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April 8, 1998

BY HAND DELIVERY

Charlie Pellegrini, Esq.
Division of Legal Services
Room 370, Gunter Building
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 971478-TP

Dear Charlie:

As requested at the recent issues identification conference, this is to provide WorldCom's positions with respect to the proposed issues list for this proceeding.

WorldCom supports the use of only the Staff issues list. These issues capture all subjects raised by the complaints. Moreover, the subjects encompassed within the complaints and the Staff issues list are solely legal issues. Accordingly, WorldCom believes such issues can be handled by the filing of briefs and an oral argument.

ACK	With respect to the proposed BellSouth issues list, WorldCom strongly objects to the
AFA	inclusion of such issues. BellSouth's issues are irrelevant to the complaints and attempt to expand
APP	a contract dispute into a generic policy proceeding. BellSouth's proposed expansion of this
CAF	proceeding would violate the order setting this matter for hearing. With respect to each of BellSouth's proposed issues, WorldCom offers the following additional objections.
DMU	
OTR	BellSouth's Proposed Issue 1: Describe the type of traffic in dispute.
AQ	
.EG	WorldCom does not believe that this issue is necessary as the traffic at issue is adequately identified in each complaint. Moreover, if parties want to describe the traffic they can do so in
JN	responding to the Staff issues. Alternatively, if necessary, the parties can stipulate to the traffic at
)PC	issue.
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BellSouth's Proposed Issue 1A: What is the jurisdictional nature of such traffic?

WorldCom objects to the inclusion of this issue as it is an attempt to relitigate a decision made by the Commission nine years ago in Docket No. 880423-TP. In that docket, the Commission determined that ISP traffic was local traffic and subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Nothing has changed since that order; no person, including BellSouth, has asked this Commission to retreat from that determination and there has been no FCC, judicial or Commission action which would necessitate a reversal of the earlier decision by this Commission.

In addition, this issue is not relevant to the question before the Commission nor is it necessary to resolve this issue in order to dispose of the complaints. The Commission policy at the time this dispute arose is reflected in Order No. 21815 in Docket No. 8800423-TP. That policy, which BellSouth endorsed, is clear and not in need of clarification. The complaint of WorldCom must be resolved in accordance with the orders and decisions in place at the time the contract was executed. BellSouth cannot now seek to have this Commission abandon its policy and apply that "new" position to a legally approved contract. BellSouth's intent, through this issue, to relitigate the final decision in Order No. 21815 is inappropriate.

BellSouth's Proposed Issue 2: In their interconnection agreement, did WorldCom Technologies, Inc./MFS Communications Company, Inc., and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., mutually intend to treat this type of traffic as local traffic for purposes of reciprocal compensation?

BellSouth's Proposed Issue 2(A): If WorldCom Technologies, Inc./MFS Communications Company, Inc., and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., did not mutually intend to treat this type of traffic as local traffic for purposes of reciprocal compensation, can BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., be required to pay reciprocal compensation for that traffic?

WorldCom objects to the inclusion of this proposed issue and subissue on the basis that both are unnecessary to the disposition of the complaint. The intent of the parties is expressed in the plain language of the agreement signed by the parties. The agreement between WorldCom and BellSouth clearly evidences an intent to treat local traffic as just that, <u>local</u>. Further, local traffic is specifically defined in the Agreement, and nowhere in the agreement is any type of traffic excepted from the definition. Unless the document is found to be ambiguous, there is no need to go beyond the document to determine intent. This document is not ambiguous.

<u>Proposed Issue 6</u>: Is the payment of reciprocal compensation for this type of traffic in the public interest?

WorldCom objects to the inclusion of this issue as it would require the Commission to conduct a generic proceeding — which is unnecessary and outside the scope of WorldCom's complaint. Whether the payment of reciprocal compensation for this traffic is in the public interest

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is completely irrelevant. So long as the contract is not illegal, the parties may negotiate and agree to pay compensation for any traffic they wish. Since the Commission has already approved the agreement, it has been found to be in compliance with all applicable legal requirements. No further inquiry on public interest is necessary or required.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Floyd R. Self

Counsel for WorldCom, Inc.

FRS/amb

cc:

Mr. Brian Sulmonetti

Parties of Record