

resolution, and penalties. Both e.spire and Cox suggested in their Reply to Staff's Initial Recommendation that Staff recommend a procedural schedule for the workshops. Staff agrees with these suggestions. Accordingly, Staff recommends that a detailed telephone Status Conference be held on September 15, 1998 to address scheduling of workshops, timing of studies that need to be undertaken, and further details of the issues that need to be addressed. Also, Staff recommends that a workshop schedule be established as follows:

- ☞ October - address issues of disaggregation and clarification of performance measurements;
- ☞ November - address statistical testing;
- ☞ December - address retail analogs;
- ☞ January - address enforcement and dispute resolution;
- ☞ February - address any remaining issues not resolved or completed in earlier workshops; and
- ☞ March - Staff will issue its Recommendation on issues agreed to by the Parties and any issues that require resolution by the Commission.

The dates for the above workshops should be decided at the Status Conference to be held on September 15, 1998.

## **XI. CONCLUSION**

Staff agrees with the Parties that development of performance standards for BellSouth is essential to the development of local competition in the State of Louisiana. Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the performance measurements and procedures for analyzing and monitoring these measurements as set forth herein and as attached in Exhibit A. In addition, as

recommended by BellSouth, where additional analyses, studies, and refinement is required to fine-tune the process, Staff recommends that the Commission order the parties to continue with additional workshops and to work towards a mutually agreeable solution to the outstanding issues. After six months and additional workshops, Staff proposes to issue a subsequent recommendation indicating the results of the workshops and, where disputes are still at issue, advise the Commission of its alternatives and recommend solutions for final resolution of the issues.