# HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

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March 9, 2000

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KAREN D. WALKER

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New York

850-425-5612

### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Blanca S. Bayo Director, Division of Records & Reporting Florida Public Service Commission Capital Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

In Re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service Commission of Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 2481 Issued to RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications for Violation of Rule 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies, Docket No. 992008-TI

Dear Ms. Bayo:

LEG MAS OPC RRR

SEC WAIN OTH Re:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. ("RSL USA") are the original and fifteen (15) copies of RSL USA's Request for Voluntary Cancellation of Interexchange Certificate No. 2481 and Amended to Interexchange Certificate No. 4068, and Petition for Partial Waiver of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

For our records, please acknowledge your receipt of this filing on the enclosed copy of this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Karen D. Walker

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Blanca Bayo March 9, 2000 Page 2

KDW:kjg Enclosure

cc:

Paula Isler (w/enclosure) Kimberley Pena (w/ enclosure)

ORIGINAL

#### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service	)	
Commission of Interexchange Telecommunications	)	
Certificate No. 2481 Issued to RSL COM U.S.A.,	)	Docket No. 992008-TI
Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications for	)	
Violation of Rule 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory	)	
Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies	)	
	1	

## REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION OF INTEREXCHANGE CERTIFICATE NO. 2481 AND AMENDMENT TO INTEREXCHANGE CERTIFICATE NO. 4068, AND PETITION FOR PARTIAL WAIVER OF RULE 25-4.0161, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. ("RSL USA"), by and through undersigned counsel, pursuant to Rule 25-24.474(2), Florida Administrative Code, requests that the Florida Public Service Commission (the "Commission") cancel Interexchange ("IXC") Certificate No. 2481 issued to RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications on November 13, 1998 pursuant to Order No. PSC-98-1501-FOF-TI. Due to an error on the part of RSL USA, the company was issued two IXC certificates by the Commission: IXC Certificate No. 4068, which was issued in the name of RSL USA; and IXC Certificate No. 2481, which was issued in the name of RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications. RSL USA currently does business in Florida under the names RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. and Westinghouse Communications. However, it does not need two IXC certificates. Accordingly, upon cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481, RSL USA requests that the Commission amend the remaining IXC Certificate -- Certificate No. 4068 -- to acknowledge the use of the fictitious name Westinghouse Communications by RSL USA. Due to the issuance of duplicate IXC

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Certificates to RSL USA, the Commission has issued duplicate regulatory assessment fee return forms to RSL USA -- one for each certificate. Thus, RSL USA also hereby petitions the Commission, pursuant to Rules 25-24.455(4) and 28-104.002, Florida Administrative Code, for a waiver of Rule 25-4.0161 to the extent that RSL USA has been assessed duplicate regulatory assessment fees by the Commission as a result of RSL USA holding two IXC certificates.

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. RSL USA provides interexchange telecommunications services in fortynine states, including Florida. RSL USA's address is:

> RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. 430 Park Avenue, Fifth Floor New York, New York 10022 Tel: (212) 588-3668 Fax: (212) 588-3601

- 2. On August 14, 1995, the Commission issued IXC Certificate No. 4068 to International Telecommunications Corporation ("ITC"), predecessor in interest to RSL USA. See In Re: Application for certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications service with alternative operator service by INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICAITONS CORPORATION, 95 F.P.S.C. 8:262, Docket No. 950601-TI, Order No. PSC-95-0991-FOF-TI (Aug. 14, 1995).
- 3. On June 13, 1997, the Commission amended IXC Certificate No. 4068 to reflect ITC's name change to RSL USA. See In re: Request for name change on Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 4068 from International

Telecommunications Corporation to RSL COM U.S.A., Inc., 97 F.P.S.C. 6:265, Docket No. 970588-TI, Order No. PSC-97-0707-FOF-TI (June 13, 1997).

- 4. On August 14, 1998, Westinghouse Electric Corporation d/b/a Westinghouse Communications ("Westinghouse"), at that time the holder of IXC Certificate No. 2481, and RSL USA filed a joint petition with the Commission for approval of the transfer of the assets of Westinghouse to RSL USA (the "Joint Petition"). Rather than requesting that the Commission cancel IXC Certificate No. 2481 and that the Commission acknowledge RSL USA's new fictitious name, RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications, on RSL USA's existing IXC certificate, RSL USA and Westinghouse requested that the Commission transfer IXC Certificate No. 2481 from Westinghouse to RSL USA. The Commission granted the Joint Petition by order dated November 13, 1998. See In re: Request for approval of transfer of assets and Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 2481 and name change from Westinghouse Electric Corp. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications to RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications, 98 F.P.S.C. 11:86, Docket No. 981057-TI, Order No. PSC-98-1501-FOF-TI (Nov. 13, 1998). As a result, RSL USA currently holds two IXC certificates and has been assigned two separate company codes by the Commission: (1) Company Code TI401 for RSL USA, and (2) Company Code TJ191 for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications.
- 5. The issuance by the Commission of two IXC certificates, and the assignment of two different company codes, to RSL USA, has created confusion

with respect to the regulatory assessment fees owed by RSL USA to the Commission. Specifically, for the period covering January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998, RSL USA received three Interexchange Company Regulatory Assessment Fee Returns ("Fee Returns"): (1) a Fee Return for RSL USA (Company Code TI401); (2) a Fee Return for Westinghouse (Company Code TI950) for the period from January 1, 1998 through December 4, 1998; and (3) a Fee Return for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191) for the twenty-six day period from December 5, 1998 to December 31, 1998.

- 6. On January 26, 1999, RSL USA submitted a payment to the Commission of \$1,888.00 to cover the regulatory assessment fees owed by Westinghouse (Company Code TI950) for the pro-rated 1998 year.
- 7. On March 16, 1999, RSL USA submitted a payment to the Commission of \$216.92 to cover the regulatory assessment fees owed by RSL USA (Company Code TI401) for the 1998 year, which payment included all penalties and interest required due to RSL USA's late payment. RSL USA's payment was based on all of RSL USA's gross revenues derived from intrastate business during 1998, including gross revenues attributed to RSL USA doing business as Westinghouse Communications from December 5, 1998 through December 31, 1998.
- 8. Due to the confusion caused by the issuance of two IXC certificates and the assignment of two company codes to RSL USA, the company was not aware that the Commission required an additional Fee Return for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications, and believed that the additional Fee Return was

issued in error. Accordingly RSL USA did not submit a separate payment for the twenty-six day period for Company Code TJ191.

- 9. For the period covering January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999, RSL USA received two Fee Returns, one for RSL USA (Company Code TI401), and one for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191). On February 1, 2000, RSL USA submitted a payment to the Commission of \$1360.45 to cover the fees owed by RSL USA (Company Code TI401) for the 1999 year, which fee included all penalties and interest required for late payment. A copy of this Fee Return is attached hereto as Exhibit "A." On the same date, RSL USA submitted a Fee Return without payment for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191). A copy of this Fee Return is attached hereto as Exhibit "B." The Fee Return for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191) reports zero gross intrastate operating revenue, since RSL USA's Fee Return reports all of the company's gross intrastate operating revenues, including those revenues derived from RSL USA doing business as Westinghouse Communications.
- 10. On December 23, 1999, the Commission instituted this proceeding to cancel IXC Certificate No. 2481 for RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications' failure to pay regulatory assessment fees pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

## REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION OF IXC CERTIFICATE NO. 2481 AND AMENDMENT OF CERTIFICATE NO. 4068

- 11. To resolve the confusion resulting from RSL USA holding two IXC certificates and being assigned two separate company codes, RSL USA requests that the Commission cancel IXC Certificate No. 2481 and disassociate RSL USA from Company Code TJ191.
- 12. RSL USA will continue to operate pursuant to the terms and conditions of IXC Certificate No. 4068 and will continue to utilize the fictitious name Westinghouse Communications for certain of its operations in the Florida. Accordingly, RSL USA also requests that upon cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481, the Commission amend IXC Certificate No. 4068 to change the name on the certificate from "RSL COM U.S.A., Inc." to "RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications."
- 13. This request for cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481, and for amendment of IXC Certificate No. 4068 to reflect RSL USA's fictitious name, will serve the public interest by eliminating the Commission's administrative burden of tracking two certificates issued to the same company, and by avoiding any customer confusion that may occur as the result of RSL USA's duplicative certification by the Commission. This action by the Commission should also resolve the confusion that has occurred in the past relating to the filing of Fee Returns and the payment of regulatory assessment fees by RSL USA.
- 14. RSL USA has satisfied all criteria for voluntary cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481 required by Rule 26-24.474(2), Florida Administrative Code.

As described above, although RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191) has not separately submitted a Fee Return or payment of regulatory assessment fees to the Commission for the period beginning December 5, 1998 to present, all gross intrastate revenues attributable to RSL USA's operations under the fictitious name Westinghouse Communications have been reflected in the Fee Returns filed, and the regulatory assessment fees paid, by RSL USA (Company Code T1401). Because RSL USA will continue to do business under both "RSL U.S.A., Inc." and its fictitious name, "Westinghouse Communications," the cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481 and the amendment of IXC Certificate No. 4068 will be transparent to RSL USA's customers. Thus, there is no need for issuance of final bills to customers or to notify customers of the cancellation of IXC Certificate No. 2481.

### PETITION FOR PARTIAL WAIVER OF RULE 25-4.0161

- 15. Rule 25-4.0161 requires each telecommunications company to remit a regulatory assessment fee to the Commission based on its gross operating revenue. The fee is to be accompanied by a Fee Return. Rule 25-4.0161 further provides that, regardless of the minimum gross operating revenue of a company, a minimum annual regulatory assessment fee of \$50 shall be imposed. See Fla. Admin. Code R. 25-4.0161(1).
- 16. Rule 25-4.0161 implements Section 350.113 and 364.336, Florida Statutes. Section 350.113 requires each company regulated by the Commission to pay a regulatory assessment fee. Section 364.336 requires each telecommunications

company licensed by the Commission and operating for any part of the preceding six month period to pay a regulatory assessment fee to the Commission.

- 17. RSL USA requests a permanent waiver of Rules 25-4.0161 as applied to RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191) for the period commencing December 5, 1998 and concluding on the date on which the Commission issues a final decision regarding this Petition.
- 18. The underlying purpose of the implementing statutes has been served because RSL USA has paid regulatory assessment fees to the Commission for all of its gross intrastate operating revenues during the period at issue, including those revenues derived from its operations as RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications.
- 19. A strict application of Rule 25-4.0161 would lead to an unreasonable, unfair, and unintended result in this instance, because a strict application of the rule would require RSL USA to pay regulatory fees for an entity that in reality does not exist. Moreover, a strict application of the rule would create a substantial hardship on RSL USA and constitute a violation of principles of fairness, since it would require RSL USA to pay duplicative fees for RSL USA (Company Code T1401) and RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191), when in fact both are the same entity.

WHEREFORE, RSL USA requests that the Commission:

(a) cancel IXC Certificate No. 2481;

- (b) amend IXC Certificate No. 4068 to change the name on the certificate from "RSL COM U.S.A., Inc." to "RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications";
- (c) waive Rule 25-4.0161, to the extent that it requires the submission of a separate Fee Return and the payment of separate regulatory assessment fees by RSL USA d/b/a Westinghouse Communications (Company Code TJ191); and
  - (d) grant such other relief as the Commission deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen D. Walker

Florida Bar No. 0982921 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

P.O. Drawer 810

Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Tel: (850) 224-7000 Fax: (850) 224-8832

E-mail: kwalker@hklaw.com

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Tel: (202) 828-1889 Fax: (202) 828-1868

E-mail: doconnor@hklaw.com

Attorneys for RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been hand delivered to Kimberley Pena, Florida Public Service Commission, Division of Legal Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850; and to Carroll Webb, Executive Director and General Counsel, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, Holland Building, Room 120, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300 all on this 9th day of March, 2000.

Karen D. Walker

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•				— Exhibit B —

Law Offices

# HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

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DAVID A. O'CONNOR

202-828-1889

Internet Address: doconnor@hklaw.com

## VIA FACSIMILE (850) 413-7118

Ms. Blanca S. Bayó Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re:

Docket No. 992008-TT

RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications

Dear Ms. Bayó:

The law firm of Holland & Knight LLP serves as regulatory counsel for RSL COM U.S.A., Inc. d/b/a Westinghouse Communications, the party to the Please send copies of all prior and future above-referenced proceeding. correspondence concerning this proceeding to the undersigned counsel.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

David A. O'Connor

Counsel for RSL COM U.S.A., Inc.

d/b/a Westinghouse Communications

RECEIVED FPSC SOFEB-I AMII:

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Law Offices

## HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

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## **FACSIMILE**

TO:

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo

NAME

Commission

COMPANY/FIRM

Tallahassee

Florida

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STATE

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URGENCY: SUPER RUSH RUSH REGULAR

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CLIENT #: 059005 MATTER #: 00001

CONFIRMED: YES NO NAME: TIME: