In the Matter of

Section 63.63 Application of
AT&T Corp.
BellSouth Long Distance, Inc.
BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC
SBC Long Distance
Teleport Communications America, LLC

For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of
The Communications Act of 1934, As Amended,
To Discontinue the Provision of Service

SECTION 63.63 APPLICATION OF AT&T

AT&T Services, Inc. on behalf of its affiliates AT&T Corp., BellSouth Long Distance, Inc., BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, SBC Long Distance, and Teleport Communications America, LLC, collectively referenced herein as “AT&T”, seeks emergency authorization under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act, as amended (“the Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 214, and Section 63.63 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) rules, to suspend AT&T’s interstate telecommunications services until services can be restored.

As required by Section 63.63(a) of the Commission’s rules, AT&T provides the following information:

(1) The effective date of such discontinuance, reduction, or impairment, and the identification of the service area affected;

AT&T’s services were discontinued on October 10, 2018 after Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 4 storm.
(2) The nature and estimated duration of the conditions causing the discontinuance, reduction, or impairment;

On October 7, 2018, Florida Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency as Tropical Storm Michael approached Florida.\(^1\) It’s speed and intensity continued to increase as it approached, and it made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on October 10, 2018. Hurricane Michael destroyed many facilities in its path such as buildings, utility poles, aerial cable (both electric and telecommunications), and street signs.

AT&T has 10 central offices that were impacted by the storm, which included 839 distribution areas (DAs). After assessing these 839 DAs in the field, AT&T determined that its facilities in 474 DAs had no damage; the facilities in 82 DAs were able to be repaired and restored quickly; and the facilities in 392 DAs incurred damage requiring more complex restoration plans. The affected area includes most of northwest Florida, including the following cities: Bainbridge, Calloway, Chippley, Graceville, Havana, Laguna Beach, Lynn Haven, Panama City, Panama City Beach, Sunny Hills, Vernon, and Youngstown/Fountain.\(^2\)

AT&T’s Outside Plant Construction and Engineering personnel remain on site and continue their work to restore service in the remaining 392 DAs.\(^3\)


\(^2\) See Attachment A – Maps illustrating the area including the 392 DAs requiring more extensive restoration.

\(^3\) In the event of disasters that prompt the triggering of a disaster recovery plan, the Commission’s rules grant ILECs a limited exemption (of up to 180 days) from the advanced notification and waiting period requirements contained in its network disclosure rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 51.325-335) to allow the ILECs to concentrate on restoration efforts. See 47 C.F.R. § 51.333(g)(1). AT&T is undertaking emergency restoral activities pursuant to this exemption. Once restoral assessments are completed, AT&T will file the relevant network change notifications associated with network changes that were a direct result of damage to the AT&T network infrastructure caused by this event.
(3) The facts showing that such conditions could not reasonably have been foreseen by the carrier in sufficient time to prevent such discontinuance, reduction, or impairment;

As noted above, the discontinuance of service was caused by a hurricane and severe flooding, which was completely beyond AT&T’s control.

(4) A description of the services involved;

AT&T provides numerous residential and business interstate voice, private line, data and video services in this area. 4

(5) The nature of service which will be available or substituted;

AT&T plans to restore services to all areas it served before Hurricane Michael. AT&T is deploying a variety of technologies and configurations in an effort to restore services in an expedited fashion and is concurrently deploying long-term restoral solutions. AT&T will update the Commission, as needed, if it determines that it will discontinue offering any of its existing services.

(6) The effect upon rates to any person in the community;

AT&T is unaware of any effect this suspension may have upon rates to any person in the community.

(7) The efforts made and to be made by applicant to restore the original service or establish comparable service as expeditiously as possible.

AT&T is restoring its facilities in the areas impacted by the Hurricane and related events based on location and/or customer access. AT&T has replaced and/or repaired (where possible) existing facilities that served structures that were salvageable.

Conclusion:

AT&T respectfully requests that the Commission grant AT&T’s Section 63.63 Application to suspend AT&T’s interstate services where its facilities were damaged in northwest Florida until these services can be rebuilt as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Terri L. Hoskins

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December 11, 2018
ATTACHMENT A
Hurricane Michael Impacted Area
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Areas out of service in cross hatch