

Richard A. Chapkis  
Vice President -- General Counsel, Southeast Region  
Legal Department



FLTC0007  
201 North Franklin Street (33602)  
Post Office Box 110  
Tampa, Florida 33601-0110

Phone 813 483-1256  
Fax 813 204-8870  
richard.chapkis@verizon.com

April 29, 2005 – **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director  
Division of the Commission Clerk  
and Administrative Services  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 040156-TP  
Petition for Arbitration of Amendment to Interconnection Agreements With  
Certain Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio  
Service Providers in Florida by Verizon Florida Inc.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing is Verizon Florida Inc.'s Opposition to Competitive Carrier Group's Motion to Compel Discovery From Verizon in the above matter. Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there are any questions concerning this filing, please contact me at 813-483-1256.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard A. Chapkis

Richard A. Chapkis

RAC:tas  
Enclosures

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of Verizon Florida Inc.'s Opposition to Competitive Carrier Group's Motion to Compel Discovery from Verizon in Docket No. 040156-TP were sent via U.S. mail on April 29, 2005 to the parties on the attached list.

/s/ Richard A. Chapkis

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Richard A. Chapkis

Staff Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

ALEC, Inc.  
3640 Valley Hill Road  
Kennesaw, GA 30152-3238

Sonia Daniels  
AT&T  
1230 Peachtree St. N.E.  
Suite 400  
Atlanta, GA 30309

LecStar Telecom, Inc.  
Michael E. Britt  
4501 Circle 75 Parkway  
Suite D-4200  
Atlanta, GA 30339-3025

American Dial Tone  
Larry Wright  
2323 Curlew Road, Suite 7C  
Dunedin, FL 34683

MCI WorldCom Comm.  
Dulaney O'Roark, III  
6 Concourse Parkway  
Suite 600  
Atlanta, GA 30328

MCI WorldCom Comm./  
Intermedia Comm./MCImetro  
Access/Metropolitan Fiber  
Donna C. McNulty  
1203 Governors Square Blvd.  
Suite 201  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2960

Director-Interconnection Services  
Level 3 Communications, LLC  
1025 Eldorado Boulevard  
Broomfield, CO 80021-8869

NewSouth Comm. Corp.  
Keiki Hendrix  
Two N. Main Street  
Greenville, SC 29601-2719

Supra Telecommunications  
and Information Systems Inc.  
Ann H. Shelfer  
1311 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 220  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-5067

Eric Larsen  
Tallahassee Telephone Exchange Inc.  
1367 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

The Ultimate Connection L.C.  
d/b/a DayStar Comm.  
18215 Paulson Drive  
Port Charlotte, FL 33954

USA Telephone Inc.  
d/b/a CHOICE ONE Telecom  
1510 NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Street  
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

Kellogg Huber Law Firm  
A. Panner/S. Angstreich  
1615 M Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

James C. Falvey  
Xspedius Comm. LLC  
14405 Laurel Place  
Suite 200  
Laurel, MD 20707

Tracy Hatch  
AT&T Communications  
101 N. Monroe Street  
Suite 700  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Norman Horton/E. Gary Early  
Messer, Caparello & Self  
215 S. Monroe Street  
Suite 701  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Competitive Carrier Group  
c/o Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
1200 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20036

Local Line America, Inc.  
Amy J. Topper  
520 S. Main Street, Suite 2446  
Akron, OH 44310-1087

Mario J. Yerak, President  
Saluda Networks Incorporated  
782 NW 42nd Avenue, Suite 210  
Miami, FL 33126

Patricia S. Lee  
Florida Public Svc. Comm.  
Div. of Comp. Markets &  
Enforcement  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Sprint Comm. Company  
Susan Masterton  
P. O. Box 2214  
Tallahassee, FL 32316-2214

Swidler Law Firm  
Russell M. Blau  
3000 K Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20007-5116

Time Warner Telecom  
Carolyn Marek  
233 Bramerton Court  
Franklin, TN 37069-4002

Genevieve Morelli  
Brett H. Freedson  
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
1200 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Matthew Feil  
FDN Communications  
2301 Lucien Way, Suite 200  
Maitland, FL 32751

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In re: Petition for arbitration of amendment to	)	Docket No. 040156-TP
interconnection agreements with certain competitive	)	Filed: April 29, 2005
local exchange carriers and commercial mobile radio	)	
service providers in Florida by Verizon Florida Inc.	)	
_____	)	

**VERIZON FLORIDA INC.'S OPPOSITION TO COMPETITIVE CARRIER GROUP'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY FROM VERIZON**

Verizon Florida Inc. ("Verizon") asks the Prehearing Officer to deny the Competitive Carrier Group's Motion to Compel Discovery from Verizon Florida Inc., filed April 27, 2005.

Verizon did not respond to CCG's First Set of Interrogatories and Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents because they were filed late. As CCG notes, they were served on April 8, 2005, and purported to require responses by April 25, 2005. Under the Order Establishing Procedure, discovery must have been completed by April 22, 2005. (Order PSC-04-1236-PCO-TP, at 5 (Dec. 13, 2004).) The period for responding to discovery in this case is 15 days. (Order No. PSC-05-0221-PCO-TP, at 9 (Feb. 24, 2005).) Fifteen days from April 8 is April 23, past the cut-off date for discovery. As such, Verizon was under no obligation to respond in any way to CCG's discovery.

Verizon did not waive any rights or objections by declining to respond to CCG's improper discovery, as CCG incorrectly suggests (CCG Motion at 1). No objections were necessary, because CCG had no right to serve late discovery in the first place. Under CCG's theory, CCG could, for example, force Verizon to respond to discovery a month from now, if it served discovery purporting to require a response then. But CCG

has no right to reset the discovery deadline the Prehearing Officer established. Whether CCG was 1 or 100 days late with its discovery, the result is the same—a failure to comply with the established discovery completion deadline. Nothing in the Commission’s Rules or anything else requires parties to respond to unauthorized filings, such as CCG’s discovery requests.

CCG does not deny that its discovery did not comply with the discovery completion deadline. Instead, it claims that Verizon agreed that CCG’s discovery at issue was relevant and that Verizon would respond to it. That is not true.

Under the stipulation filed on April 26, 2005, Verizon agreed that the discovery responses listed in “Staff’s Exhibit List” would be submitted into the record. At the time the Stipulation was signed, there was no final Exhibit List--just a **proposed** Exhibit List that had been changed at least once by that time, and that the parties knew was subject to further changes based on parties’ input. (See 4/25/2005 e-mail from Felicia Banks to the parties, attaching a “revised proposed stipulated exhibit list” and seeking responses by April 27, 2005.) Neither Verizon nor any other party agreed to stipulate into the record everything on “the proposed Exhibit List as of April 26,” nor could they, because a number of the documents listed did not even exist at that time. And the parties certainly did not commit to answering all of the questions in all of the discovery listed in the Staff’s proposed Exhibit List, nor did they admit that all of the listed discovery was relevant to the proceeding. If that were the case, then all of the parties that signed the Stipulation would have to drop the irrelevancy objections they made to particular questions and they would now have to submit responses to those questions.

Of course, the parties never made any such agreements. The reference to

Staff's Exhibit List was added to the Stipulation by AT&T's counsel at the last minute, after negotiations had concluded, as a shorthand way to make clear that any discovery produced in the case and placed on the Exhibit List to be used at the hearing would be stipulated into the record. AT&T's counsel assured Verizon's counsel that the reference to the Exhibit List was *not* intended to change the terms of the already-negotiated stipulation--let alone impose any affirmative obligation upon any party to answer untimely discovery, eliminate any party's right to object to any discovery requests on the draft Exhibit List, or override the discovery completion date established by the Prehearing Officer.

As Verizon indicated to Staff and to CCG's counsel before CCG filed its Motion, Verizon would not have produced anything in response to CCG's discovery even if it had been timely, because all of it is irrelevant. CCG makes no attempt to rebut this point. It simply claims that its discovery is relevant based on its incorrect theory that, by entering the Stipulation, the parties agreed to answer all of the discovery requests listed in the draft hearing exhibit as of April 26.

Although Verizon need not explain why CCG's untimely discovery is irrelevant, the reason is readily apparent. All of CCG's interrogatories and document requests concern the process through which Verizon calculated whether particular wire centers met the FCC's non-impairment criteria for dedicated transport and high-capacity loops. These questions are not relevant to any issue in this arbitration. In its *Triennial Review Remand Order*,<sup>1</sup> the FCC established a specific process to implement its rules

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<sup>1</sup> Order on Remand, *Unbundled Access to Network Elements; Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 04-313, CC Docket No. 01-338, FCC 04-290 (FCC rel. Feb. 4, 2005) ("*TRRO*").

governing access to high-capacity loops and transport. Under paragraph 234 of the *TRRO*, “to submit an order to obtain a high-capacity loop or transport UNE, a requesting carrier must undertake a reasonably diligent inquiry” in order to certify that it is entitled to unbundled access to the facility under the *TRRO* criteria. If the request “indicates that the UNE meets the relevant factual criteria,” the ILEC must process the request. To the extent that an incumbent LEC seeks to challenge a particular CLEC request, the ILEC must bring the dispute “before a state commission or other appropriate authority.” (*TRRO*, ¶ 234.)

The FCC has thus established a complete system, “based upon objective and readily obtainable facts” (*TRRO*, ¶ 234), through which CLECs may order and obtain access to UNE loops and transport under its new unbundling rules. That system requires a requesting carrier to undertake a reasonably diligent inquiry before it submits a UNE loop or transport order. It does not contemplate a state commission pre-certification in an arbitration proceeding that would short-circuit the procedures the FCC has prescribed.

Moreover, the case-by-case dispute resolution process the FCC prescribed is designed to be flexible enough to account for changes in facts affecting central offices, such as installation of new collocation arrangements. It is impermissible to freeze in place an initial decision applying the FCC’s unbundling criteria to Verizon’s central offices by memorializing the list of exempt wire centers in interconnection agreements. Under this approach, the CLECs would, no doubt, then use the Commission’s approval of a particular list as an excuse to prohibit any changes in that list outside of a lengthy negotiation and arbitration process.

Verizon cannot be required to accept any alternative system for implementing the FCC's unbundling rules for high-capacity loops and transport. As the FCC has made clear, if there are any disputes about whether a particular wire center meets the FCC's non-impairment criteria, the ILEC must provide the facility, and then **the ILEC** must bring the dispute to the appropriate authority. At this point, Verizon has not brought any such disputes before the Commission, so there is nothing for the Commission to do. Indeed, as Verizon's wire center list filed with the FCC reflects, Verizon has not identified *any* Florida wire centers that qualify for unbundling relief for DS1 or DS3 loops. It has identified only 13 of Verizon's 87 wire centers as either Tier 1 or Tier 2 wire centers for purposes of determining availability of dedicated transport. So high-capacity loops will remain available everywhere they are available in Verizon's territory today, and dedicated transport will remain available on most routes, unless and until changes in the facts qualify additional offices for unbundling relief.

Finally, as CCG's own documents produced in response to Staff's discovery show, Verizon offered to provide CCG's members the backup data for Verizon's wire center designations weeks before they asked for it here in Interrogatories. (See, e.g., CCG's Attachment for POD #7 and #10, Letters from Anthony Black, Verizon, to XO Communications Services, Inc., IDT America, and Covad.) At least three of CCG's members (XO, The Ultimate Connection, and Covad) have, in fact, signed the non-disclosure agreement necessary for Verizon to make this confidential information available, and received the backup data prior to CCG's discovery request.

\* \* \*

Verizon asks the Prehearing Officer to deny CCG's Motion, because CCG has no excuse for failing to comply with the established discovery completion date, and because Verizon never agreed that CCG's discovery was relevant or otherwise proper.

Respectfully submitted on April 29, 2005.

By: s/ Richard A. Chapkis  
Richard A. Chapkis  
201 N. Franklin Street, FLTC0717 (33602)  
P. O. Box 110 (33601)  
Tampa, FL 33602  
Tel: 813-483-1256  
Fax: 813-204-8870

Attorney for Verizon Florida Inc.