Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

DA 92-347

In the Matter of	)	
	)	CC Docket No. 92-24
Local Exchange Carrier Line	)	
Information Database	)	
	)	
	)	

ORDER DESIGNATING ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION

Adopted: March 19, 1992; Released: March 20, 1992

By the Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Order designates for investigation issues arising from several local exchange carriers' (LECs') offerings of line information database service, that were previously set for investigation by the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) in the LEC LIDB Order[1] and the SNET LIDB Order.[2] The affected carriers, Ameritech Operating Companies (Ameritech), Bell Atlantic Telephone Companies (Bell Atlantic), BellSouth Telephone Companies (BellSouth), GTE Telephone Operating Companies (GTE), NYNEX Telephone Companies (NYNEX), Pacific Bell Telephone Companies (Pacific Bell), Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET), Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWB), United Telephone System (United), and US West, Inc. (US West) filed tariffs to establish charges for transmission services connecting customers to the carriers' common channel signalling networks (CCS) and for access to the data in their line information databases (LIDB).[3] In the LEC LIDB Order and the SNET LIDB Order, we suspended the subject transmittals for one day, imposed accounting orders, and initiated investigations of the tariffs referenced above.

II. ISSUES DESIGNATED FOR INVESTIGATION

2. The following issues are designated for investigation:

I. Have the LECs adequately described the LIDB query service in the tariffs?

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[1] Local Exchange Carrier Line Information Database, 7 FCC Rcd 525 (Com.Car.Bur. 1991) (LEC LIDB Order).

[2] Southern New England Telephone Company, Transmittal Nos. 531 and 533, 7 FCC Rcd 1474 (Com.Car.Bur. 1992) (SNET LIDB Order).

[3] Unless otherwise indicated, the acronym "LIDB" is an abbreviation for line information database (or data base).

Petitioners allege that the tariffs lack sufficient detail for potential customers to be certain of what service they are receiving. Parties have argued that the LECs should provide the following information in their tariffs: the frequency, nature, and priority of database updates, and the LEC liability for erroneous information in the database; to the extent that carriers reference technical publications, the dates of the latest revisions to any referenced technical publication should be reflected in the tariff; liability for fraudulent use of calling cards; "call gapping" procedures[4]; and additional technical parameters for processing database queries. To aid in the investigation of this issue, we invite interested parties to address whether the tariffs should contain such information.

II. Should the tariffs contain additional detail regarding the technical parameters for the CCS interconnection link?

In order to access LIDB, customers must purchase a CCS interconnection link. The tariff descriptions of the CCS interconnection service contain cross references to technical publications and state that the CCS interconnection link is technologically equivalent to a 56 kbps special access line. In their special access tariffs, carriers specify a number of technical parameters for a 56 kbps line. Parties should address whether tariffs for CCS interconnection links should include a similar level of detail regarding technical parameters.

III. Are the rate levels established in the tariffs excessive?

To assist in our resolution of this rate level issue, we direct the carriers specified below to provide the following information:

(1) Bell Communications Research, Inc., has developed a cost model called "Common Channel Signalling Cost Information System" (CCSCIS). Any carrier who relied on CCSCIS to develop its rates must explain why use of such a model is appropriate for common channel signalling services.

(2) Those carriers who did not use CCSCIS to allocate investment should fully explain how they identified the plant used to provide LIDB service.

(3) All filing carriers should provide total investment underlying each of the four rate elements and identify the accounts established by Part 32 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 32, in which these investments are recorded.

(4) All filing carriers should identify and fully document all factors

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[4] "Call gapping" is a procedure that is invoked when the database is receiving more traffic than it is equipped to process. When the traffic volume exceeds the capacity of the database, the originators of the traffic are instructed by the database to reduce the number of queries being sent to the LIDB. Consequently, when an overload condition exists, call gapping will cause a delay in the processing of a portion of the LIDB queries.

applied to the investment identified in response to the requests for information above to develop the rates, cross-referencing to Automated Reporting Management Information System (ARMIS) data where possible.

(5) Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, NYNEX, and Pacific Bell were providing CCS interconnection service under tariff before the filing of the transmittals under investigation in this docket. Those carriers should demonstrate how their CCS interconnection service rates meet the requirements for restructured services in Part 61.49(f) of the Commission's Rules.

III. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Filing Schedules

3. This investigation will be conducted as a notice and comment proceeding. CC Docket No. 92-24 has been assigned for this purpose. Ameritech, Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, GTE, NYNEX, Pacific Bell, SNET, Southwestern Bell, United, and US West are designated as parties. These parties shall file their direct cases no later than April 21, 1992. The direct cases must present the parties' positions with respect to the issues described in this Order. Pleadings responding to the direct cases may be filed no later than May 21, 1992, and must be captioned "Opposition to Direct Case" or "Comments on Direct Case." The parties may each file a "Rebuttal" to oppositions or comments no later than June 1, 1992.

4. An original and seven copies of all pleadings must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. In addition, one copy must be delivered to the Commission's commercial copying firm, Downtown Copy Center, Room 246, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Also, one copy of each pleading must be delivered to the Tariff Division, Room 518, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Members of the general public who wish to express their views in an informal manner regarding the issues in this investigation may do so by submitting one copy of their comments to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222, Washington, D.C. 20554. Such comments must specify the docket number of this investigation.

5. All relevant and timely pleadings will be considered by the Commission. In reaching a decision, the Commission may take into account information and ideas not contained in pleadings, provided that such information or a writing containing the nature and source of such information is placed in the public file, and provided that the fact of reliance on such information is noted in the Order.

B. Ex Parte Requirements

6. Ex parte contacts (i.e., written or oral communications which address the procedural or substantive merits of the proceeding which are

directed to any member, officer, or employee of the Commission who may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process in this proceeding) are permitted in this proceeding until a final Order is released and after the final Order itself is issued. Written ex parte contacts must be filed on the day submitted with the Secretary and Commission employees receiving each presentation. For other requirements, see generally Section 1.1200 et seq. of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200 et seq.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

7. The investigation established in this Order has been analyzed with respect to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 and found to contain no new or modified form, information collection, or recordkeeping, labeling, disclosure or other record retention requirements as contemplated under the statute. See 44 U.S.C. § 3502(4)(A).

V. ORDERING CLAUSES

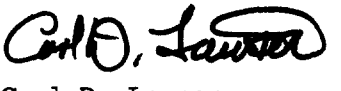
8. IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Sections 4(i), 4(j), 201(b), 203(c), 204(a), 205, and 403 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 201(b), 203(c), 204(a), 205, and 403, that the issues set forth in this Order ARE DESIGNATED FOR INVESTIGATION.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each carrier SHALL INCLUDE a response to each item of information requested in Section II, supra, in its direct case.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ameritech Operating Companies, Bell Atlantic Telephone Companies, BellSouth Telephone Companies, GTE Telephone Operating Companies, NYNEX Telephone Companies, Pacific Bell Telephone Companies, Southern New England Telephone Company, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, United Telephone System, and US West, Inc., SHALL BE parties to this proceeding.

11. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order IS EFFECTIVE upon adoption.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



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