

ORIGINAL

BELLSOUTH

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October 25, 2005

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

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COMMISSION
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RE: Hurricane Wilma

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Pursuant to Section 4.5.2 of BellSouth's Self Effectuating Enforcement Mechanism Administration Plan ("Plan"), approved by the Florida Public Service Commission in Order No. PSC-05-0488-PAA-TP, and rendered final and effective as of August 30, 2005, with implementation on October 1, 2005, BellSouth hereby declares a Statewide force majeure event as of October 24, 2005 due to Hurricane Wilma.

Hurricane Wilma which was a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall, has had a major impact on telephone service from Brevard County south to Key West. Due to the severity and scope of BellSouth's impacted territory, BellSouth has declared a State wide Force-Majeure. As of 1500 hours today, there were 80 Central Offices on emergency power and approximately 1757 DLCs on battery or failed. There are 3 Million plus customers without commercial power including BellSouth Central Offices, work centers, and administrative buildings. Due to the power aerial facilities down, it will be some time before commercial power is restored. Additionally, there are significant telephone aerial facilities down along with power facilities.

Due to circumstances in the states in the BellSouth region (i.e., Hurricane Katrina), BellSouth Florida will have to handle the restoration from Hurricane Wilma with its own Florida forces and contract help. BellSouth will be shifting forces from West Florida, Northeast Florida, and Orlando to assist in the restoration efforts for the southern portion of the state. BellSouth is requesting 90 contract Outside Plant Technician contract crews and 60 contract tree trimming crews. In all Districts from Brevard south to Key West, BellSouth has established its customer

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commitment clocks for both installation and repair out for thirty days. As areas are cleared and it is determined repairs can be made more quickly, customers will be given individual appointments that are more in line with BellSouth's ability to provide service. In addition, BellSouth Florida Network has declared a Service Emergency with the CWA.

It will take some time for BellSouth to recover and regain normal installation and repair activities. However, BellSouth will provide updates to our recovery efforts and advise the Commission when the service emergency period is concluded. BellSouth views Hurricane Wilma as a force majeure event relieving BellSouth of penalty obligations under this plan.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me.

Sincerely,


Jerry D. Hendrix

Cc: Braulio L Baez, Chairman
J. Terry Deason
Rudolph Bradley
Lisa Edgar
Beth Salak
Lisa Harvey
Rhonda Hicks
Scott Mulcahy