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## **Timolyn Henry**

om:	Slaughter, Brenda [Brenda.Slaughter@BellSouth.COM]	
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Legal Secretary to Andrew D. Shore BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.		ECF
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301		OPC
		RCA
brenda.sla	ughter@bellsouth.com	SCR
B. <u>Docket No. 050863-TP</u> : dPi Teleconnect, L.L.C. v. BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.		SGA
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- 3 pages total (includes Letter and certificate of service)
- BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Response to Order No. PSC-07-0015-PCO-TP to be filed in referenced docket. E.

<<050863-TP Order PSC-07-0015-PCO-TP.pdf>>

Brenda Slaughter BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Southeast **Suite 4300** 675 W. Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30375-0001 Phone: (404) 335-0714

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ANDREW D. SHORE
Senior Attorney
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
150 South Monroe Street
Room 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(404) 335-0765

February 5, 2007

Commissioner Isilio Arriaga Pre-Hearing Officer Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: <u>Docket No. 050863-TP</u>: dPi Teleconnect, L.L.C. v. BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.; Order No. PSC-07-0015-PCO-TP

## Dear Commissioner Arriaga:

We are submitting this memorandum in response to your Order dated January 4, 2007. As summarized in your Order, dPi and BellSouth recently litigated this exact case before the North Carolina Utilities Commission ("NCUC"). The issue is whether dPi is entitled under its interconnection agreement with BellSouth to resell at the wholesale discount certain promotions that BellSouth makes available to its retail customers. The NCUC, following an evidentiary hearing and the submission of briefs, entered an Order rejecting dPi's claims and dismissing dPi's complaint. The NCUC subsequently denied dPi's motion for reconsideration.

The facts in this case are identical to the facts in the parallel North Carolina proceeding: The pertinent language in the dPi-BellSouth Florida interconnection agreement is identical to the language in the parties' North Carolina contract; and the promotions that are the purported basis for dPi's claims are the same in Florida as they were in North Carolina.

The facts and the law require that this Commission, like the NCUC, reject and dismiss dPi's claims. This Commission should look to the NCUC's orders, as they most certainly are persuasive authority.

The NCUC's determination does not, however, have preclusive effect here. The common law principles of issue preclusion do not apply because of the state-by-state allocation of authority over interconnection agreements under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. State commissions are not bound by decisions reached by other state commissions, even in considering similar or identical terms. Global NAPS, Inc. v. Mass. Dep't of Telecomms. & Energy, 427 F.3d34 (1st Cir. 2005); see also Connect Communications Corp. v. Southwestern Bell, 467 F.3d 703 (8th Cir. 2006)

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Although the NCUC decision does not have preclusive effect as a matter of law, there is only one reasonable outcome that can be reached in this case. We look forward to presenting the issues to the Florida Commission and are confident that it will reach the same conclusion that the NCUC reached after a full evidentiary hearing in that forum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Shore (BSS)

Enclosures

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

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE DOCKET NO. 050683-TP

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

Electronic Mail and First Class U. S. Mail this 5th day of February 2007 to the following:

Felicia Banks
Staff Counsel
Florida Public Service
Commission
Division of Legal Services
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Tel. No. (850) 413-6191
fbanks@psc.state.fl.us

Christopher Malish
Foster Malish Blair & Cowan LLP
1403 Weest Sixth Street
Austin, TX 78703
Tel. No. (512) 476-8591
Fax. No. (512) 477-8657
chrismalish@fostermalish.com
Counsel for dPi

DPI-Teleconnect, LLC 2997 LBJ Freeway, Suite 225 Dallas, TX 75234-7627 Tel. No. (972) 488-5500 Fax No (972) 488-8636 dpikoff@dpiteleconnect.com

Andrew D. Shore