

Vinson & Elkins

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

VINSON & ELKINS L.P.
THE WILLARD OFFICE BUILDING
1455 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-1008

TELEPHONE (202) 639-6100
FAX (202) 639-6500

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

OCT - 6 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WRITER'S TELEPHONE

(202) 639-6722

October 6, 1998

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Aliant Communications Co.
CC Docket No. 96-45 and 97-160

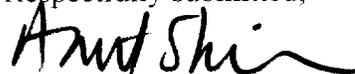
Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of Aliant Communications Co. ("Aliant"), enclosed you will find the data requested in the Common Carrier Bureau's recent Order in the above-captioned proceeding. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, DA 98-1576, Order (Aug. 7, 1998)*. In accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bureau's Order, Aliant is submitting the information as follows:

Secretary's Office	original 1 paper copy 1 electronic copy
Sheryl Todd	2 paper copies 2 electronic copies
ITS	1 paper copy 1 electronic copy

Any questions regarding this material should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Albert Shuldiner
Counsel for Aliant Communications Co.

cc: Sheryl Todd
ITS

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

Approved by OMB

3060-0842

Expires 02/28/1999

Estimated Average Burden Per Response: 250 Hours

Notice to Individuals: Pursuant to Congress's directive in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that the Commission establish support mechanisms to ensure the delivery of affordable telecommunication service to all Americans, the Commission determined on May 8, 1997 that universal service support for rural, insular, and high cost areas should be based on forward-looking economic costs. As part of the forward-looking economic cost methodology, the Commission determined that it would select two revenue benchmarks to calculate the amount of federal universal service support that eligible non rural carriers should receive. The data request solicits information from non-rural local exchange carriers to calculate the revenue benchmarks that will determine the level of universal service support. Your response is mandatory. 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91 and 0.291.

This data request will be used to assist the Commission in implementing the forward-looking economic cost methodology used to estimate the amount of universal service support that will be provided to eligible non-rural carriers beginning July 1, 1999.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. The control number assigned to this collection is 3060-0842.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, 250 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the instructions, look through existing records, gather and maintain the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write the Federal Communications Commission, AMD-PERM, Washington, D.C. 20554, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0842). We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to jboley@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED RESPONSES TO THIS ADDRESS.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have been designated by the Company to attest to the accuracy of the information contained herein and that I have examined the foregoing and that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained in this report are an accurate statement of the affairs of the respondent with respect to the data and information set forth herein.

Printed Name: Kenton Radebaugh

Telephone Number: 402-436-4258

Position: Senior Economic Cost Analyst

Holding Company and Code: Aliant Com. Co. 371568 Study Area and Code: Aliant Com. Co. 371568

Signature: 

Date: October 6, 1998

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

REVENUE BENCHMARK DATA REQUEST

We seek the following data to assist the Commission in developing residential and business revenue benchmarks for the federal methodology adopted in the *Universal Service Order* of May 8, 1997, that will help determine the level of high cost support non-rural carriers will receive beginning July 1, 1999. Because of the importance of the requested information in developing the revenue benchmarks, we ask that you perform a special study, in certain instances, if such a study is necessary to provide the specified information.

In Charts 1, 4, and 5 below, we ask for information about charges on the bills of your residential, single-line business, and multi-line business subscribers. Chart 1 asks for information for 1996, 1997, and the first quarter of 1998, broken down first by class of customer (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business), and then aggregated for all subscribers. Charts 4 and 5 ask for information only for the month of July 1998. In Charts 2 and 3, we ask for information about your interstate and intrastate switched access revenues for the month of July 1998.

Instructions:

- (1) Please use a different set of charts for each of your study areas.
- (2) Please note that we seek, whenever possible, only the revenues that you have billed, not the revenues that you have collected. Please indicate, in a footnote, if totals reflect booked, rather than billed, revenues.
- (3) Please note that we ask for total revenues from local service bills, including taxes and surcharges. If you do not include taxes in the calculation of total revenues from local service bills, do not include taxes in the total revenues from taxes and surcharges. Please indicate, in a footnote, if taxes are not included in the totals.
- (4) If you use footnotes, please explain the footnotes and identify the appropriate row and column on the page provided at the end of this document.
- (5) Please pay close attention to how we have defined terms, and contact Katie King or Bob Loube at 202-418-7400 if you have questions.
- (6) Please fill in only the shaded cells. Do not move or create cells, rows, or columns.
- (7) Note that some cells may be formatted to accept only responses provided in a certain format. Please comply with these constraints and do not adjust the formatting. **Unless otherwise specified, please enter numbers in thousands.** For example, please indicate five thousand dollars by entering only "5," rather than "5000." Do not include dollar signs, which will be added automatically, or digits after the decimal place, which will not be accepted in the cells. **Some cell headings, such as those for numbers of bills in Charts 4 and 5, will specify that whole numbers with all necessary digits should be entered.**
- (8) Note that we require you to file both paper and electronic copies of the completed spreadsheets. The paper copies must be signed on the previous page by an authorized representative of the company. Please see the filing procedures in the Order, DA-98-xxx, at paragraphs 7-12.
- (9) Responses to this data request are due **October 6, 1998.**

If you believe that your data should be withheld from the public file, please note that you must submit a request for confidential treatment of your data, consistent with section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, that includes your reasons for withholding your data, and facts upon which those reasons are based. 47 C.F.R. §47.0.459. Labeling disks or papers "Confidential" is not sufficient to request that your data be treated as confidential. Please see the

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 1: SUBSCRIBER BILLS -- DATA FOR 1996, 1997, and the 1st Quarter of 1998

Please provide the following data:

For each class of subscribers bills (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business), please provide the total annual revenues for the years 1996 and 1997, and total quarterly revenues for the first quarter of 1998 received from the following sources: **local service bills** (including taxes and surcharges), as defined below; taxes and surcharges (separated out from local service bills); **intraLATA (or equivalent) toll charges for services provided by your company or an affiliate**; the total number of subscriber bills, and the average number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is charged. If taxes are not included in the total revenues from local service bills, do not include taxes in the total revenues from taxes and surcharges, and please indicate in a footnote and a separate document that taxes are not included in the totals. Please indicate, in a footnote, if totals reflect booked, rather than billed, revenues, and include a separate document indicating the revenues for which booked, rather than billed, revenues are provided.

A **local service bill** includes flat or recurring monthly charges, extended area service (EAS) charges, local usage charges (message and minute), local mileage and zone charges, federal and state subscriber line charges (SLCs), 911 charges, state universal service charges, and telecommunications relay services (TRS) charges, other mandatory charges, taxes and surcharges, second line charges, and charges for discretionary services. Please exclude from a local service bill charges carried over from previous months, connection charges, special construction charges, and deposits. Discretionary services include services such as touch-tone, call-forwarding, caller ID, and other CLASS features, and exclude non-regulated services such as voice-mail, inside wiring, and yellow page ads.

For **Column B**, please calculate the average number of switched lines by taking the average of the following: the number of switched lines served for the class of subscribers on **December 31, 1995, March 31, 1996, June 30, 1996, September 30, 1996, and December 31, 1996**.

For **Column C**, please calculate the average number of switched lines in the same manner.

For **Column D**, please calculate the average number of switched lines by taking the average of the following: the number of switched lines served for the class of subscribers on **December 31, 1997** and the last day of each month in the first quarter of 1998.

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

A		B	C	D
Residential subscriber bills		1996	1997	1st Q 1998
1	Total revenues from local service bills	\$37,954	\$43,694	\$13,786
2	Total revenues from taxes and surcharges	\$9,359	\$9,410	\$2,755
3	Total revenues from intraLATA toll charges	\$8,788	\$8,133	\$2,218
4	Total number of local service bills	1,623	1,578	439
5	Average number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is charged	183	186	189
A		B	C	D
Single-line business subscriber bills		1996	1997	1st Q 1998
6	Total revenues from local service bills	\$29,071	\$31,210	\$5,704
7	Total revenues from taxes and surcharges	\$4,523	\$4,319	\$822
8	Total revenues from intraLATA toll charges	\$2,731	\$2,277	\$427
9	Total number of local service bills	784	724	131
10	Average number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is charged	46	48	49
A		B	C	D
Multi-line business subscriber bills		1996	1997	1st Q 1998
11	Total revenues from local service bills	\$13,728	\$14,267	\$4,278
12	Total revenues from taxes and surcharges	\$1,718	\$1,697	\$534
13	Total revenues from intraLATA toll charges	\$356	\$434	\$199
14	Total number of local service bills	297	285	85
15	Average number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is charged	30	33	36
A		B	C	D
All subscriber bills		1996	1997	1st Q 1998
16	Total revenues from local service bills	\$80,754	\$89,171	\$23,769
17	Total revenues from taxes and surcharges	\$15,598	\$15,426	\$4,111
18	Total revenues from intraLATA toll charges	\$11,876	\$10,844	\$2,844
19	Total number of local service bills	2,704	2,587	655
20	Average number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is charged	258	268	274

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 2: INTERSTATE SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUES FOR JULY 1998

For each class of customer (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business), please provide total **interstate** switched access revenues for **July 1998** received through: flat-rated charges to interexchange carriers based on the number of presubscribed lines, i.e., presubscribed interexchange carrier charges (PICCs); per-minute charges, including common line, switching and transport charges that are recovered on the basis of a per-minute charge; and per-call charges. In addition, please provide the total interstate access revenues for July 1998 received through flat-rated carrier-to-carrier charges.

For **July 1998**, please undertake a special study, if necessary, to determine the total number of **interstate** switched originating and terminating access minutes. In addition to total interstate switched access minutes, determine the number of such minutes originated and terminated by each class of customer (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business). Also, please include the average number of residential, single-line business and multi-line business switched lines in service during the study period, where the average is calculated by taking the simple average of the number of lines in service at the beginning of the study period and the number of lines in service at the end of the period.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
		Residential revenues	Single-line business revenues	Multi-line business revenues	Total revenues	Total calls or minutes
21	Flat-rated charges to IXCs based on number of presubscribed lines	\$112	\$4	\$129	\$245	
22	Per-minute charges	\$611	\$54	\$297	\$962	62,815
23	Per-call charges	\$20	\$6	\$26	\$52	5,661
24	Other IXC carrier-to-carrier flat-rated charges (excluding special access and IXC flat-rated charges based on number of presubscribed				\$74	
			Residential minutes or lines	Single-line business minutes or lines	Multi-line business minutes or lines	Total minutes
25	Originating Minutes		20,121	2,041	10,453	32,614
26	Terminating Minutes		18,599	1,102	10,498	30,200
27	Average Lines In Service		190	32	59	

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 3: INTRASTATE SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUES FOR JULY 1998

For each class of customer (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business), please provide total **intrastate** switched access revenues for **July 1998** received through: flat-rated charges to interexchange carriers based on the number of presubscribed lines, such as, presubscribed interexchange carrier charges (PICCs); per-minute charges, including common line, switching and transport charges that are recovered on the basis of a per-minute charge; and per-call charges. In addition, please provide the total intrastate access revenues for July 1998 received through flat-rated carrier-to-carrier charges.

For **July 1998**, please undertake a special study, if necessary, to determine total number of **intrastate** switched originating and terminating access minutes. In addition to total intrastate switched access minutes, determine the number of such minutes originated and terminated by each class of customer (residential, single-line business, and multi-line business). Also, please include the average number of residential, single-line business and multi-line business switched lines in service during the study period, where the average is calculated by taking the simple average of the number of lines in service at the beginning of the study period and the number of lines in service at the end of the period.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
		Residential revenues	Single-line business revenues	Multi-line business revenues	Total revenues	Total calls or minutes
28	Flat-rated charges to IXCs based on number of presubscribed lines	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
29	Per-minute charges	\$877	\$69	\$444	\$1,390	25,319
30	Per-call charges	\$6	\$2	\$8	\$16	1,625
31	(excluding special access and IXC flat-rated charges based on number of presubscribed lines)				\$52	
			Residential minutes or lines	Single-line business minutes or lines	Multi-line business minutes or lines	Total minutes
32	Originating Minutes		9,178	795	4,437	14,410
33	Terminating Minutes		6,710	400	3,768	10,909
34	Average Lines In Service		190	32	59	

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 4: SUBSCRIBER BILLS -- LOCAL SERVICE REVENUES FOR JULY 1998

For **July 1998**, please determine the category into which each **residential, single-line business, and multi-line business subscriber bill** falls based on the total local service charges on that subscriber bill. The **categories** specified in **Column A** correspond to the dollar amount for one local service bill. Please note that the dollar amount categories in **Column A** for multi-line business service bills are increased by a factor of ten.

A **local service bill** includes flat or recurring monthly charges, extended area service (EAS) charges, local usage charges (message and minute), local mileage and zone charges, federal and state subscriber line charges (SLCs), 911 charges, state universal service charges, and telecommunications relay services (TRS) charges, other mandatory charges, taxes and surcharges, second line charges, and charges for discretionary services. Please exclude from a local service bill charges carried over from previous months, connection charges, special construction charges, and deposits. **Discretionary services** include services such as touch-tone, call-waiting, call-forwarding, caller-ID, and other CLASS features, and exclude non-regulated services such as voice-mail, inside wiring, and yellow page ads.

In **Column B**, please specify the total number of residential subscriber bills in each category.

In **Column C**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from flat monthly charges, extended area service charges, local usage charges, local mileage and zone charges, Federal and State SLCs, and second line charges.

In **Column D**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from discretionary charges such as touch-tone, call-waiting, call-forwarding, caller ID, and other CLASS features. Please exclude charges for non-regulated services such as voice-mail, inside wiring, and yellow page ads.

In **Column E**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from taxes, surcharges, and other mandatory charges such as 911 charges, state universal service charges, and TRS charges. If taxes are not included in column F, do not include taxes in **Column E**, please indicate in a footnote and in a separate document that taxes are not included in the totals.

In **Column F**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from local service charges (i.e., sum of columns C, D and E).

In **Column G**, please specify the total number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is collected for all residential subscriber bills in each category.

In **Column H**, please specify the total number of switched party lines for all residential subscriber bills in each category.

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 4a. RESIDENTIAL SUBSCRIBER BILLS							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Local service bill	Number of local service bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from flat-rate SLCs, 2nd lines, FAS, etc.	Total revenues from discretionary charges	Total revenues from taxes, surcharges, etc.	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged	Number of party lines (in whole numbers)
35	Less than \$ 10.00	1,202	2	1	1	3	0
36	Greater than or equal to \$ 10.00 but less than \$ 20.00	2,090	28	2	5	35	1
37	Greater than or equal to \$ 20.00 but less than \$ 30.00	105,456	2,224	85	358	2,667	105
38	Greater than or equal to \$ 30.00 but less than \$ 40.00	42,822	999	258	198	1,455	43
39	Greater than or equal to \$ 40.00 but less than \$ 50.00	10,750	343	72	64	479	12
40	Greater than or equal to \$ 50.00 and less than \$ 100.00	14,418	674	107	115	895	24
41	Greater than or equal to \$100.00	622	63	8	9	79	1
42	Total	177,360	4,333	532	749	5,615	186
CHART 4b. SINGLE-LINE BUSINESS SUBSCRIBER BILLS							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Local service bill	Number of local service bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from flat-rate SLCs, 2nd lines, FAS, etc.	Total revenues from discretionary charges	Total revenues from taxes, surcharges, etc.	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged	
43	Less than \$ 10.00	249	0	0	0	0	
44	Greater than or equal to \$ 10.00 but less than \$ 20.00	30	0	0	0	0	
45	Greater than or equal to \$ 20.00 but less than \$ 30.00	485	4	7	2	13	
46	Greater than or equal to \$ 30.00 but less than \$ 40.00	954	31	0	3	35	
47	Greater than or equal to \$ 40.00 but less than \$ 50.00	5,398	204	8	29	240	
48	Greater than or equal to \$ 50.00 and less than \$ 100.00	4,316	244	23	36	303	
49	Greater than or equal to \$100.00	5,798	1,357	105	178	1,640	
50	Total	17,230	1,840	143	248	2,231	

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 4c. MULTI-LINE BUSINESS SUBSCRIBER BILLS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Local service bill	Number of local service bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from flat-rate, SLCs, 2nd lines, FAS, etc	Total revenues from discretionary charges	Total revenues from taxes, surcharges, etc	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged
51	Less than \$ 100.00	8,554	195	3	3	201	9
52	Greater than or equal to \$ 100.00 but less than \$ 200.00	585	78	3	4	85	3
53	Greater than or equal to \$ 200.00 but less than \$ 300.00	289	64	3	4	71	2
54	Greater than or equal to \$ 300.00 but less than \$ 400.00	174	53	2	4	60	2
55	Greater than or equal to \$ 400.00 but less than \$ 500.00	104	41	2	3	46	1
56	Greater than or equal to \$ 500.00 and less than \$ 1000.00	283	176	8	17	202	6
57	Greater than or equal to \$1000.00	332	696	35	70	801	19
58	Total	10,321	1,304	58	104	1,466	43

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

CHART 5: SUBSCRIBER BILLS – LOCAL SERVICE AND INTRALATA TOLL REVENUES FOR JULY 1998

For **July 1998**, please determine the category into which each **residential, single-line business, and multi-line business subscriber bill with intraLATA (or equivalent) toll charges** falls based on the total local service and intraLATA toll charges on that subscriber bill. The **categories** specified in **Column A** correspond to the dollar amount for one local service bill with intraLATA (or equivalent) toll charges. Please note that the dollar amount categories in Column A for multi-line business data are increased by a factor of ten. For the purposes of this data request, a total bill includes a local service bill, as defined above, and **amounts charged for services provided by your company, or an affiliate, for intraLATA (or equivalent) toll services**. (Do not include amounts collected on behalf of other telephone companies).

In **Column B**, please specify the total number of residential subscriber bills in each category.

In **Column C**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from local service bills.

In **Column D**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from intraLATA (or equivalent) toll services.

In **Column E**, please specify the total revenue received from all residential subscriber bills in each category from total bills for local service and intraLATA (or equivalent) toll services (i.e., sum of column C and column D).

In **Column F**, please specify the total number of switched lines for which a federal SLC is collected for all residential subscriber bills in each category.

In **Column G**, please specify the total number of switched party lines for all residential subscriber bills in each category.

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

Chart 5a. Residential Subscriber Bills							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Total bill (for local service and intraLATA toll)	Number of bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from local service bills	Total revenues from intraLATA toll	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged	Number of party lines (in whole numbers)
59	Less than \$ 10.00	1,035	3	0	3	0	0
60	Greater than or equal to \$ 10.00 but less than \$ 20.00	1,810	28	1	30	1	0
61	Greater than or equal to \$ 20.00 but less than \$ 30.00	88,014	2,193	49	2,241	87	0
62	Greater than or equal to \$ 30.00 but less than \$ 40.00	47,917	1,516	121	1,637	48	0
63	Greater than or equal to \$ 40.00 but less than \$ 50.00	16,270	622	102	723	17	0
64	Greater than or equal to \$ 50.00 and less than \$ 100.00	20,827	1,116	208	1,324	31	0
65	Greater than or equal to \$100.00	1,487	137	54	191	2	0
66	Total	177,360	5,615	535	6,150	186	0
Chart 5b. Single-Line Business Subscriber Bills							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
	Total bill (for local service and intraLATA toll)	Number of bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from local service bills	Total revenues from intraLATA toll	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged	
67	Less than \$ 10.00	247	0	0	0	0	0
68	Greater than or equal to \$ 10.00 but less than \$ 20.00	30	0	0	0	0	0
69	Greater than or equal to \$ 20.00 but less than \$ 30.00	457	12	0	12	0	0
70	Greater than or equal to \$ 30.00 but less than \$ 40.00	862	31	0	31	1	1
71	Greater than or equal to \$ 40.00 but less than \$ 50.00	4,707	207	3	210	5	5
72	Greater than or equal to \$ 50.00 and less than \$ 100.00	4,746	306	19	324	6	6
73	Greater than or equal to \$100.00	6,181	1,675	94	1,769	28	28
74	Total	17,230	2,231	116	2,347	40	40

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

Chart 5c. Multi-Line Business Subscriber Bills						
A	B	C	D	E	F	
Total bill (for local service and intralATA toll)	Number of bills (in whole numbers)	Total revenues from local service bills	Total revenues from intralATA toll	Total revenues	Number of lines for which federal SLC is charged	
75 Less than \$ 100.00	8,489	196	4	200	9	
76 Greater than or equal to \$ 10.00 but less than \$ 20.00	599	83	5	87	3	
77 Greater than or equal to \$ 200.00 but less than \$ 300.00	302	70	4	74	2	
78 Greater than or equal to \$ 300.00 but less than \$ 400.00	182	60	3	63	2	
79 Greater than or equal to \$ 400.00 but less than \$ 500.00	107	45	3	48	1	
80 Greater than or equal to \$ 500.00 and less than \$ 1000.00	289	195	11	207	6	
81 Greater than or equal to \$1000.00	353	817	34	851	20	
82 Total	10,321	1,466	64	1,529	43	

Revenue Benchmark Data Request

Footnotes

No.	Text	Rows	Columns
1	All figures represent actual numbers rounded; therefore, rounded numbers may not equal rounded totals.	All	All
2	Chart 1 figures were derived from booked dollars. Charts 2 - 5 figures reflect actual numbers taken from billing or message tapes.	N/A	N/A
3	The following columns and row designations rounded to zero.		
	Chart	Column	Row
	Chart 4a	G	35
	Chart 4b	C	43
		C	44
		D	43
		D	44
		D	46
		E	43
		E	44
		F	43
		F	44
	Chart 5a	D	59
		F	59
	Chart 5b	C	67
		C	68
		D	67
		D	68
		D	69
		D	70
		E	67
		E	68

