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RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 18, 2000

WRITTEN EX PARTE

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TWB-204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 98-147
CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Salas:

Attached is a copy of the document that BellSouth has sent to data CLECs that attended the Commission-sponsored roundtable on technical issues related to line-sharing on December 6, 2000. BellSouth has provided this information in compliance with the request of the FCC staff at that meeting. BellSouth has also shared copies of these documents with Jessica Rosenworcel of the Commission's Common Carrier Bureau.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(1), I am filing two copies of this notice with you and ask that you place them in the dockets identified above. If you have any questions concerning this, please call me at 202.463.4113.

Sincerely,

Kathleen B. Levitz

Kathleen B. Levitz

Attachment

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel (w/o attachment)

BellSouth
Recent Steps To Improve Line Sharing Provisioning

BellSouth continues work within the BellSouth/DLEC Line Sharing Collaborative to improve both BellSouth's and DLEC's processes for line sharing. The following improvements were reported to the Collaborative this Wednesday and Thursday. The participants at the meetings agreed that these steps would improve line sharing provisioning. This report also meets the commitment that BellSouth made during the December 6, 2000 Line Sharing Round Table in Washington, D.C.

CLEC Dispatch Before Splitter Is Installed

Several CLECs indicated at the December 6 Round Table they were experiencing a problem of dispatching only to find the ILEC had not installed the splitter. BellSouth previously developed and introduced their "DLEC TAFI", specifically for line sharing DLECs. DLEC TAFI allows CLECs access to BellSouth's TAFI system where DLECs may report troubles, check status of troubles, establish vendor meets, etc. DLEC TAFI also allows DLECs to run mechanized loop testing (MLT) on loops they share with BellSouth. BellSouth is in the process of enhancing their MLT to show the "splitter signature" for ANSI T1.413-1998 compliant splitters. The splitters that BellSouth is deploying are ANSI T1.413 compliant. CLECs can run an MLT prior to dispatch and avoid dispatches when the splitter is not installed.

BellSouth expects to add this capability to MLT prior to December 31, 2000.

Verification That The Data Portion of Loop Is Wired

There was much discussion at the December 6, 2000 Line Sharing Round Table Meeting concerning ILECs performing "sync tests" for CLECs. BellSouth believes it is important to verify that all wiring is correct, including the data portion. BellSouth recently completed work with a supplier who developed a test set that will help to verify that the data portion is wired correctly.

This device is called a Line Sharing Verification Transmitter (LSVT). The LSVT accomplishes this task by inserting a 100 kHz "data-like" signal, modulated with a wavering 1 kHz tone, at the MDF protection frame. (This test is unobtrusive to the voice customer.) This signal travels over the CO wiring and, at the CLEC cable and pair frame appearance, a butt set is used in conjunction with a small demodulator box to hear the wavering 1 kHz tone. If this tone is heard, the CLEC's data signal is correctly wired to the splitter in the LS circuit.

BellSouth expects to receive the first shipment of LSVTs prior to December 31, 2000. BellSouth plans to have an LSVT in every office equipped for line sharing. Procedures are being modified that include the LSVT as a part of the standard installation procedures for end user line sharing service.