

Manuel A. Gurdian  
Attorney

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(305) 347-5561

November 28, 2006

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

**Re: Docket No.: 060677-TL  
Petition to Implement Automatic Enrollment for Lifeline  
Telephone Service**

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed is BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Motion for Abeyance, 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 the copy to me. Copies have been served to the parties shown on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

  
Manuel A. Gurdian

cc: All Parties of Record  
Jerry D. Hendrix  
E. Earl Edenfield, Jr.  
James Meza III

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
**Docket No. 060677-TL**

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

(\* Electronic Mail and First Class U. S. Mail this 28th day of November, 2006 to the following:

Adam Teitzman (\*)  
Kira Scott (\*)  
Staff Counsels  
Florida Public Service  
Commission  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
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Harold McLean (\*)  
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Represents FTIA

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Manuel A. Gurdian

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Petition to Implement Automatic )  
Enrollment for Lifeline Telephone Service)

Docket No.: 060677-TL  
Filed: November 28, 2006

### MOTION FOR ABEYANCE

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. hereby requests that the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") hold the above-captioned matter in abeyance, for a minimum of six months, pending the results of the Commission's newly initiated On-Line Automated Lifeline and Link-Up Application Process. In support thereof, BellSouth states as follows:

1. BellSouth is a local exchange company lawfully doing business in the State of Florida whose regulated operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to Chapter 364, Florida Statutes.

2. On or about October 11, 2006, the Citizens of Florida, through Harold McLean, Public Counsel ("OPC"), and AARP, (jointly referred to as "Joint Petitioners") filed their Petition requesting that the Commission order local exchange telecommunications companies in Florida to implement practices and procedures with the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") to automatically enroll eligible customers in the Lifeline telephone program.

3. On or about October 13, 2006, the Commission launched an automated process on its website for on-line Lifeline and Link-Up applications.<sup>1</sup> The Florida Lifeline and Link-Up programs assist low-income consumers in obtaining and maintaining basic telecommunications services.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Commission News Release entitled "PSC Launches Online Application for Link-Up Florida and Lifeline" dated October 13, 2006 attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

<sup>2</sup> See *id.*

4. Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance are available to customers enrolled in the National School Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, or Federal Public Housing Assistance.<sup>3</sup> In addition, if a consumer lives on federally recognized tribal land, the consumer may qualify for expanded Lifeline assistance.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, a consumer whose household income is no greater than 135% of the federal poverty level may contact the OPC via a toll-free number to inquire as to whether they also qualify for Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance.<sup>5</sup>

5. The Commission's online application form makes applying for assistance a one-step process and eliminates the need for an applicant to print, fill out, and mail or fax a request for the Link-Up and Lifeline benefits.<sup>6</sup>

6. The goal of the Commission's online application process is to make it easier for eligible Floridians to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up.<sup>7</sup>

7. To access the secure online application, a consumer simply needs to go to [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com) and click on "Lifeline and Link-Up" on the right hand side of the web page.<sup>8</sup> On-line applications are available in English, Spanish, and Creole. Consumers click "Apply On-line" and follow the instructions on how to submit an application electronically.<sup>9</sup> The consumer then provides exclusive information for identification purposes, their local carrier, and their qualifying

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<sup>3</sup> See *id.*

<sup>4</sup> See *id.*

<sup>5</sup> See *id.*

<sup>6</sup> See *id.*

<sup>7</sup> See *id.*

<sup>8</sup> See *id.*

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

public assistance program. Once the consumer submits the application, an automatic e-mail is sent to the appropriate eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) notifying it that a consumer has completed a Link-Up and Lifeline application.<sup>10</sup> The ETC then retrieves the application from a secure application site via a PSC-issued password.<sup>11</sup> The ETC may then process the application and contact the customer for additional information as required.

8. While the online application program was initially limited to BellSouth customers, there are currently nineteen (19) ETCs participating in the on-line automated application program.<sup>12</sup>

9. The Commission considers the online application process to be a significant step forward that will allow other state agencies to more easily enroll consumers and is part of the Commission’s ongoing initiative to make it easier for eligible Floridians to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up.<sup>13</sup>

10. BellSouth believes that, before expending the resources and time litigating the Petition, the Commission should review the results of its newly initiated On-Line Automated Lifeline and Link-Up Application Process and allow interested parties to better understand the new process by participating in the upcoming industry workshops scheduled for February 2007.

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<sup>10</sup> See October 13, 2006 correspondence from Chairman Lisa Polak Edgar to BellSouth attached hereto as Exhibit “B”.

<sup>11</sup> See *id.*

<sup>12</sup> The ETCs currently participating in, as listed on the Commission’s website, are the following: Alltel Wireless, American Dial Tone, BellSouth, Budget Phone, Embarq, Frontier Communications, GT Com, ITS Telecommunications Systems, Knology, Midwestern Communications, NEFCOM, Nexus Communications, Nextel, Smart City Telecom, Sprint-PCS, TDS Telecom, Verizon, Villaire Communications and Windstream.

<sup>13</sup> See October 13, 2006 Commission News Release.

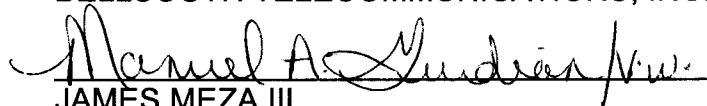
11. BellSouth believes that no party will be prejudiced by the Commission granting the instant Motion.

12. BellSouth contacted the parties in this docket as to whether the parties objected to the above Motion; however, prior to the filing of this Motion BellSouth did not receive a response from all the parties. Of the responses it did receive, Windstream did not object to the Motion; however, AARP and the Attorney General's office objected to the Motion.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, BellSouth requests that the above-captioned docket be held in abeyance, for a minimum of six months, so that the Commission has an opportunity to review the results of its On-Line Automated Lifeline and Link-Up Application Process and allow interested parties to better understand the new process by participating in the upcoming industry workshops scheduled for February 2007.

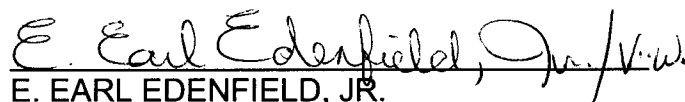
Respectfully submitted, this 28th day of November, 2006.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.



JAMES MEZA III  
MANUEL A. GURDIAN

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State of Florida  
**Public Service  
Commission**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

10/13/2006

Contact: 850-413-6482

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**PSC Launches Online Application For Link-Up Florida and Lifeline**

**TALLAHASSEE** — Customers are now able to apply for BellSouth's Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance programs electronically on the Florida Public Service Commission's (PSC) Web site. The Florida Lifeline and Link-Up programs assist low-income consumers in obtaining and maintaining basic telecommunications services.

"One-step, electronic enrollment is part of our ongoing initiative to make it easier for eligible Floridians to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up. This is a significant step forward that will also allow other state agencies to more easily enroll clients," said PSC Chairman Lisa Polak Edgar.

The online form makes applying for assistance from BellSouth a one-step process and eliminates the need for an applicant to print out, fill out, and mail or fax a request for the benefit. To access the application, consumers should go to [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com) and click on "Lifeline and Link-Up" on the right hand side of the page. Consumers then should click on "Apply On-line" and follow the instructions on how to submit an application electronically. Applications are available in both English and Spanish. BellSouth customers are being offered the Internet application initially and additional companies will be added to the system in the next few weeks. The PSC has implemented a secure Web site with data encryption for these records.

Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance are available to customers enrolled in the National School Lunch Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, or Federal Public Housing Assistance. If someone lives on federally recognized tribal land, he/she may qualify for expanded Lifeline assistance. In addition to the online application, the PSC continues to work with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on a way to automatically enroll eligible Floridians who may be receiving services through DCF.

By contacting the Office of Public Counsel at 1-800-540-7039, a customer may also qualify for the programs if his or her household income is no greater than 135% of the federal poverty level.

LISA POLAK EDGAR  
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF FLORIDA



CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
(850) 413-6044

## Public Service Commission

October 13, 2006

Mr. Jerry Hendrix, Vice President – Regulatory  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
150 South Monroe Street, Ste. 400  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1556

**Re: New On-Line Automated Lifeline and Link-Up Application Process on the Florida Public Service Commission Website**

Dear Mr. Hendrix:

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has created an automated process on our website for on-line Link-Up and Lifeline applications. This is an important step in our ongoing initiative to make it easier for eligible consumers to participate in these programs. The website for this new service is live as of today, Friday, October 13, 2006. BellSouth agreed to be the first eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to accept on-line applications. The PSC will now be adding the other carriers which have received ETC status in Florida.

I am asking for your assistance so that your company can take advantage of this new automated procedure. The automated process begins once a consumer completes the application form and hits the submit button. An automatic e-mail is sent to the appropriate ETC notifying it that a consumer has completed a Link-Up and Lifeline application. The ETC will then be able to retrieve the application from a secure application site via a PSC-issued password. Please send us the name and e-mail address of a contact at your company who will receive notifications from the PSC that a Link-Up and Lifeline application is at the secure website ready to be retrieved. We are also asking for the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of one primary and one secondary company representative who will be responsible for retrieving these applications and managing the user accounts for your company.

**RECEIVED**

OCT 16 2006

U.S. MAIL-REG. RELATIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

PSC Website: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

Exhibit "B"

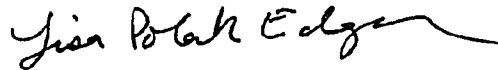


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October 13, 2006

We are truly excited about this new one-step electronic enrollment for the Link-Up and Lifeline application process and look forward to working with you to bring benefits to your customers. Please submit the necessary contact information for your ETC to Bob Casey at [bcasey@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:bcasey@psc.state.fl.us) by Friday, October 20, 2006. If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Casey at (850) 413-6974.

Thank you for your participation to help make this new service a complete success.

Sincerely,



Lisa Polak Edgar  
Chairman

cc: Commissioner J. Terry Deason  
Commissioner Isilio R. Arriaga  
Commissioner Matthew M. Carter II  
Commissioner Katrina J. Tew