does not bar Supra's current Motion to Stay (which is denied), the Commission should still deny Supra's motion because - like Supra's earlier motions -- it fails to satisfy the standard for receiving a stay pending judicial review. Rule 25-22.061(2), Florida Administrative Code, governs a party's request to stay a final order of the Commission pending judicial review. In determining whether to grant a stay, the Commission may consider the following: (a) whether the petitioner is likely to prevail on appeal; (b) whether the petitioner has demonstrated that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and (c) whether the delay will cause substantial harm or be contrary to the public interest. See Rule 25-22.061(2), Florida Administrative Code. In addition, the Commission may condition a stay upon the posting of a corporate bond or corporate undertaking, In the case at hand, and as previously recognized by the or both. ld. Commission, Supra cannot satisfy any of the requirements necessary to obtain a stay.

A. Supra Will Not Prevail on Appeal.

In a manner identical to its First Motion for Stay, Supra claims that it will prevail on appeal because the Commission purportedly violated its due process

rights by not immediately addressing and granting its Motions to Recuse.³ In support, Supra raises the same case law and arguments that it raised in the First Motion for Stay, which the Commission considered and rejected in Order No. PSC-02-0808-PCO-TP. Because the two motions are identical, the Commission's rationale applies equally here.

First, the Commission correctly determined that Supra's Motions to Recuse were untimely under the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"). Section 120.665, Florida Statutes, provides in pertinent part:

...any individual acting alone or with others as an agency head may be disqualified from serving in an agency proceeding for bias, prejudice or interest when any party to the agency proceeding shows just cause by a suggestion filed within a reasonable period of time prior to the agency proceeding.

(emph. added).

The phrase "agency proceeding" is not defined by the statute and has yet to be expressly defined by Florida courts; however, previous decisions indicate that the filing of a motion to disqualify prior to a formal hearing would not be considered untimely. For instance, in <u>Bay Bank & Trust Co. v. Lewis</u>, 634 So. 2d 672, 678 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994), the court, in deciding the issue on other grounds, refused to find that an "agency proceeding" meant the filing of a petition for a hearing under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes. Similarly, the Commission in <u>In</u> <u>re: Southern States Util., Inc.,</u> Order No. 95-1438-FOF-WS refused to find that a

³ Supra raised the same arguments in its Petition for Emergency Issuance of Writ of Mandamus, Writ of Prohibition and Other Relief, which it filed with the First District Court of Appeal. Supra premised its Motion for Stay with the appellate court on this filing.

motion to disqualify a Commissioner was untimely because, among other reasons, technical hearings and an agenda conference had yet to take place.⁴

As the Commission correctly found, the filing of a motion to disqualify cannot be considered timely after a final hearing has taken place and after a final order has been issued and in effect. Such a finding is consistent with the standard for disqualifying a Commissioner under the APA, which is "whether the facts alleged would prompt a reasonably prudent person to fear that he could not get a fair and impartial trial." In re: Southern States Util., Inc., Order No. PSC-95-1438-FOF-WS.⁵

In addition, such a conclusion is consistent with the purpose of the statute empowering parties to seek to disqualify a biased agency head to insure a fair hearing. Once a hearing has concluded, an agenda conference has been held, the Commission has voted, and a final order has been issued, the purpose of that statute cannot be achieved. To find otherwise would lead to absurd and unreasonable consequences as parties could use Section 120.665 to attempt to reverse adverse final rulings after a Commission vote, which is exactly what Supra is doing in the instant matter. <u>See City of St. Petersburg v. Siebold</u>, 48 So. 2d 291 (Fla. 1950) (absurd or unreasonable results should be constrained when interpreting statutes).

⁴ In <u>In re: Southern States Util., Inc.</u>, the Commission briefly discussed whether a motion to disqualify filed after an evidentiary hearing was timely but did not reach a conclusion as to this issue. Instead, in finding the motion timely, the Commission focused on the fact that technical hearings and an agenda conference were scheduled in one of the dockets in which the motion to disqualify was filed.

⁵ This conclusion is also supported by the fact that, under Section 120.569(2)(a), a party may request the disqualification of an ALJ "by filing an affidavit with the division prior to the taking of evidence at a hearing, stating the grounds with particularity."

Second, the Commission correctly determined that Supra's Motions to Recuse were based on facts that were legally insufficient to support recusal. Because agency heads have "significantly different functions and duties than do judges," the standard for disqualifying an agency head is different from the standard for disqualifying a judge. <u>Bay Bank & Trust Co. v. Lewis</u>, 634 So. 2d 672, 678 (Fla. 1st DCA 1994). As stated by the Commission in <u>In re: Southern</u> <u>States Util., Inc.</u>, Order No. PSC-95-1438-FOF-WS, "a petitioner seeking the recusal of a commissioner is faced with satisfying a more stringent standard than is one seeking the recusal of a trial judge." The test for disqualification is whether the facts alleged would prompt a reasonably prudent person to fear that he could not get a fair and impartial trial. <u>Id.</u>

While the Commission is not to resolve disputed issues of fact in a motion to recuse and must assume the truth of the facts alleged, the Commission does not have to consider allegations that are "too tenuous and speculative to require disqualification of an agency head" and which are "unsupported by any allegations of underlying facts that demonstrate such bias" <u>Bay Bank</u>, 634 So. 2d 676, 679. The Commission correctly determined that the allegations Supra raised to support recusal were wholly conclusory and devoid of any factual support and thus were insufficient under Bay Bank to support recusal.

Third, the propriety of the Commission's decision to deny Supra's Motion to Recuse was confirmed by the First District Court of Appeal, which denied, without opinion, Supra's Petition for Emergency Issuance of Writ of Mandamus, Writ of Prohibition and Other Relief. This Petition was based on the same

arguments upon which Supra premised its First Motion to Stay and the current Motion to Stay. Thus, an appellate court has already rejected the very arguments that Supra now says will allow it prevail on appeal.

Fourth, Supra claims that the Commission erred in not immediately resolving Supra's three Motions to Recuse, which were filed on April 17, 2002, April 26, 2002, and June 5, 2002. According to Supra, the Commission "was required to address and resolve Supra's motions for disqualification prior to ruling on any other substantive matters." <u>See</u> Motion at 10. Thus, Supra claims that the Commission was "without authority to rule on any other pending matters once the motions for disqualification were filed on April 17, 2002." <u>Id.</u> at 11.

What Supra fails to articulate in this argument is that, despite filing its first Motion to Recuse on April 17, 2002, Supra filed several requests for relief with the Commission after that date, all of which required Commission action. For instance, on April 24, 2002, Supra filed a Motion for Extension of Time to File Interconnection Agreement.⁶ Supra filed the Motion in lieu of filing an executed Interconnection Agreement on April 25, 2002 in compliance with the Final Order. The Commission granted Supra's request on May 8, 2002 in Order No. PSC-02-0637-PCO-TP, giving Supra 14 days from the issuance of the order resolving

⁶ In addition to this Motion, Supra also filed the following motions with the Commission after April 17, 2002: (1) a Motion to Strike and Reply to BellSouth's Opposition to Supra's Motion for Reconsideration for a New Hearing in Docket No. 001305-TP; (2) a Verified Supplemental Motion to Disqualify and Recuse FPSC; (3) Objection to BellSouth's Request for Confidential Classification; (4) Motion to Strike and Reply to BellSouth's Opposition to Supra's Motion to Disqualify and Recuse; (5) Motion to Strike BellSouth's Letter of April 25, 2002 to Blanco Bayo with Attached Proposed Interconnection Agreement; (6) Motion for leave to File Reply to BellSouth's Oppositions to Supra's Motion to Strike, or in the Alternative, to Strike New Issues Raised in BellSouth's Opposition; (7) Motion for Reconsideration of Order No. PSC-02-0700-TP; (8) Second Verified Motion to Disqualify and Recuse FPSC; (3) Motion for Clarification and Partial Reconsideration of Order No. PSC-02-663-CFO-TP.

Supra's motions for reconsideration to execute and file the new Interconnection Agreement. If Supra had not received this extension, Supra would have violated the Final Order and been subject to a \$25,000 a day fine for every day that the Supra refused to execute the Agreement. <u>See</u> Section 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Under Supra's own warped logic, the Commission did not have authority to grant Supra's request for an extension of time to file the new Interconnection Agreement, because the Commission granted the extension after April 17, 2002, notwithstanding the fact that Supra asked for the extension after that date. Accordingly, Supra's own argument results in Supra being subject to at least a **\$1,950,000** fine, which grows by \$25,000 a day. Supra cannot have it both ways – Supra cannot argue that the Commission should not have made any rulings after April 17, 2002 but also take advantage of one of those rulings to avoid the filing of the new Interconnection Agreement on April 25, 2002 as ordered by the Commission in its Final Order.

B. Supra Will Not Suffer Irreparable Harm.

Supra claims that it will suffer irreparable harm if a stay is not provided. Again, the Commission previously rejected this argument in denying Supra's First Motion to Stay in Order No. PSC-02-0808-PCO-TP. The Commission should reach the same conclusion here for the following reasons.

First, the Commission has already determined in Order No. PSC-02-0808-PCO-TP that Supra will not suffer irreparable harm if the Commission proceeding is not stayed pending judicial review. Second, Supra will suffer no irreparable harm because Supra's rights to challenge and appeal the Final Order are

expressly preserved and are not waived by executing and filing the new Interconnection Agreement. Specifically, Section 25.1 of the new Agreement addresses the effect of the execution of the new Interconnection Agreement while Supra appeals or otherwise challenges the Order:

25. Reservation of Rights

25.1 Execution of the Interconnection Agreement by either Party does not confirm or infer that the executing Party agrees with any decision(s) issued pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the consequences of those decisions on specific language in this Agreement. Neither Party waives its rights to appeal or otherwise challenge any such decision(s) and each Party reserves all of its rights to pursue any and all legal and/or equitable remedies, including appeals of any such decision(s). If such appeals or challenges result in changes in the decision(s), the Parties agree that appropriate modifications to this Agreement will be made promptly to make its terms consistent with those changed decision(s).⁷

Therefore, under the express terms of the new Interconnection Agreement, Supra will not waive any of its rights to challenge or appeal the Commission's decision in the Order by executing the new Agreement. Further, if any of Supra's challenges are subsequently upheld, either by the Commission on reconsideration or by an appellate court, the Agreement will be promptly amended to reflect those changes in the Commission's decision. Thus, Supra's rights are protected in the event it prevails on any issue on appeal and therefore would suffer no "irreparable harm" if a stay is not granted.

Third, Supra's claim that it will suffer irreparable harm though the loss of customers and good will must be rejected. Assuming <u>arguendo</u> that Supra may

⁷ This section is substantively identical to General Terms and Conditions § 42 of the parties' expired agreement.

suffer harm as a result of operating under the new Agre __ient (which is denied), any potential harm can be compensated in money damages. It is well settled _ that "irreparable harm does not exist where the potential loss is compensable by money damages." <u>Barclays Am. Mtg. Corp. v. Holmes</u>, 595 So.2d 104, 105 (Fla. 5th DCA 1992). Any customer loss that Supra may suffer by operating under an arbitrated agreement can be compensated with damages. <u>See e.g.</u>, <u>Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. v. deLiniere</u>, 572 F. Supp. 246, 249 (N.D. Ga. 1983) (loss of business could be addressed with money damages); <u>Lafayette Beverage Distribs.</u>, Inc. v. Anheuser-Busch, Inc., 545 F. Supp. 1131, 1151 (N.D. Ind. 1982) (loss of good will could be addressed with money damages). Further, as noted by the Commission in its denial of Supra's First Motion to Stay, the authority Supra cites in support of its claim that it will suffer irreparable injury is distinguishable in that the cited authority involved injunctions, not stays pending appeal. See Order No. PSC-02-0808-PCO-TP.

Fourth, Supra's claims of "irreparable harm" are false. For instance, Supra claims that it will suffer "irreparable harm" if required to operate under the new Interconnection Agreement because the new Agreement, unlike the expired Agreement, does not provide for direct access to BellSouth's OSS. Contrary to Supra's assertions, the expired Agreement does <u>not</u> entitle Supra to direct access to BellSouth's OSS, and BellSouth is under no present obligation to provide Supra with direct access. Likewise, Supra claims that the new Agreement, unlike the expired agreement, does not provide for meet point billing. Thus, Supra argues that it will suffer "irreparable harm" if forced to operate under

the new Agreement. However, both the new Agreement and the expired Agreement permit meet point billing where appropriate. Further, Supra never raised meet point billing as an issue for arbitration and thus cannot rely on the alleged absence of such a provision in the new Agreement to request a stay.

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Similarly, Supra claims that it will suffer "irreparable harm" because the new Agreement, unlike the expired Agreement, allows BellSouth to terminate Supra's service for the failure to pay disputed amounts. Contrary to these statements, however, the new Agreement does not allow BellSouth to terminate Supra's service for the failure to pay any disputed amounts. Rather, BellSouth will have the right to disconnect Supra for the failure to pay any undisputed amounts or any amounts disputed in bad faith. Further, as ordered by the Commission, Supra will not be allowed to use self-help or to offset its payment obligations. These provisions will put Supra on equal footing with all of the other ALECs in Florida who must honor their payment obligations to BellSouth or face disconnection of service.

In addition, Supra could avoid any disconnection of service by operating as a responsible carrier and paying all undisputed amounts and not submitting bad faith disputes to avoid its payment obligations. Indeed, Supra expects the same of its end users as Supra disconnects its own end-users consumers for the failure to pay Supra and does not allow its customers to apply self-help. <u>See</u> Final Order, Order No. PSC-02-0413-PCO-TP at 55 ("Supra does not allow its retail customers to offset charges, nor does it require dispute resolution before disconnection of retail customers for nonpayment.").

C. A STAY OF THE ORDER WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL HARM AND WILL BE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

Granting Supra's request for a stay will cause substantial harm to both BellSouth and to Florida consumers and is against the public interest. Any stay of the Commission's Final Order or Orders on Reconsideration will result in BellSouth being extremely prejudiced. This is so because as long as Supra continues to operate under the expired agreement, Supra has not and will not pay BellSouth for legitimate services received unless ordered to by the appropriate authority. In fact, since

Supra has no incentive to operate under the new Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth because the expired agreement does not contain an express provision authorizing the disconnection of service for nonpayment of undisputed amounts. As evidenced by Supra's payment history, including the statement of Supra's CEO at the hearing that Supra had not paid BellSouth for two years (see Final Order at 54), Supra has chosen to avoid its payment obligations and to force BellSouth to attempt to recover both disputed and undisputed amounts through the long, arduous **Expression** required under the expired agreement, while at the same time incurring new, additional charges month after month. The new agreement, however, pursuant to the Commission's Order, allows BellSouth to disconnect Supra's service for the failure to pay undisputed amounts. Consequently, under the new agreement, Supra will either have to pay undisputed amounts or face disconnection of service.

Granting Supra's request for an indefinite stay would extend Supra's practice of ignoring its payment obligations to BellSouth. Each day that Supra fails to pay BellSouth for legitimate undisputed charges, BellSouth is prejudiced. Accordingly, staying the Final Order, which gives BellSouth the right to disconnect service, for any period of time greatly prejudices BellSouth.

The Commission recognized the importance and necessity of BellSouth having the right to disconnect Supra for the failure to pay undisputed amounts in its Final Order:

We believe an ILEC's ability to receive timely payment for undisputed charges is important. We recognized as much when addressing the BellSouth/WorldCom arbitration in Docket No. 000649, where we stated:

BellSouth must be able to deny service in order to obtain payment for services rendered and/or prevent additional past due charges from accruing. It would not be a reasonable business practice for BellSouth to operate "on faith" that an ALEC will pay its bills. Indeed, a business could not remain viable if it were obligated to continue providing services to customers who refuse to pay lawful charges.

Final Order at 54. Supra's continual refusal to honor its monthly payment obligation that now totals approximately **Exercise** a month for over 300,000 customers strains BellSouth's ability to provide wholesale services to other ALECs and to Florida consumers. As recognized by the Commission, no company can continue to operate if it is not being compensated for services provided.

In addition, it is against the public interest for Supra to avoid its payment obligations to BellSouth while at the same time expecting its end users to timely make payment to Supra. Every month, Supra receives wholesale services from BellSouth to provide service to over 300,000 customers. At the same time, Supra (1) receives payment for those services from its customers, and, instead of paying BellSouth, pockets the money, or (2) if payment is not received, disconnects its end users. By not paying BellSouth but expecting payment from its own end users, Supra is obtaining an unearned financial windfall at the expense of Florida consumers.

Further, Supra's failure to honor its payment obligations has an effect on competition in this state. By refusing to timely pay undisputed bills or disputing bills in bad faith, Supra obtains a preference over the other ALECs who timely pay their bills. As a result, Supra can devote additional resources to advertising and other means to increase its customer base. <u>See In re: Complaint of WorldCom Technologies, Inc. Against BellSouth</u>, Docket No. 980499-TP, Order No. PSC-00-0758-FOF-TP (denying BellSouth's request for a stay of the Commission's order on the payment of reciprocal compensation for ISP-bound traffic because it found that the stay would harm the public interest as it would delay the development of competition.) In sum, the public interest demands that Supra's "free ride" end.

D. Supra Must Put Up a Bond.

While BellSouth vehemently denies any suggestion that Supra is entitled to a stay, if the Commission is inclined to grant Supra's request, notwithstanding the fact that it has previously rejected such a request as well as the arguments raised by Supra, the Commission should at least require Supra to (1) post a bond

that represents all unpaid amounts that Supra ha crued since January 1, 2002; and (2) place all future monthly amounts billed in escrow while the stay continues. As previously stated, the accrued amount is over **continues** and is growing by **continues** a month.

A bond is required because staying the Commission's Final Order will have the direct effect of allowing Supra to continue its practice under the expired Agreement of ignoring its payment obligations to BellSouth. Indeed, by the time any appeals are resolved, Supra could realistically owe BellSouth **Example 1**. Also, there should be no question that Supra has the revenue to post such a bond, because Supra is keeping the revenue that it receives from over 300,000 customers every month and not timely paying BellSouth.

Furthermore, a corporate undertaking will not be sufficient because Supra has filed financial information with the West Virginia Public Service Commission ("WVPSC") and the North Carolina Utilities Commissions ("NCUC") indicating that it sustained a loss for 2001. For instance, based on information filed with the WVPSC in an April 25, 2002 filing, Supra sustained approximately a **\$23 million** loss for 2001. <u>See</u> Supra's 2001 Annual Report filed with the WVPSC, attached hereto as Exhibit A. In addition, while inconsistent with what Supra reported to the WVPSC, Supra informed the NCUC in a June 21, 2002 filing that it suffered an approximate **\$11 million** loss for 2001. <u>See</u> Supra's Letter to NCUC containing 2001 Statement of Income, attached hereto as Exhibit B. Even though both public filings contain inconsistent financial information, they both

establish that Supra apparently sustained a loss for 2001. Accordingly, a corporate undertaking will not be sufficient.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, BellSouth respectfully requests that the Commission refuse to consider and deny Supra's Motion to Stay Commission Order Nos. PSC-02-0413-FOF-TP and PSC-02-0878-FOF-TP.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of July 2002.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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(A) Nancy B. White

James Meza III 150 West Flagler Street Suite 1910, Museum Tower Miami, Florida 33130 (305)347-5568

R. Douglas Lackey (1 T. Michael Twomey Suite 4300 675 W. Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30375 (404) 335-0750

454422v2

	Systems, Inc.,
	COMPANY INFORMATION
	List any corporation having control over respondent
1.	Date of Certificate 1/22/59 WV PSC Case No.: 98-0752-T-CN
2.	Date of initiation of service to customers in West VirginiaN/A
3.	Board of Directors: OLUKAYODE A. RAMOS ABDUL OLASEWERE
4.	Principal General Officers: OLUKAYODE A. RAMOS ABDUL OLASEWERE - SECRETARY JOE SONGER - CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER BRIAN CHAIKEN - GENERAL COUNSEL
5.	Company Website: www.SupraTelecom.com
	Person to whom correspondence should be addressed concerning this report:
	Name ESTHER SUNDAY Title ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
	Mailing Address 2620 SW 27th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33133 City Miami State Florida Zip 33133
	Telephone (305) 476-4251 FAX (305) 443-9516
	E-Mail Addressesunday@stis.com
	2

Annual Report of Supra	Telecommunications	&	Information	Year Ended	2001
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Systems, Inc.,

Regulatory Contact

(for matters involving complaints, tariffs, service quality, 9-1-1, etc.)

Name ANN SHELI	FER		ic Policy & Regulatory
Mailing Address	1311 Executive	Center Drive	Suite 200
	Tallahaana Cl		

Tallahassee, Florida32301

Telephone (850) 402-0510 FAX (650) 402-0522

E-Mail Address _____ashelfer@stis.com

Important Changes During The Year

(add pages as needed)

None.

Annual Report of Supra Telecommunications & Information

Year Ended ______2001

Systems, Inc.,

BALANCE SHEET --- TOTAL COMPANY

Line No.	(FCC	Account C numbers are for reference) (a)	Baiance at Beginning of Year (b) (000) \$	Balance at End of Year (c) (000) \$	Increase (Decrease) (d) (000) \$
	Current Ass	ets			
1 2 3 4 5	1180-1210 Net 1220 Inve 1290-1330 Prep	ntories	127,556 3,295,855 0 10,014	-539,4255 12,643,322 . 0 157,265 2,950	-
6	Tota	l (lines 1 thru 5)	3,433,425	13.342.962	9,909,537
7 8 9 10 11	1438-1439 Defe 1500 Othe	stments er Non-Current Assets	5,028,783 298,970 25,853 5,353,606	210,789	
		ant and Equipment			
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	2001 Tele 2002 Prop 2003-2004 Tele 2005 Tele 2006 Non-	communications Plant in Service berty Held For Future Use com Plant Under Construction communications Plant Adjustment -Operating Plant Subtotal (lines 12 thru 16)	<u>686,607</u> 686,607	3.572.476 3.572.476	2,885, 269
19	Less: 3100	-3600 Depreciation and Amortization	(136,738)	558,819	
20	Tota	al (lines 17 thru 19)	549,869	3,013,657	2,463,788
21	Total Assets	and Other Debits	9,336,900	16,567,409	7,230,5 09

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Systems, Inc.,

BALANCE SHEET - TOTAL COMPANY

Line No.		Account (FCC numbers are for reference) (a)	Balance Beginn of Yea (b) (000)	ng ar	Balance at End of Year (c) (000) \$	(Decrease) (Decrease) (d) (000) \$
	Current	and Accrued Liabilities				
22 23 24 25	4050-4060 4070-4110	Accounts and Notes Payable Current Maturities Current Taxes Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	796,2 366,59 1,764,19	90	.1,689,992 3,684,096 2,662,520 26,507,686	
26		Total (lines 22 thru 25)	2,926,9	5	34,544,295	° 31,617,34 0
	Long-Te	m Debt		-		
27 28	4210 4220-4270	Funded Debt Other	3,413,80	3	1,809,607	
29		Total (lines 27 thru 28)	3,413,8	3-	1,809,607	(1,604,196)
	Other Lia	bilities and Deferred Credits				
30 31 32		Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits Noncurrent Taxes Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits				
33		Total (lines 30 thru 32)	-			
	Stockhol	der's Equity				
34 35 36	4510 4520 4530-4540	Capital Stock Additional Paid-in Capital Treasury Stock and Other Capital	100 4,287	000 311	100,000 1,765,839	
	Retained	Earnings				
37	4550	Appropriated and Unappropriated Retained Earnings	1,391	,169	(21,652,331)	
38		Total (lines 34 thru 37)	2,996	,142	(19,786,992)	
39	Total Lia	bilities and Other Credits	9,336	000	16,567,409	7.230.509

Supra Telecommunications & Information Systems, Inc.,

Annual Report of

Year Ended __

2001

INCOME STATEMENT --- WEST VIRGINIA JURISDICTION

	······································			
Line No.		Account (FCC numbers are for reference) (a)	Amount for the Current Year (b) (000) \$	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year (c) (000) \$
1	-	Operating Revenues (Page 7, line 6)	0.00	0.00
2		Operating Expenses (Page 8, line 5)	0.00	0.00
3 4	6560 6560	Depreciation Amortization		
5		Total Expenses (lines 2 thru 4)	0.00	0.00
6		Net Operating Revenues Before Taxes (Line 1 – Line 5)		
7		Other Income, Expenses and Taxes Other Income and Expense	0.00	0.00
8 9	7200+7400 7500	Taxes Interest and Related Items		
10		Subtotal (Lines 7 thru 9)		
11		Net Income Before Extraordinary items (Line 6 - Line 10)		
12	7600	Extraordinary Items		
13		Net Income	0.00	0.00

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OPERATING REVENUES - WEST VIRGINIA JURISDICTION

Line No.		Operating Revenue Accounts (FCC numbers are for reference) (a)	Amount for the Current Year (b) (000) \$	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year (c) (000) \$
1	5000	Local Network Services and Access Revenues	0.00	0.00
2	5100	Long Distance Network Services Revenues	0.00	0.00
3		Miscellaneous Revenues	0.00	0.00
4		Total Operating Revenues Before Uncollectibles (Lines 1 thru 3)	0.00	0.00
5	5300	Uncollectible Revenues - DR	0.00	0.00
6		Total Operating Revenues	0.00	0.00

OPERATING EXPENSES --- WEST VIRGINIA JURISDICTION

Line No.		Operating Expense Accounts (FCC numbers are for reference) (a)	Amount for the Current Year (b) (000) \$	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year (c) (000) \$
1	6110-6410	Plant Specific Operations Expenses	0.00	0.00
2	6510-6540	Plant Non-Specific Expenses (Excl. Depr.& Amort.)	 0.00	0.00
3	6611-6623	Customer Operations Expenses	 0.00	0.00
4	6710 -6790	Corporate Operations Expenses	 0.00	0.00
5		Total Operating Expenses (Lines 1 thru 4)	0.00	0.00

Annual Report of ______ Year Ended ______ Year Ended ______

OPERATING TAXES - WEST VIRGINIA JURISDICTION

				·····	
			TYPE OF TAX		
Line No.	Taxing Authority (a)	Federal and State Income (b) (000) \$	Gross Receipts (c) (000) \$	All Other (d) (000) \$	Total (e) (000) \$
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00-	0.00
19 20	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00
21 22 23	Billed by others Billed to others Charged to construction				
24	Net charged to account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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ANALYSIS OF TELEPHONE PLANT LOCATED IN WEST VIRGINIA

Line No.	Account (a)	Balance at Beginning of the Year (b) (000) \$	Balance at End of the Year (c) (000) \$
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Intangible Plant Land Buildings Central Office Equipment Outside Plant Furniture and Office Equipment Vehicles & Other Work Equipment Other (specify) Subtotal	0.00	0.00
10 11	Telephone Plant Acquired Telephone Plant Sold Total Telephone Plant In Service	0.00	0.00

Annual Report of Supra Telecommunications & Information	Year Ended 2001
Systems, Inc.,	

STATISTICAL AND OTHER INFORMATION (add pages as needed)

Supra Telecom does not provide telephone services in the state of West Virginia at th

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	time.

*

Subscriber Lines Served

Exchange Name (list separately)	Business Lines	Residence Lines
·		

2. Number, type and location of switching machines in West Virginia:

N/A

3. Identification and description of leased facilities:

4. Route miles of outside plant:

1.

5. State whether company provides its own operator services. If not, provide the name of the service provider: N/A

ENHANCED 9-1-1 FEES COLLECTED AND REMITTED TO EACH COUNTY

County	Amount	<u>County</u>	Amount
Barbour	\$	Mineral	\$
Berkeley	\$	Mingo	\$
Boone	\$	Monongalia	\$
Braxton	\$	Monroe	\$
Brooke	\$	Morgan	\$
Cabell	\$	Nicholas	\$
Calhoun	\$	Ohio	\$
Clay	\$	Pendleton	\$
Doddridge	\$	Pleasants	\$
Fayette	\$	Pocahontas	\$
Gilmer	\$	Preston	\$
Grant	\$	Putnam	\$
Greenbrier	\$	Raleigh	٩
Hampshire	\$	Randolph	\$
Hancock	\$	Ritchie	\$
Hardy	\$	Roane	\$
Harrison	\$	Summers	\$
Jackson	\$	Taylor	\$
Jefferson	\$	Tucker	\$
Kanawha	\$	Tyler	\$
Lewis	\$	Upshur	\$
Lincoln	\$	Wayne	\$
Logan	\$	Webster	\$
Marion	\$	Wetzei	\$
Marshall	\$	Wirt	\$
Mason	\$	Wood	\$
McDowell	\$	Wyoming	\$
Mercer	\$		
		Total	\$

SIGNATURE PAGE

I certify that I am the responsible accounting officer of:

Supra Telecommunications & Information Systems, Inc.,

;

that I have examined the foregoing report; that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, all statements of fact contained in this report are true and the report is a correct statement of the business and affairs of the above-named respondent in respect to each and every matter set forth therein during the period from 1/1/01 to 12/31/01 inclusive.

Date	4/25/02

Signature	Actussentes	
-		

Title	SECRETARY
1149	

Telephone No. (305)	476-4260	

FAX No. (, 305 ,	443-9516	
	· /	······	

E-Mail Address_



David A. Nilson CTO 2620 SW 27th Avenue Miami, FL 33133-3001 Phone: (305) 47%-4201 FAX: (305) 443-9516 Email dnllson @ STIS.com

June 21, 2002

OFFICIAL COPY

FILED

William J. Britt Jr. Public Utilities Engineer Communications Division North Carolina Public Utilities Commission

P-1121, 5ub 0

Cleric's Office N.C. Utilities Countission

JUN 2 6 2002

Clerk AB Steel

RE: North Carolina Docket No. P-1121, Sub-Application of Supra Telecommunications & Information Systems, Inc. (Supra or Applicant), For a Certificate of Public 1 Con. Convenience and Necessity to provide Local Exchange and Exchange Access Services.

Dear Mr. Britt:

In your letter dated June 14, 2002, you state "We have no knowledge or interest in what may or may not be occurring in Florida, and we are not seeking a commitment from Supra about how it may conduct its business in other states." We must remind you that answer was in response to a North Carolina question regarding whether paragraphs 875 and 876 of FCC Order 96-325¹ presented a federal prohibition against self-provisioning via resale. Our answer was appropriate to the question.

However after over nine months of correspondence on this issue we appear agreed that these questions apply to Supra "insofar as its activities in North Carolina are <u>concerned</u>," My last response on this issue stated "Supra bears no disrespect to the North Carolina Commission regarding our answer. " and "Supra has no intention of operating in violation of North Carolina law in North Carolina. Should the Commission choose to reword its questions based on North Carolina law, or orders of the North Carolina Public Utilities Commission, Supra would respectfully reconsider its answer."

At this time we repeat that request: Please supply a citation to a North Carolina rule, Commission Order, or statute, where the Public Staff has gone on public record documenting "The Public Staff's interpretation of the cited portions of the FCC Order is firm." Lacking such a legal instrument, please supply a transcript or other document where this interpretation has been recorded.

¹ First Report and Order on Local Competition in Docket CC 96-25.

Supra has already gone on record as saying our operations in North Carolina will be conducted according to North Carolina law in all regards. We once again repeat our request for a citation documenting that requirement.

We wish to conclude the North Carolina Commission's approval of Supra's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide Local Exchange and Exchange Access Telecommunications Services.

Respectfully you .ne lilsan Vid A СТО Supra Telecom

Encl. (acct.)

SUPRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEM BALANCE SHEETS Period Ending 12/31/01

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	\$
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and each equivalents	539,425
Receivable from LECs	7,319,465
Customer Receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts	4,845,872
in ventories	
Other surrent assets	160,215
Total current assets	12,007,070
Property, plant and equipment	
Land and buildings	0
Transportation	108,833
Equipment	3,213,756
Lessed Equipment	249.787
Office furniture and equipment	(658,819)
Leas Assumulation depresentation	3.013.857
Property, plant and equipment, net	3,412,827
Other assets	
Deposita	56,105
Licennee	114,863
Organization cost	
Accumulated Ansastantion for Org Cost	210,749
Total Other Assoc	210,144
TOTAL ABSETS	16,189,423
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,448,982
Ascounts payable	\$3,078
Payroll Payables Payroll Taxas Payable	9
Other Taxes Peyable	2,642,520
Customer Deposits	333,079
Notes Pavebie	3,482,090
Accrued Liabilities	25,005,778
Other current liabilities	202,000
Deferred Revenue	1,403,344
Total current Kabiliting	34,861,888
Long Term Liabilities	
Loan Payabie	1,659,924
Capital Leses	149,682
Acerual interest Tatel Long Term Liebilities	1,808,807
•	
Sitarshelders' equity Capital stock, per value \$.10, authorized	
10,000,000 skares, 1,000,000 skares issued	100,000
Additional paid-in capital	1,756,840
Retained earnings	(10,583,838)
Net Loss	(\$1,754,072)
Total shareholders' equity	(20,462,070)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND S/H'S EQUITY	16,189,423

SUPRA TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEM STATEMENTS OF INCOME For the period of 2001		
	2,001 \$	
TOTAL REVENUES	31,288,099	
COST OF SALES	26,255,012	
GROSS MARGIN	5,033,087	
OPERATING EXPENSES Advertising Salaries & Wages Other Operating TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES EBITDA INTEREST EXPENSE DEPRECIATION	1,866,939 7,169,344 <u>6,777,875</u> 15,813,958 (10,780,871) 600,575 372,528	
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	(11,754,072)	
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	O	
NET INCOME AFTER TAXES(LOSS)	(11,754,072)	