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## Georgia Public Service Commission

244 Washington Street SW  
Atlanta GA 30334-5701  
(404) 656-4501 or 1 (800) 282-5813  
fax: (404) 656-2341  
[www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)

May 13, 2003

To: Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW/Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

From: K.H. Ellison  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
State Office Building Annex  
244 Washington Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5701

Subject: STATE OF GEORGIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE  
(TRS) CERTIFICATION APPLICATION: TRS-51-02 IN CC DOCKET  
NO. 98-67

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Pursuant to a request contained in an April 30, 2003 letter (Attachment 1) to me from Thomas E. Chandler of the Federal Communications Commission's Disability Rights Office, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, requesting supplemental information concerning the above application, a response to Erica Myers of the Disability Rights Office (Attachment 2) is attached. As my letter to Ms. Myers indicates, additional related information will be provided when it is available.

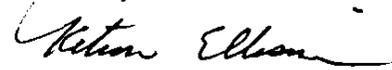
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Letter to Ms. Dortch of May 13, 2003 – Page 2

If there are any questions concerning this filing please contact me by mail at the above address, by telephone at 404.656.4536 or by email at [kellison@psc.state.ga.us](mailto:kellison@psc.state.ga.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ketron Ellison". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ketron H. (Ken) Ellison  
Assistant Director  
Utilities Division

# **ATTACHMENT 1**



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 30, 2003

K.H. Ellison  
Assistant Director  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
Utilities Division  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5701

Re: Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)  
State Certification  
Application No.: TRS-51-02

Dear K.H. Ellison:

Thank you for filing the above-referenced state Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) application for certification, pursuant to section 64.605 of the Commission rules, 47 C.F.R. § 64.605.

Our review of your application indicates that your state's TRS program meets most of the mandatory minimum standards for TRS. We find, however, that your application provides insufficient information for us to determine whether your state's TRS program meets certain mandatory minimum standards, as indicated at the end of this letter. Accordingly, so that we can complete the timely processing of your state certification application, please submit to us the information indicated by May 15, 2003.

Please submit both a hard copy of the information and an electronic copy of the information on a CD or 3.5 inch disk. Parties who choose to file by paper should also submit their comments on diskette or via email in Microsoft Word or Excel. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette or CD formatted in an IBM compatible format using Word 97 or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labeled with the commenter's name, proceeding (including the lead docket number in this case, CC Docket No. 98-67, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette.

Please send the supplemental information no later than **May 15, 2003** to the following address:

Erica Myers  
Federal Communications Commission  
Disability Rights Office  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 6-C212  
Washington, DC 20554

Any questions regarding this letter may be directed to Erica Myers at 202-418-2429 voice, 202-418-0464 TTY, [emyers@fcc.gov](mailto:emyers@fcc.gov) E-mail.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Chandler  
Chief, Disability Rights Office  
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

**CC DOCKET NO: 98-67**

**§ 64.605(d)**

*Method of Funding:* Each state's TRS program's funding mechanisms, if labeled, shall be labeled in a manner that promotes understanding of TRS and does not offend the public. **Please indicate how the BellSouth bill with TRS as a line item is in compliance with this rule. The submitted BellSouth language provides: "Telecommunications Relay Service: A surcharge to fund the relay center that assists the hearing and speech impaired communicate with their telecommunications providers".**

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

COMMISSIONERS:

ROBERT B. BAKER, JR., Chairman  
DAVID L. BURGESS  
H. DOUG EVERETT  
ANGELA E. SPEIR  
STAN WISE



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May 13, 2003

Erica Myers  
Federal Communications Commission  
Disability Rights Office  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 6-C212  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)  
State Certification Application No.: TRS-51-02

Dear Ms. Myers:

I am responding to the April 30, 2003 letter to me from Mr. Thomas E. Chandler of your office regarding a deficiency in the State of Georgia TRS recertification application, specifically the labeling of the state's TRS funding mechanism on BellSouth Telecommunication's subscribers' monthly telephone bills.

The Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) has initiated corrective action in this matter that is indicated in the enclosed letter to BellSouth and in the attached diskette, provided per the instructions in Mr. Chandler's letter.

The GPSC staff has directed BellSouth to comply with a GPSC Order that specifically addresses the TRS funding mechanism wording on carriers' monthly subscribers' bills. In our exchange of emails yesterday on this subject you indicated to me that the funding mechanism wording contained in the above GPSC Order was satisfactory.

The GPSC staff has also requested that BellSouth provide the date of the first billing cycle that will include the requested bill wording change. This information, when it becomes available, will be forwarded to your office. Additionally, when the correct

Letter to Ms. Myers of May 13, 2003 – Page 2

wording is incorporated in subscribers' monthly bills, a copy of a Georgia BellSouth subscriber's bill will be furnished to your office as well.

I hope the above action will adequately resolve the subject deficiency in the State of Georgia's TRS recertification application.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ketron Ellison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "K".

Ketron H. (Ken) Ellison  
Assistant Director  
Utilities Division

COMMISSIONERS:

ROBERT B. BAKER, JR., Chairman  
DAVID L. BURGESS  
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May 13, 2003

Mr. Bob Ragsdale  
BellSouth Regulatory Affairs  
1025 Lenox Park Boulevard  
Suite C668  
Atlanta, GA 30319

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

During 2002 the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) submitted a recertification application for the Georgia Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The GPSC recently received a letter from the FCC indicating concern that the Georgia TRS was not in compliance with the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 64.605(d) *Method of Funding*: Each state's TRS program's funding mechanism, if labeled, shall be labeled in a manner that promotes understanding of TRS and does not offend the public.

The specific deficiency identified by the FCC was the TRS surcharge line item wording on BellSouth Telecommunication subscribers' monthly bills:

"Telecommunications Relay Service: A surcharge to fund the relay center that assists the hearing and speech impaired communicate with their telecommunications providers".

The Georgia Public Service Commission, in its TRS Fourth Amendatory Letter Order of September 29, 1993 (attached), in order to implement the guidance contained in 47 C.F.R. § 64.605(d), directed BellSouth (then Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company), All Local Exchange Companies and AT&T of the Southern States to separately identify the TRS surcharge on each monthly subscriber's bill in the following manner:

“Telecommunications Relay Service Fund”

And provided the following abbreviation if necessary to limit itemization to one line on the bill:

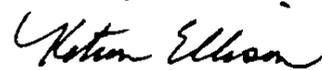
“Georgia Relay Service Fund”

BellSouth complied with the above GPSC Order initially but at some point since has deviated from the requirements of this Order. Please ensure that BellSouth returns to conformance with this GPSC Order and replaces its present TRS surcharge line item wording with that directed in the Order as soon as possible. It appears that the recertification of the Georgia TRS by the FCC is dependent upon the accomplishment of this action by the Company.

Would you please acknowledge receipt of letter and indicate the first billing cycle (month in 2003) when subscribers will receive monthly bills with the appropriate TRS surcharge line item wording.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ketron (Ken) Ellison  
Assistant Director  
Utilities Division

Attachment

COMMISSIONERS

MAC BARBER CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT B (BOBBY) BAKER JR  
BOB DURDEN  
ROBERT C (BOBBY) PAFFORD  
ROBERT A (BOBBY) ROWAN



WILLIAM J DOVER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Georgia Public Service Commission

246 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

(404)856-4501 OR 1(800)282-5813

### FOURTH AMENDATORY LETTER ORDER

**DATE:** September 29, 1993

**TO:** AT&T of the Southern States Inc.  
Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company  
All Local Exchange Companies

**RE:** Amendment of the Commission's Letter Order of December 4, 1990 regarding implementation of a Telecommunications Relay Service for Georgia.

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The Commission directs that the following actions be taken by the parties as indicated.

- I. Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company  
All Local Exchange Companies (except for telephone membership corporations)

- A. Paragraph IIB of the December 4, 1990 Letter Order reads:

Begin the collection of this surcharge (except for telephone membership corporations) on January 1, 1991 or with the first billing cycle thereafter. This surcharge shall be separately identified on each monthly subscriber's bill as:

"Dual Party Relay System for the hearing/speech impaired surcharge"

The following abbreviation may be used if necessary to limit itemization to one line on the bill:

"Dual Party Relay for hearing/speech impaired."

Change this paragraph to read:

Begin the collection of this surcharge (except for telephone membership corporations) on January 1, 1991 or with the first billing cycle thereafter. This surcharge shall be separately identified on each monthly subscriber's bill as soon as possible after July 1, 1993 but no later than September 1, 1993 as:

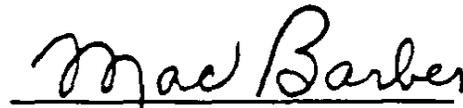
"Telecommunications Relay Service Fund:

The following abbreviation may be used if necessary to limit itemization to one line on the bill:

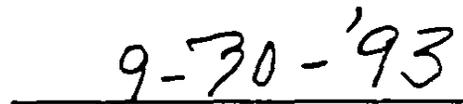
"Georgia Relay Service Fund"

The above by action of the Commission as approved in Administrative Session on June 22, 1993.

  
Terri M. Lyndall  
Executive Secretary

  
Mac Barber  
Chairman

  
DATE

  
DATE

TML/MB/KE/sb

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**1 DISKETTE**