

ORIGINAL



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Director

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Mrs. Blanca Bayó
Division of the Commission Clerk and
Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 323099-0850

March 22, 2004

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COMMISSION
CLERK

Re: Status Report on Late Pay Refund (Docket No. 000733)

Dear Mrs. Bayó:

In accordance with the Florida Public Service Commission's refund procedures; BellSouth is to provide periodic reports on the progress of the refunds of the late payment interest fee. Our previous report was provided on January 14, 2004.

The refund amount was calculated to be \$84,437,070.67 plus \$4,842,345.51 in interest to equal a total of \$89,279,416.18. The refund amount reflects the late payment interest fee on regulated BellSouth services that was paid by retail end users and paid by Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) that resell BellSouth's regulated services.

As of March 16, 2004, BellSouth reports the following accounting of the refund:

\$84,437,070.67	Late Pay Interest Fee Refund
<u>4,842,345.51</u>	Interest
\$89,279,416.18	Total
(1,763,835.88)	Drafts still outstanding
<u>(2,799,515.11)</u>	Returned unpaid drafts and less than \$1 no refund amounts*
<u>\$84,716,065.19</u>	Total paid as of 3/16/04

(*Please note that since the last report, there has been an adjustment in the "returned unpaid drafts" due to an incorrect extraction of reporting data.)

On March 10, 2004, BellSouth and the Office of Public Counsel filed with the Commission a Joint Motion to use the total of the returned unpaid drafts and the less than \$1 refund amounts equaling \$2,799,515.11 for the promotion of the Lifeline and LinkUp Programs. BellSouth proposes that the remaining \$1,763,835.88 in drafts still outstanding should be escheated to the State.

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FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

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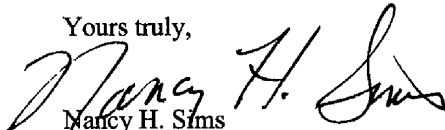
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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

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If you have any questions or need any additional information, please let me know.

Yours truly,


Nancy H. Sims
Director – Regulatory Relations

Copy to: Charlie Beck – Office of Public Counsel
Beth Salak - FPSC
Tom Lohman - BellSouth
Nancy White - BellSouth