

## McWhirter Reeves

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October 9, 2003

## VIA HAND DELIVERY

Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records and Reporting Betty Easley Conference Center 4075 Esplanade Way Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870

> Docket Nos. 030851-TP and 020852-TP Re:

Dear Ms. Bayo:

On behalf of the Florida Competitive Carriers Association ("FCCA"), I am responding to the letter that Nancy White of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") submitted in the above dockets on October 7, 2003.

In her letter, Ms. White alluded to the document entitled "Proposed Modifications to Orders Establishing Procedure" that FCCA and BellSouth distributed on Monday, October 6, 2003, when Prehearing Officer Davidson took up the Joint Emergency Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule that BellSouth and FCCA filed on September 24, 2003. She also urged the Commission to declare all providers of telecommunications services that are subject to its jurisdiction who have not intervened in these dockets to be parties for the purpose of requiring them to respond to parties' discovery requests.

During the conference of October 6, some suggestions on procedure were presented jointly on behalf of BellSouth and FCCA (through AT&T attorney Mickey Henry, who has been actively involved in negotiating with BellSouth an approach to be applied throughout a nine state region). Because Mr. Lackey of BellSouth broached the possibility of requiring all carriers to become parties at that time, FCCA is concerned it may appear that BellSouth presented this particular proposal on behalf of both BellSouth and FCCA. To clarify, at the time BellSouth raised it on October 6, FCCA had not considered the matter. At the time of the conference, Mr. Henry had communicated to BellSouth that BellSouth should raise the suggestion in its individual capacity, and that he would apprise FCCA, who would respond to the proposal after

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conferring with all of its members.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this letter is to provide FCCA's position on the proposal.

FCCA regards BellSouth's suggestion to impose on carriers who choose not to intervene voluntarily the obligation to respond to discovery from intervenors as an extraordinary measure, and one that may be subject to legal objections. However, FCCA also understands that the Commission and parties are faced with extraordinary circumstances in these dockets, in which information from all carriers who own facilities will be essential to fully informed decisions. FCCA had already decided to forgo any legal objections that may be available to it in the event reasonable requests for information from individual members are promulgated to FCCA in these dockets. Similarly, if the Commission issues an order conferring party status on carriers who have not intervened voluntarily for the purpose of requiring them to respond to intervenors' discovery requests, FCCA and its members have decided not to challenge the Commission's authority to do so, and to participate in the discovery framework created by such an order. However, FCCA wishes to emphasize that its waiver of available objections is due solely to the extraordinary circumstances of these dockets. FCCA reserves its right to raise such objections, without prejudice, in the event similar issues arise in future proceedings.

Yours truly,

Joseph A. McGlothlin

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JAM/mls Enclosure

cc: Parties of record

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In their Joint Emergency Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule of September 24, 2003, FCCA and BellSouth indicated they planned to facilitate discovery of non-parties by developing a common set of discovery requests. BellSouth's suggestion to impose party status on all carriers is not contained in the Proposed Modifications to Orders Establishing Procedure, the document that was discussed on October 6, 2003 and that Ms. White attached to her letter of October 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Of course, FCCA and its members reserve any objections regarding the appropriateness of individual discovery requests that may be applicable.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been provided by (\*) hand delivery, (\*\*) electronic mail or U.S. Mail this 9th day of October 2003, to the following:

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