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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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April 3, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Second Informational Amendment to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's Comparably Efficient Interconnection Plan for the Provision of Payment Processing Services (CC Docket Nos. 85-229, 90-623, and 95-20)

Dear Mr. Caton:

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT") hereby amends its Comparably Efficient Interconnection ("CEI") Plan for its Payment Processing Service ("PPS") that was subsequently approved by the Bureau's October 31, 1995, Order, DA 95-2264. One Informational Amendment has since been filed and approved.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this Amendment is to inform the Bureau of a minor change in the way that SWBT offers PPS. As described in the CEI Plan, SWBT's PPS offering provides for the electronic collection of other companies' (e.g., electric utilities) customer bill payments by SWBT payment agents. At the time the plan was approved, all calls to and from each personal computer at the payment agents' locations, the transmission of other companies' bill payment files to SWBT's central processor, and the other companies' call to the SWBT central processor, all were transmitted over Value Added Network (VAN) facilities selected by the customer. Thus, SWBT had no involvement in providing any of the basic transmission facilities used in the provision of PPS. This will still be true, although SWBT will now provide two basic call forwarding services.

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<sup>1</sup> See First Informational Amendment to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's CEI Plan for Payment Processing Service (PPS) filed August 3, 1995. (CC Docket Nos. 85-229, 90-623 and 95-20)

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Instead of using a VAN, all calls to and from each personal computer at the payment agents' locations will be made via a 1-800 number that is remote call forwarded from the utility company's line in Houston via SWBT's Call Forwarding Variable service to SWBT's central processor (see attached diagram). The Call Forwarding service and SWBT's central processor are both located within the same LATA in Houston. Simultaneous Call Forwarding will also be used by the utility in conjunction with Call Forwarding Variable service for the purpose of permitting numerous simultaneous calls to forward from the 1-800 number to the call forwarded number. The 1-800 number is provided by the long distance carrier of the end user's choice. The 1-800 number is also used by other companies to retrieve their payment data from the SWBT central processor. Again, the 1-800 number call is remote call forwarded from the utility company's line in Houston via SWBT's Call Forwarding Variable Services to the SWBT central processor where the payment data of the calling company is retrieved. Thus SWBT still has no involvement whatsoever in providing any of the basic transmission facilities used in the provision of PPS. Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding services are used to facilitate the transmission of bill payment data to SWBT's central processor. Both Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding are Complementary Network Services (CNSs) because they work on the end user's line in Houston and are the end users' services. They are already in SWBT's Open Network Architecture (ONA) Plan that was filed with the Commission on January 25, 1988<sup>2</sup> and subsequently approved on December 22, 1988.<sup>3</sup>

The same nonstructural safeguards outlined in SWBT's PPS CEI Plan applies fully to SWBT's general, non-discriminatory provision of the Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding CNSs. SWBT has been offering Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding since the date its ONA Plan was filed and there have never been any formal or informal complaints about the manner in which SWBT has provided this service.

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See In the Matter of Filing and Review of Open Network Architecture Plans (CC Docket No. 88-2, Phase I), Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's Open Network Architecture Plan filed on January 25, 1988, pp. 24-26 and 65-71.

3

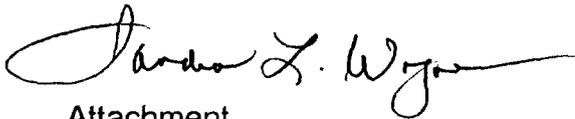
See In the Matter of Filing and Review of Open Network Architecture Plans (CC Docket No. 88-2, Phase I), Memorandum Opinion and Order, Released December 22, 1988.

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This minor amendment to SWBT's approved PPS CEI Plan presents no concerns regarding the Commission's nondiscrimination and pro-competitive Computer III goals. Therefore, unless SWBT is informed otherwise, in accordance with the Commission's prior practice on such matters, we will assume that this amendment is deemed approved 14 days from the date of this letter.<sup>4</sup>

Should you have any questions, please contact me on 326-8860.

Sincerely,



Attachment

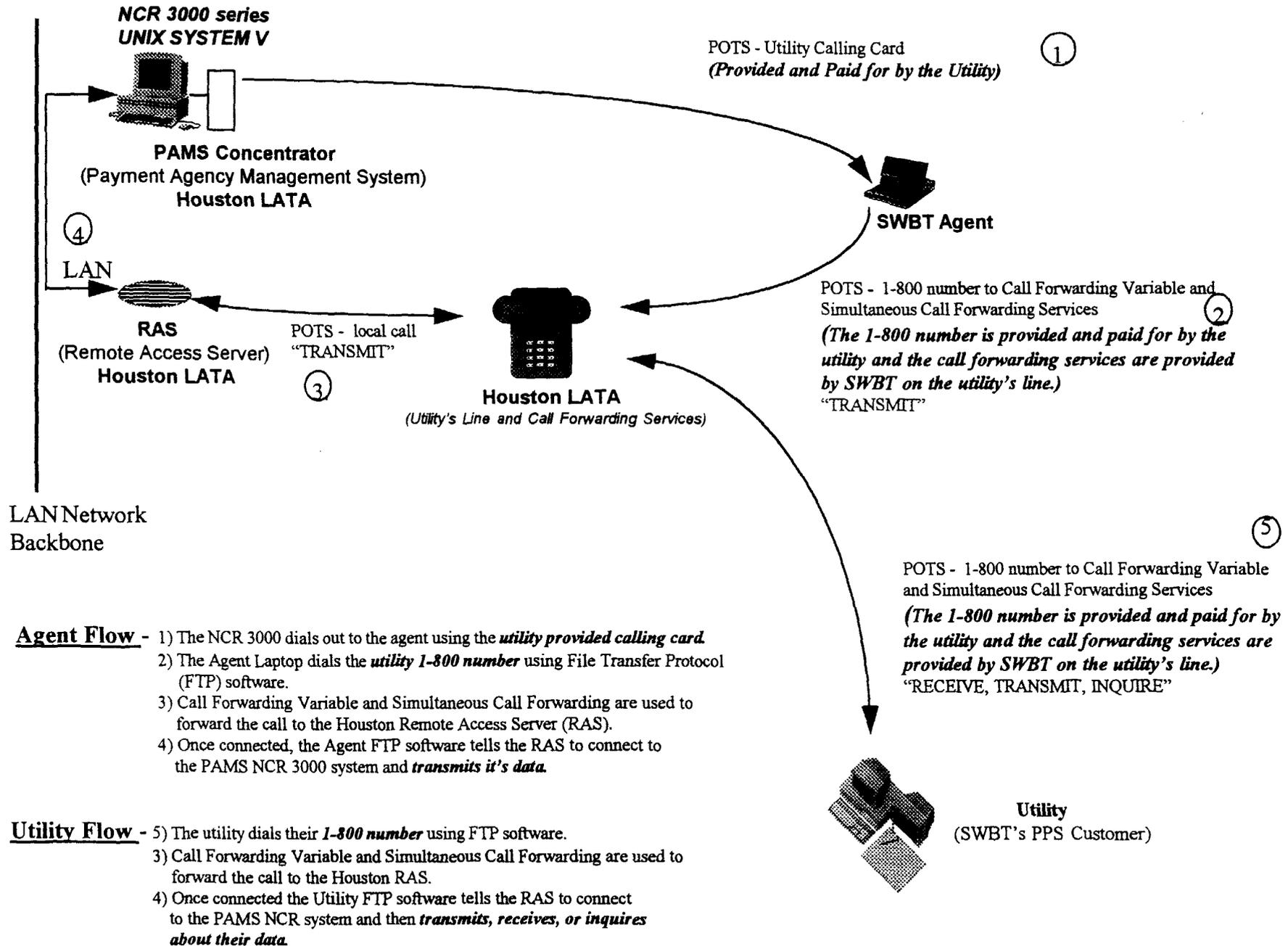
cc: Rose Crellin

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In the Bureau's January 11, 1995, Memorandum Opinion and Order granting the BOC's Joint Contingency Petition for Interim Waiver of the Computer II Rules (DA 95-36), the Bureau noted that minor amendments to CEI plans are generally deemed approved after 14 days of filing with the Bureau unless problems are identified by the staff.

## SWBT's Payment Processing Service



- Agent Flow** -
- 1) The NCR 3000 dials out to the agent using the *utility provided calling card*.
  - 2) The Agent Laptop dials the *utility 1-800 number* using File Transfer Protocol (FTP) software.
  - 3) Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding are used to forward the call to the Houston Remote Access Server (RAS).
  - 4) Once connected, the Agent FTP software tells the RAS to connect to the PAMS NCR 3000 system and *transmits its data*.

- Utility Flow** -
- 5) The utility dials their *1-800 number* using FTP software.
  - 3) Call Forwarding Variable and Simultaneous Call Forwarding are used to forward the call to the Houston RAS.
  - 4) Once connected the Utility FTP software tells the RAS to connect to the PAMS NCR system and then *transmits, receives, or inquires about their data*.