



**BEFORE THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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**In the Matter of the Review of                    )**  
**Unbundled Network Elements Rates        )**     **Docket No. TO00060356**  
**Terms and Conditions of BA-NJ            )**

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**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF  
MICHAEL R. BARANOWSKI  
ON BEHALF OF  
AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF NJ, L.P.**

**OCTOBER 12, 2000**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2

3 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

4 A. My name is Michael R. Baranowski. I am Executive Vice President of FTI/Klick,  
5 Kent & Allen, Inc., a subsidiary of FTI Consulting, Inc. ("FTI/KKA"). FTI/KKA  
6 is an economic and financial consulting firm with offices at 66 Canal Center  
7 Plaza, Suite 670, Alexandria VA, 22314.

8

9 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.**

10 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Fairfield University  
11 in 1980.

12

13 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

14

15 A. After graduation from Fairfield University, I joined the consulting firm of Wyer,  
16 Dick and Company in Livingston, New Jersey. Since that time, I have been  
17 continuously involved in cost analyses, including analyses of short-run and long-  
18 run marginal costs, short-run and long-run incremental costs, and stand-alone  
19 costs for a variety of industries. These studies often employ complex, computer-  
20 driven models that rely upon detailed engineering input data and sophisticated  
21 discounted cash flow techniques. The results of many of these studies have been  
22 submitted in administrative proceedings, in court, and in arbitrations. Since 1996,  
23 I have been assisting AT&T and other CLECs in analyzing cost evidence  
24 submitted in various proceedings arising out of the Telecommunications Act of  
25 1996.

26

1 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RECENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
2 **EXPERIENCE THAT IS RELEVANT TO THIS PROCEEDING.**

3  
4 A. I have been either directly or indirectly involved in the presentation of forward-  
5 looking economic costs for unbundled network elements (“UNEs”) in a number  
6 of jurisdictions, including Colorado, the District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa,  
7 Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North  
8 Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. We have  
9 participated in Universal Service Fund proceedings in Alabama, Colorado,  
10 Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, South  
11 Carolina, and Washington. I also have been either directly or indirectly involved  
12 in critiques of cost studies submitted by Bell Atlantic in Delaware, the District of  
13 Columbia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West  
14 Virginia. I also have been either directly or indirectly involved in critiques of cost  
15 studies presented by GTE in California, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New  
16 Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Washington, submitted testimony in Texas on  
17 Southwestern Bell’s cost studies, and critiques of the Benchmark Cost Proxy  
18 Model (“BCPM”) in numerous states. Finally, I have assisted AT&T and MCI in  
19 developing a methodology to be used to determine forward-looking costs for  
20 collocation, and submitted testimony on the AT&T/MCI Collocation Cost Model  
21 in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New  
22 York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. I was also personally  
23 involved on behalf of both AT&T and MCI/Worldcom in the initial New Jersey  
24 UNE proceeding. I am intimately familiar with both the cost studies submitted by

1 BA-NJ in that proceeding and the changes to those studies order by the Board of  
2 Public Utilities.

3 I also have had relevant experience in other “network industries,”  
4 including the railroad, pipeline and trucking industries.

5 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

6 A. AT&T Communications of NJ, L.P. (“AT&T”) has asked me to respond to certain  
7 issues raised by Verizon–New Jersey (“VNJ”) witnesses Marsha S. Prosini and  
8 Donald E. Albert. Specifically, I was instructed to review the updated Unbundled  
9 Network Element (“UNE”) cost studies sponsored by Ms. Prosini and supported  
10 by Mr. Albert, to explain any significant deficiencies in the inputs and other  
11 assumptions underlying those studies, and, where possible and practical, to restate  
12 the study results by substituting more defensible input assumptions.

13 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.**

14  
15 A. VNJ has updated its cost studies in a manner that, on the surface appears  
16 reasonable. However, as the details of the update methodology emerge, it  
17 becomes clear that VNJ has selectively updated its studies by devising new  
18 techniques to cost certain elements, yielding unit costs significantly higher than  
19 those in its initial UNE submission and by continuing to base its forward-looking  
20 vision on its existing embedded network. As a result, the VNJ cost studies are  
21 internally inconsistent and, more importantly, overstate costs.

22 In addition, VNJ has abandoned a key forward-looking assumption from  
23 its initial UNE filing: the use of next generation digital loop carrier (“NGDLC”)  
24 for all loops exceeding the copper/fiber breakpoint. VNJ now asserts that the

1 majority of digital loop carrier equipment in the forward-looking environment  
2 will be less efficient and more expensive universal digital loop carrier equipment.

3  
4 **Q. CAN YOU PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE UPDATED VNJ**  
5 **COST STUDIES ARE INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT?**

6  
7 A. Yes. One good example is line counts. VNJ has updated the number of working  
8 lines per wire center for its calculations of switching and digital loop carrier costs,  
9 but continues to use line counts from 1995 for its loop cost calculations. This  
10 produces a mismatch between the telephone switching network and the outside  
11 plant the switches are designed to serve, thereby impeaching the integrity of the  
12 VNJ cost models.

13  
14 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER INCONSISTENCIES IN THE NEW VNJ STUDIES?**

15  
16 A. Yes. VNJ is proposing a host of new charges, recurring and non-recurring,  
17 relating to items that do not exist in the forward-looking environment. For  
18 example, VNJ is proposing non-recurring charges for the removal of load coils.  
19 As Mr. Walsh explains in his testimony, a non-recurring charge for removal of  
20 load coils turns TELRIC on its head. Investments in the forward-looking network  
21 have been increased to ensure that the facility will be capable of handling  
22 transmission without the use of load coils. The most visible of the design  
23 specifications is VNJ cap on copper distribution length of 6,000 feet. Combined  
24 with a fiber/copper breakpoint of 7,000 to 9,000 feet, these specifications provide  
25 sufficient investment to ensure that load coils will not be needed. VNJ's proposal  
26 to charge for the removal of load coils is like charging a customer the monthly  
27 cost of a new Cadillac and then charging that same customer for the removal of

1 the 8-track tape player and installation of a new compact disk player in the old  
2 Cadillac the customer will be forced to use.

3  
4 Q. HAVE YOU CORRECTED ALL OF THE DEFICIENCIES YOU IDENTIFIED  
5 IN THE VNJ STUDIES?  
6

7 A. No. Time did not permit such a thorough correction and restatement. Further,  
8 because of the internal inconsistencies in the updated VNJ studies, a complete  
9 correction is virtually impossible. I therefore focused on the major correctable  
10 deficiencies in the updated VNJ studies. In doing so, I was able to restate the  
11 VNJ costs underlying its proposed rates for two-wire loops, switch usage and  
12 ports to make them more TELRIC compliant. The results of my restatement are  
13 summarized in Table 1.

14 Table 1  
15 Summary of Restated VNJ Loop and Switch Costs

UNE	VNJ Updated	VNJ Updated Restated
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 1	\$13.54	\$5.41
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 2	\$16.43	\$6.35
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 3	\$18.67	\$7.11
2-Wire Loop – Statewide	\$16.18	\$6.28
Switch Usage – Originating	\$0.010059	\$0.002378
Switch Usage – Terminating	\$0.008553	\$0.002035
POTS Port	\$2.79	\$0.93

16

1 **II. RESTATEMENT OF VNJ'S LOOP COST STUDY**

2  
3 **Q. HAS VNJ CHANGED THE FORWARD-LOOKING DESIGN OF THE**  
4 **NETWORK IN ITS UPDATED STUDY?**

5  
6 A. Yes. VNJ has abandoned the fundamental construct of its own purported  
7 forward-looking network by repudiating its prior admission that the forward-  
8 looking loop design incorporates integrated digital loop carrier.

9 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

10 A. In its UNE I cost submission in 1997, BA-NJ designed its forward-looking  
11 network using Next Generation Digital Loop Carrier ("NGDLC"), a Synchronous  
12 Optical Network ("SONET") based system using GR303. Although at the time  
13 NGDLC was not widely deployed in the BA-NJ network, BA-NJ witness Edward  
14 Wylonis acknowledged that GR303 had already become the forward-looking  
15 standard. For pricing of NGDLC, BA-NJ used costs for DLC equipment that  
16 were at the mid-point between UDLC and IDLC. As Mr. Wylonis explained:

17  
18 Integrated Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) is assumed for the  
19 long run despite the fact that no current integrated system is  
20 technically able to be unbundled. Only the Universal DLC  
21 currently is able to be unbundled. For the long run it is  
22 expected that an integrated system will be able to be  
23 unbundled and the costs assumed are to be higher than  
24 current integrated systems but lower than current universal  
25 systems, midway between the costs of the two types of  
26 systems.

27  
28 In VNJ's supposedly updated cost study filed on July 28, 2000, however, its cost  
29 witness, Ms. Prosini, has jettisoned Mr. Wylonis's forward-looking assumption  
30 by assuming a network provisioned with only 10% GR303. Ms. Prosini's

1 rationale is that VNJ anticipates that 10 percent of its *embedded network* will be  
2 provisioned with GR303 in the near future.

3  
4 **Q. DOES VNJ'S DEPLOYMENT TIMETABLE FOR GR303 IN VNJ'S**  
5 **SERVICE TERRITORY DEFINE THE RELEVANT STANDARD FOR**  
6 **DESIGN OF A FORWARD-LOOKING COST STUDY?**

7  
8 A. Not at all. Bell Atlantic's current plans for deployment of GR303 deployment in  
9 the carrier's embedded network has no bearing on the proper design of the  
10 forward-looking network. Under TELRIC, costs are based on the design and  
11 construction of the most efficient network design that could be deployed today,  
12 using the best technology available on the market. As Mr. Wylonis recognized,  
13 the appropriate technology assumption for digital loop carrier design is NGDLC.  
14 Ms. Prosini's design, which uses less efficient and significantly more costly  
15 universal digital loop carrier equipment and thus overstates costs, is clearly not  
16 forward looking in any relevant sense.

17 **Q. HOW SHOULD THIS ASPECT OF THE VNJ COST STUDY BE**  
18 **CORRECTED?**

19  
20 A. The VNJ study should be corrected to use Mr. Wylonis's forward-looking design  
21 specifications of NGDLC and a GR303 interface.

22 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER ASPECTS OF VNJ'S UPDATED COST STUDY**  
23 **THAT RELY INAPPROPRIATELY ON VNJ'S EMBEDDED NETWORK?**

24  
25 A. Yes. Ms. Prosini develops many of the fill factors used in her study from VNJ's  
26 embedded network. For example, her distribution fill of 40% is purportedly based  
27 on VNJ's historic or embedded ratio of working pairs to available pairs as  
28 measured at the serving area interface. As Mr. Fassett explains in his testimony, a  
29 fill of 40 percent is inconsistent with efficient forward-looking cost principles.

1 Distribution capacity should be sized to accommodate ultimate demand. An  
2 average of two lines per living unit has been the rule of thumb for many years;  
3 more recently, the advent of DSL technology has reduced the amount of spare  
4 capacity warranted to meet growth needs.

5 To properly apply the ultimate demand standard, it is important to take  
6 into account the additional lines already installed in the network. The best  
7 measure of additional line penetration is VNJ own cost study. In developing the  
8 cost for the network interface device (“NID”), VNJ assumed an average second  
9 line penetration of 0.25 lines per living unit. Hence, a reasonable forward-looking  
10 average distribution fill level is 62.5%.<sup>1</sup>

11 **Q. IN HER CALCULATIONS OF DISTRIBUTION FILL, MS. PROSINI**  
12 **INCLUDES A 5% ADJUSTMENT FOR BREAKAGE. IS THIS**  
13 **ADJUSTMENT WARRANTED?**

14  
15 A. No. Breakage<sup>2</sup> is already accounted for in the UAAA model used by VNJ to  
16 generate loop lengths and average cable sizes. The UAAA model, in developing  
17 the average feeder and distribution cable sizes, uses actual standard sized cables  
18 and thus accounts for breakage. There is no need for Ms. Prosini’s separate  
19 adjustment.

20 **Q. ARE OTHER FILL FACTORS USED BY MS. PROSINI ALSO**  
21 **UNREPRESENTATIVE OF FORWARD-LOOKING DESIGN**  
22 **STANDARDS?**

23  
24 A. Yes. Ms. Prosini uses fill factors for digital loop carrier equipment ranging from  
25 68% to 81%. As Mr. Fassett explains, because of the relative ease with which

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<sup>1</sup> 50% x 1.25 = 62.5%.

<sup>2</sup> Additional spare resulting from the availability of cable in only a limited number of standard sizes.

1 DLC capacity can be increased, the forward-looking fill factor for this equipment  
2 should be 90%.

3 **Q. WHAT OTHER PROBLEMS HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED WITH THE VNJ**  
4 **REVISED COST STUDY?**

5  
6 A. The revised cost study includes a repair and maintenance expense factor that  
7 exceeds a reasonable level. This produces a significant overstatement of loop  
8 costs.

9 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

10 A. Expenses for repair and maintenance of aerial metallic cable are developed based  
11 on the historical relationship of actual historical expenditures to current  
12 investment. In the initial UNE proceeding, the VNJ expense to investment ratio  
13 for aerial metallic cable repair and maintenance was 8.74 percent. This  
14 percentage included an improper and arbitrary increase to repair and testing  
15 dollars proposed by VNJ and was thus overstated. In its updated study, VNJ is  
16 proposing a whopping 14.74% network operating expense factor for aerial  
17 metallic cable. Even by the overstated UNE I standard, the new expense factor  
18 proposed by VNJ is excessive.

19 More importantly, VNJ has made no adjustment to its historic expense to  
20 investment ratio to account for the fact that the forward-looking cost study  
21 assumes the construction of a completely new outside plant facility, including all  
22 new aerial cable perfectly sized to serve existing demand plus anticipated growth.  
23 As such, many of the maintenance and repair expenditures made by VNJ on its  
24 older embedded facility would not be needed under the forward-looking study  
25 construct. Under these circumstances, repair and maintenance expenses should be

1 lower than the historical costs. To correct this overstatement, I substituted the  
2 aerial metallic expense factor of 6.69% developed by the FCC and used by Dr.  
3 Mercer in the HAI Model.

4 **Q. AS PART OF ITS UPDATED COST STUDY, VNJ CHANGED THE WAY**  
5 **IT COMPUTES CERTAIN OF THE LOOP COSTS. HAVE YOU HAD AN**  
6 **OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW VNJ'S NEW PROCEDURES?**  
7

8 **A.** Yes. VNJ has changed substantially its methodology for computing pole, conduit  
9 and drop costs. In the prior VNJ UNE study, drop costs, along with costs for  
10 terminals, NIDS and serving area interfaces were included with the cable cost  
11 information obtained from the BA-NJ Vintage Retirement Unit Cost ("VRUC")  
12 database. In this round, VNJ has abandoned the use of the VRUC unit costs and  
13 has chosen instead to build these costs from the bottom up. The case is similar for  
14 pole and conduit investment. Previously, these investments were added based on  
15 VNJ's embedded relationship of pole and conduit investment to cable investment.  
16 In its revised presentation, VNJ develops pole and conduit investments based its  
17 recent experience with pole and conduit installations.

18 **Q. HAS VNJ CORRECTLY IMPLEMENTED ITS NEW COSTING**  
19 **PROCEDURES FOR POLES, CONDUIT AND DROPS?**  
20

21 **A.** No. There are a number of problems with VNJ's new approach for estimating  
22 these costs. The most obvious is that VNJ has failed to establish that the average  
23 cost per pole and the average cost per duct foot developed from data on recent  
24 installations are, in fact, representative of the average forward-looking cost of  
25 installing poles and conduit throughout the VNJ service territory.

26 For example, VNJ develops an average historical cost per installed pole of  
27 \$1,156. The information provided by VNJ fails to reveal, however, the type of

1 pole installations underlying that figure. In the forward-looking scorched node  
2 TELRIC environment, poles will be efficiently installed sequentially along the  
3 feeder and distribution routes. In this way, the amount of travel time and  
4 mobilization and demobilization time of installers and equipment is minimized,  
5 and productivity is high. VNJ has not established that its proposed cost accurately  
6 captures the efficiencies inherent in a forward-looking installation.

7 The HAI 5.2 model, on the other hand, includes an installed cost per pole  
8 of \$417. This cost incorporates the efficiencies of a forward-looking installation  
9 and, as such, is more representative of the investment cost per pole.

10 **Q. ARE THERE PROBLEMS WITH VNJ'S CONDUIT COSTS?**

11  
12 **A.** The same question of whether the VNJ costs are representative of forward-  
13 looking TELRIC costs applies to VNJ's conduit costs. In addition, in developing  
14 its conduit investment, VNJ inappropriately applies a duct utilization factor to  
15 duct investment costs.

16 **Q. WHY IS THE APPLICATION OF A DUCT UTILIZATION FACTOR**  
17 **INAPPROPRIATE?**

18  
19 **A.** The application of an additional duct utilization factor is inappropriate for a  
20 number of reasons. First, VNJ assumes only two fiber sheaths per duct. This  
21 leaves ample space for additional fiber sheaths if demand warrants. Second, the  
22 cables traversing the conduit themselves already include a substantial allowance  
23 for spare capacity. To add additional conduit capacity in the unlikely event the  
24 cable capacity is exhausted overstates properly developed TELRIC costs. For  
25 these reasons, the conduit utilization factor in the VNJ study should be one.

1 **Q. ARE THERE PROBLEMS WITH VNJ'S DROP INVESTMENT**  
2 **CALCULATIONS?**

3  
4 **A.** Yes. First, VNJ's incorrectly divides its installed cost per NID by a utilization  
5 factor to determine the NID investment cost per line. This overstates costs. The  
6 correct calculation is to divide the installed investment per NID by the number of  
7 lines per NID. This calculation correctly produces the average NID investment  
8 cost per line. Second, in developing its drop investment cost, VNJ uses an  
9 average drop length of 100 feet. VNJ provides no supporting documentation for  
10 this estimate. A recent study by Bellcore concluded that the average drop length  
11 nationwide is 73 feet. Because VNJ has not provided any information suggesting  
12 that its drops in the New Jersey service territory differ materially from drops  
13 nationwide, the 73 foot average drop length should be used in place of VNJ's  
14 unsupported estimate.

15 **Q. DOES THE REVISED VNJ COST STUDY USE AN APPROPRIATE**  
16 **FORWARD-LOOKING COST OF CAPITAL?**

17  
18 **A.** No. The VNJ study uses a cost of capital of 12.60%. The appropriate forward-  
19 looking cost of capital is 9.47%, as described in the testimony of John Hirshleifer.

20 **Q. DOES THE REVISED VNJ COST STUDY USE THE CORRECT**  
21 **FORWARD-LOOKING ASSET LIVES AND NET SALVAGE VALUES?**

22  
23 **A.** No. The VNJ study uses what it refers to as GAAP lives. VNJ has not  
24 demonstrated why the GAAP lives should be used for a forward-looking cost  
25 study. In fact, these lives were designed to err on the side of protecting  
26 shareholders, and are inconsistent with the lives previously recommended by the  
27 BPU and the FCC. As such, the VNJ lives should be rejected and the forward-  
28 looking BPU/FCC lives used in the HAI model should be substituted.

1 **Q. DOES VNJ USE THE CAPCOST+ MODEL TO GENERATE ANNUAL**  
2 **COST FACTORS?**

3  
4 **A.** No. VNJ has abandoned the CAPCOST+ model used in the initial UNE  
5 proceeding in favor of an Excel based spreadsheet for the calculation of the  
6 depreciation, return and tax components of the ACF's.

7 **Q. IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH VNJ'S USE OF THE EXCEL**  
8 **SPREADSHEET INSTEAD OF CAPCOST+?**

9  
10 **A.** CAPCOST+ is a sophisticated and complex financial model. While certain of the  
11 VNJ UNE I inputs to CAPCOST+, such as survivor life curves, planning period  
12 and the number of vintages analyzed, caused the initial VNJ ACF's to be  
13 overstated, CAPCOST+ also has the capability to account for projected demand  
14 growth by spreading telephone plant investment costs over all anticipated future  
15 demand. In this way, CAPCOST+ accurately computes that, as demand increases  
16 and consumes some of the spare capacity initially built into the network, average  
17 costs per line will decline because the costs are being spread over more  
18 customers. The new VNJ Excel spreadsheet does not make similar computations  
19 and thus overstates costs.

20 **Q. DOES THE REVISED VNJ COST STUDY PROPERLY HANDLE**  
21 **GROWTH?**

22  
23 **A.** No. Although the VNJ cost study provides for a considerable amount of future  
24 growth through its fill factors, it does not recognize that as the anticipated future  
25 demand is realized, investment costs will be spread over more customers. Thus,  
26 this future growth causes the average cost per line to decline.

1 **Q. HOW SHOULD GROWTH BE ACCOUNTED FOR?**

2 A. The correct way to account for growth is to develop an adjustment factor for each  
3 asset account to spread the annual costs over the average number of lines  
4 anticipated to use that asset over its expected life. In other words, to compute the  
5 ratio of the present value of current demand plus growth lines over each projected  
6 asset life to the present value of current demand over that same time period. The  
7 calculations should be performed using the asset lives approved by the BPU and  
8 FCC, and the cost of capital proposed by Mr. Hirschleifer.

9 **Q. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO RESTATE THE VNJ LOOP COSTS?**

10 A. Yes. I have restated the VNJ two-wire loop costs by rerunning VNJ's cost  
11 models with the following changes:

- 12 • Change DLC specification from 10% GR303 to 100% NGDLC for loops  
13 exceeding the fiber/copper breakpoint.
  - 14 • Replace Ms. Prosini's embedded distribution fill factor of 40% with the  
15 forward-looking distribution fill factor of 62.5%.
  - 16 • Replace Ms. Prosini's embedded loop electronics fill factors with a forward-  
17 looking loop electronics fill factor of 90%.
  - 18 • Substitute for VNJ's 14.74% embedded aerial metallic expense ratio a  
19 forward-looking ratio of 6.69%.
  - 20 • Replace VNJ's pole investment cost of \$1,156 with \$417.
  - 21 • Eliminate VNJ's use of a conduit utilization factor.
  - 22 • Correct VNJ's drop calculations to fix the computation error in the NID  
23 investment and to reflect an average drop length of 73 feet.
  - 24 • Use a 9.47% cost of capital.
  - 25 • Use the BPU/FCC approved asset lives and net salvage values.
  - 26 • Properly account for future anticipated growth.
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Table 2 summarizes the results of my restatement.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Loop Cost Restatement**

UNE	VNJ Updated	VNJ Updated Restated
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 1	\$13.54	\$5.41
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 2	\$16.43	\$6.35
2-Wire Loop – Density Cell 3	\$18.67	\$7.11
2-Wire Loop – Statewide	\$16.18	\$6.28

7  
8

**III. RESTATEMENT OF VNJ'S SWITCHING COST STUDY**

10

**Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED VNJ'S SWITCH USAGE AND PORT COSTS?**

12

A. Yes. Like the VNJ loop costs, the switching costs are overstated.

14

**Q. HOW DOES VNJ OVERSTATE SWITCH ORIGINATING AND TERMINATING USAGE COSTS?**

16

A. For three main reasons. First, VNJ computes its switch investment cost based on the assumption that a supplier of unbundled switching would buy its entire inventory of switching equipment at prices reflecting only the shallower discounts offered by switch vendors for piecemeal ("add-on") additions to existing switch capacity. Second, VNJ assumes that the cost of vertical features should be added to the switch usage costs. Third, VNJ uses values for the cost of capital, asset lives and net salvage values that substantially exceed efficient forward-looking cost levels.

25

1 **Q. WHY IS VNJ'S USE OF THE LOWER GROWTH DISCOUNT TO**  
2 **DEVELOP SWITCHING INVESTMENT INAPPROPRIATE?**

3  
4 A. Because no efficient supplier of unbundled switching in a competitive market  
5 would pay so much for switches. VNJ begins from the unobjectionable premise  
6 that, because all of its existing switches are digital switches of recent vintage, any  
7 additional purchases it makes in the next few years are likely to be limited to add-  
8 on capacity to handle projected growth. This premise, however, does not support  
9 VNJ's conclusion that *all* switching capacity—including “new” switches that a  
10 new entrant would buy at deep discounts (and that VNJ itself bought at deep  
11 discounts)—should be priced as if they would be purchased at shallow add-on  
12 discounts. This conclusion is at odds with the behavior of any rational firm,  
13 actual or theoretical.

14 First, VNJ itself did not pay these inflated prices. As it has acknowledged,  
15 it bought its *existing* base-load switches at the deep discounts offered for new  
16 equipment purchases.

17 Nor would an efficient *new* entrant pay these inflated prices. An efficient  
18 new entrant purchasing a substantial complement of new switching equipment  
19 would obviously qualify for new equipment discounts, and would be idiotic not to  
20 demand such discounts.

21 Nor will VNJ pay such inflated prices in the long run. In the long run, all  
22 existing investment wears out and must be replaced. Bell Atlantic, when it  
23 reaches that point, will be in precisely the position faced by a new entrant: buying  
24 new switching equipment and therefore eligible for new equipment discounts.

1 VNJ's argument thus reduces to the absurd syllogism that, because the  
2 *short run* incremental unit costs of its add-on switch purchases in the next few  
3 years are likely to be high, the Board should pretend that the *long run* incremental  
4 costs of its *baseload* switching capacity are also high. The flaws in this argument  
5 are obvious. First, the relevant cost standard specified by the FCC (and  
6 purportedly embraced by VNJ) is *long run* incremental cost, not some bastardized  
7 variant of short run cost. Second, if the relevant standard were short run costs, the  
8 short run incremental costs of VNJ's baseload switching capacity are likely to be  
9 very low, because VNJ's switches have already been purchased and paid for, and  
10 much of VNJ's investment in those switches is sunk.<sup>3</sup>

11 **Q. WHAT IS THE CORRECT WAY TO LOOK AT THE SWITCH**  
12 **DISCOUNT ISSUE?**

13  
14 **A.** The right way is to look at it not from the short run perspective of the incumbent  
15 sitting on the all digital switch network, but rather from the perspective of the  
16 truly new entrant (which is essentially the same as the perspective of the  
17 incumbent over the long run). The view of the new entrant is that of a scorched-  
18 node network where all that exists is the location of the existing wire centers.  
19 From this point, the entrant computes the *total\_element long run incremental cost*  
20 of serving all of the existing and anticipated demand. For switch investment, this  
21 means acquire all new switches today to serve today's demand. Arguably, as  
22 demand increases out into the future, some growth related acquisition will occur.  
23 However, the vast majority of forward-looking switch purchases will qualify for  
24 the replacement switch discount.

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<sup>3</sup> And because those switches currently have plenty of spare capacity.

1 **Q. WHAT DISCOUNT LEVEL SHOULD BE USED?**

2

3 **A.** Although as I mentioned previously the vast majority of the forward-looking  
4 switch purchases would qualify for the replacement switch discount, I have  
5 calculated the mix of replacement discount to growth discount over the 17 year  
6 projected life of a switch. Using a 3 percent annual line growth rate and assuming  
7 that the initial switch purchase will have sufficient capacity to accommodate 18  
8 months of growth, I conservatively calculate that the switch discount should be  
9 weighted 79.4% replacement and 20.6% growth.<sup>4</sup>

10 **Q. WHY IS IT INCORRECT TO ADD TO THE SWITCH MINUTE OF USE  
11 COST A PER MINUTE OF USE COST FOR VERTICAL FEATURES?**

12

13 **A.** It is inappropriate to simply add the per minute of use cost for vertical features to  
14 switch usage costs because most of the costs of vertical features are already  
15 included in the port cost. Consistent with the New York Commission's  
16 conclusion that the basic port charge already includes all features and  
17 functionalities of the switch, except for those applications requiring *specialized*  
18 hardware, it would be a double count to again add feature cost to switch usage.

19 **Q. CONSISTENT WITH THE NEW YORK PSC'S CONCLUSION, WERE  
20 YOU ABLE TO IDENTIFY THOSE APPLICATIONS REQUIRING  
21 SPECIALIZED HARDWARE AND INCLUDE THOSE COSTS?**

22

23 **A.** Yes. The VNJ cost study electronic workpapers include a breakdown of the cost  
24 components for vertical features. Using those workpapers, I was able to isolate  
25 the added hardware and software investment required for vertical features. I  
26 added those costs to the switch usage costs.

---

<sup>4</sup> It is important to note that the 79.4% weighting for replacement would be even more if an average switch life of less than 17 years is used.

1 **Q. ARE THE COST OF CAPITAL, ASSET LIVES AND NET SALVAGE**  
2 **VALUES USED BY VNJ TO DEVELOP SWITCH USAGE AND PORT**  
3 **COSTS FORWARD-LOOKING?**

4  
5 A. No. VNJ uses a 12.6% cost of capital and GAAP asset lives in its development of  
6 switch usage and port costs. As explained above and in the separate rebuttal  
7 testimony of John Hirshleifer, these costs are inappropriate for a forward looking  
8 cost study.

9 **Q. HAVE YOU RESTATED THE VNJ SWITCH USAGE AND PORT**  
10 **COSTS?**

11  
12 A. Yes. I restated VNJ's switch usage and port costs making the following changes:

- 13 • I changed the switch discount weighting from 100% growth to a mix of 79.4%  
14 replacement and 20.6% growth.  
15  
16 • I corrected VNJ's inappropriate addition of vertical features cost to switch  
17 usage costs.  
18  
19 • I used a 9.47% forward-looking cost of capital and New Jersey BPU asset  
20 lives and net salvage values.  
21

22 The results of my restatement are set forth in Table 2:  
23

24 **Table 2**  
25 **Summary of Switch Cost Restatement**

UNE	VNJ Updated	VNJ Updated Restated
Switch Usage – Originating	\$0.010059	\$0.002378
Switch Usage – Terminating	\$0.008553	\$0.002035
POTS Port	\$2.79	\$0.93

26  
27 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

28  
29 A. Yes.  
30

**In the  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT**

Competitive Telecommunications Association, Inc.,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 00-1272
	)	
Federal Communications Commission and the United States of America,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE OUT OF TIME**

Sprint Corporation ("Sprint") respectfully moves for leave to intervene in this review proceeding out of time, pursuant to Section 402 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. § 402(e)), 28 U.S.C. § 2348, and Rule 15(d) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. Sprint wishes to intervene in support of the Petitioner in this case.

The Petitioner seeks review of the Federal Communications Commission's Supplemental Order Clarification, *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, FCC 00-183 (released June 2, 2000) (summarized at 65 Fed. Reg. 38,214, June 20, 2000).

Sprint is one of the country's leading telecommunications companies, providing local, long distance, wireless, and advanced telecommunications services. Its business includes both incumbent local and competitive local exchange services. Sprint actively

participated in the agency proceeding below, and its interests will be substantially affected by any affirmation, modification, or reversal of the order that has been brought before the Court. Sprint was entitled to intervene as a matter of right under 28 U.S.C. Section 2348 and 47 U.S.C. 402(e).

Sprint acknowledges that the deadline for intervention as a matter of right is long past. Nevertheless, Sprint's participation in this case will not delay the briefing schedule nor prejudice or inconvenience any other party. Sprint does not ask to file a separate brief, but seeks only to lend its support to the Petitioner and the opportunity to join the brief the intervenors supporting the Petitioner. Counsel for the Respondent FCC, counsel for the Petitioner, and lead counsel for the Intervenors in Support of the Petitioner have advised Sprint that they would have no objection to this motion for leave to intervene out of time.

WHEREFORE, Sprint respectfully requests that this Court grant it leave to intervene in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT CORPORATION



John E. Benedict  
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202-585-1910  
202-585-1897 facsimile

Dated: January 11, 2002

In the  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Competitive Telecommunications Association, Inc.,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 00-1272
	)	
Federal Communications Commission and the United States of America,	)	
	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sprint Corporation ("Sprint") submits this disclosure of interests, pursuant to the Court's Circuit Rule 26.1 and Rule 26.1 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Sprint is a holding company organized for the purpose of engaging in telecommunications and related businesses through its subsidiaries. It is publicly traded under the names of Sprint FON and Sprint PCS. No person or corporate entity owns more than 10 percent of Sprint.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT CORPORATION



\_\_\_\_\_  
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Competitive Telecommunications Association, Inc.,	)	
	)	
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	)	
v.	)	Case No. 00-1272
	)	
Federal Communications Commission and the United States of America,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2002 a copy of the foregoing Motion for Leave to Intervene Out of Time and Corporate Disclosure Statement was served by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid upon the parties listed below.

  
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