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RECORDS AND REPORTING

MICHAEL P. GOGGIN
General Attorney

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
150 South Monroe Street
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(305) 347-5561

August 17, 2000

Mrs. Blanca S. Bayó
Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 000733-TL (Inv. Tariff Late Payment Charges)

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed is an original and fifteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition for Formal Hearing, 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,

Michael P. Goggin
Michael P. Goggin

cc: All Parties of Record
Marshall M. Criser III
R. Douglas Lackey
Nancy B. White

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Docket No. 000733-TL**

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

U.S. Mail this 17th day of August, 2000 to the following:

Beth Keating
Staff Counsel
Division of Legal Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850


Michael P. Goggin

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation to determine) Docket No. 000733-TP
Whether BellSouth Telecommunications)
Inc.'s tariff filing to restructure its late)
payment charge is in violation of Section)
364.051, F.S.)
_____) Filed: August 17, 2000

PETITION FOR FORMAL HEARING

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereby objects to the proposed agency action order issued by the Commission in this matter on July 27, 2000 (Order No. PSC-00-1357-PAA-TL) and requests, pursuant to Rules 25-22.029 and 28-106.201 of the Florida Administrative Code, a formal hearing. In support of its petition, BellSouth states:

1. The agency affected by this petition is the Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850.
2. The petitioner is BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). BellSouth's address is 675 W. Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. Notices regarding this matter should be directed to BellSouth's representatives, whose names, address and telephone numbers appear below.
3. BellSouth's substantial interests would be affected by the proposed agency action in this matter because BellSouth would be prevented from charging interest on overdue accounts. The order would require BellSouth to pay millions of dollars in refunds and compel BellSouth to offer, in effect, an interest-free revolving credit account to each customer.

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PSC-REGISTRATION/REPORTING

4. BellSouth received notice of the proposed agency action by obtaining a copy from the Commission.

5. Disputed issues of material fact in this matter include;

- a) Whether BellSouth's former tariff included any interest charge or similar charge to recover the costs associated with the use by a BellSouth customer of money owed to BellSouth;
- b) Whether the former and current late payment charge relate to any costs other than administrative costs associated with collection on overdue accounts;
- c) Whether an interest charge is a telecommunications service;
- d) Whether the interest charge is a new service;
- e) Whether the interest charge is a separate and different charge from the former and current late payment charge.

6. BellSouth asserts that the interest fee is not a telecommunications service and therefore the Commission's proposed order, which would require BellSouth to withdraw its tariff, is inconsistent with Chapter 364 of the Florida Statutes.

7. Reversal or modification is required pursuant to Section 364.051, Florida Statutes.

For the reasons stated above, BellSouth requests that the Commission grant this petition and hold a hearing in this matter pursuant to Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, reverse or vacate its proposed agency action order of July 27,

2000, declare that BellSouth's July 9, 1999 tariff filings are not in violation of Section 364.051, Florida Statutes, and close this docket.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of August, 2000.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.



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