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EX PARTE – Filed Electronically

Ms. Magalie Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 01-277

Dear Ms. Salas:

BellSouth believes that its joint application to provide long distance service in Georgia and Louisiana is the strongest overall application filed with the FCC. The undisputed record in this proceeding shows significantly more competition in Georgia than existed in any previous application. In addition, the level of local competition in Louisiana compares very favorably with other approved states. We also believe that the application demonstrates that we have fully satisfied the competitive checklist.

The Commission's Staff has raised concerns regarding five areas of the application. We understand these concerns generally arise from a belief that commenting parties have not had an adequate opportunity to evaluate and respond to evidence that has been submitted on these issues. We understand the Staff's concerns to be: (1) the timeliness of evidence demonstrating that competing carriers could integrate or have successfully integrated pre-ordering and ordering functionality; (2) BellSouth's performance on service order accuracy; (3) the accuracy of certain performance data; (4) the timeliness of evidence on the "double FOC" performance issue related to the due date calculator; and (5) the timeliness of evidence related to the allocation of resources in the Change Control Process. To address these concerns, BellSouth provides this notice that it is withdrawing its joint application and will shortly file to initiate a new application.

Consistent with the procedures followed in similar 271 proceedings, BellSouth will request that the Commission incorporate the existing record in our new application, and we will file additional evidence on the issues described above. This will provide all

interested parties an added opportunity to comment on the entirety of the record on these issues, and allow the Commission to grant the application expeditiously, providing consumers of Georgia and Louisiana the long-awaited benefits of the added competition associated with BellSouth's long distance entry.

I am filing two copies of this notice in the docket identified above, as required by Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules and request that you associate this notice with the record of that proceeding. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James G. Harralson

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Marsha MacBride
Kyle Dixon
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Matthew Brill
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Jordan Goldstein
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Monica Shah Desai
Dorothy Attwood
Jeffrey Carlisle
Michelle Carey
Kathy Farroba
Daniel Shiman
Jessica Rosenworcel
Susan Pié
James Davis-Smith