

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Access Charge Reform |) | CC Docket No. 96-262 |
| |) | |
| Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers |) | CC Docket No. 94-1 |
| |) | |
| Low-Volume Long Distance Users |) | CC Docket No. 99-249 |
| |) | |
| Federal-State Joint Board On Universal Service |) | CC Docket No. 96-45 |
| |) | |

**Response of Aliant Communications Co.
To Data Request**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Commission's CALLS Order released on May 31, 2000, in the referenced proceedings, Aliant Communications Co. (Aliant) has provided to the Administrator of the interstate universal access service fund, its first set of line count data. Aliant considers these line count data to be confidential data and hereby requests that this information, as provided under separate cover to USAC, the Commission's data collection agent, be withheld from public inspection consistent with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and § 0.457 of the Commission's Rules. In this regard, attached is a "Designation of Confidential Information" form signed by an authorized representative of Aliant, certifying that the line count information provided to USAC is confidential.

The line count data in the submission to USAC consist of trade secrets and commercial or financial information that are protected by law from public disclosure. See 5 U.S.C § 552(b)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 0.457 (d). Aliant is subject to actual or potential competition throughout its service area in the local exchange and exchange access

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markets. This information would enable a competitor to target its facility construction and service marketing to Aliant areas with the highest concentrations of business and residential customers, and to identify customer volumes for marketing purposes. For these reasons, the data are highly sensitive and commercially valuable. Aliant keeps these data confidential and has not made the data publicly available. Clearly, the data are competitively-sensitive and should be withheld from public inspection.

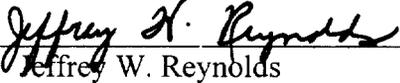
Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Carolyn C. Hill
Counsel for Aliant Communications Co.
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 720
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 783-3970

Dated: June 30, 2000

DESIGNATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

I hereby certify that the information designated as confidential in the attached response(s) to the Data Request is protected by Aliant Communications Co. as confidential or financial information:

SIGNATURE: 
Jeffrey W. Reynolds

TITLE: V.P. Access and Interconnection

ADDRESS: One Allied Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202

TELEPHONE: (501) 905-8000

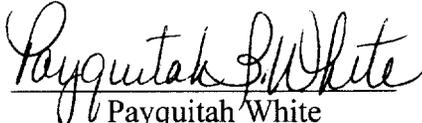
FAX: (501) 905-5087

DATE: June 30, 2000

Certificate of Service

I, Payquith White hereby certify that copies of this reply have been served on June 30, 2000, by United States mail, postage prepaid, or by hand where indicated, or by facsimile on the following:

Lawrence Strickling, Chief
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC (via hand delivery)


Payquith White