

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: §
 §
 APPLICATION OF US SOUTH §
 COMMUNICATIONS INC., §
 FOR CERTIFICATE OF §
 AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE §
 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES §

DOCKET NO. 981960-TX

**TRADE SECRET FILING OF
U.S. SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

COMES NOW U.S. South Communications, Inc., ("Petitioner") and hereby submits Petitioner's financial information, together with assumptions related thereto (collectively, the "Financial Statements"), to the Florida Public Service Commission (the "Commission"). Petitioner requests confidential treatment of the Financial Statements for the following reasons.

I.

Petitioner's Financial Statements are proprietary in nature. The information contained therein pertains to Petitioner's current and future business opportunities within the State of Florida. Petitioner derives economic value from this information because it is not known to others. The Financial Statements thus constitute trade secrets.

II.

Petitioner competes for customers with other telecommunications companies operating within the State of Florida. Disclosure of Petitioner's Financial Statements would provide Petitioner's competitors with valuable market information relating to Petitioner's financial condition, market projections and yearly budgets. Petitioner's competitors could use such information to compete for Petitioner's customers.

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This document has been placed in confidential storage pending advice from OPR staff on further handling.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

III.

Petitioner maintains the secrecy of the Financial Statements by retaining sole possession and control of the Financial Statements, and by not disclosing the Financial Statements to others. Moreover, Petitioner has previously sought trade secret protection for the Financial Statements in each jurisdiction where Petitioner has filed the Financial Statements.

IV.

Petitioner is submitting the Financial Statements with the Commission under protective seal with the designation "CONFIDENTIAL" prominently displayed on each page thereof. Petitioner also is filing a redacted "Public Disclosure" document (attached hereto) with the designation "PUBLIC DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT" prominently displayed on each page thereof.

V.

Petitioner shall maintain a master list of all filings submitted to the Commission. Petitioner's master list will identify the document submitted, the number of copies submitted, and the docket number related to Petitioner's filing.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Commission designate the attached Financial Statements as a confidential trade secret and grant Petitioner such other relief as necessary to protect the confidentiality of this information.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of December, 1998.

GERKY, FRIEND & SAPPONOV



CHARLES J. HUDAK

Suite 1450
Three Ravinia Drive
Atlanta, GA 30346-2131
(770) 399-9500

COUNSEL FOR U.S. SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS INC.