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December 13, 2000

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 110 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re:

Docket No. 990874-TP

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-referenced docket on behalf of US LEC of Florida Inc. ("US LEC") are the original and fifteen copies of US LEC's Agreed Motion for Continuance.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the copy to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures Trib.3

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DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

)	Filed: December 22, 2000
for relief.)	
terms of interconnection agreement and request)	
Telecommunications, Inc. regarding breach of)	Docket No. 990874-TP
of US LEC of Florida, Inc. against BellSouth)	
Request for arbitration concerning complaint)	

US LEC OF FLORIDA INC.'S AGREED MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

US LEC of Florida Inc. ("US LEC"), by and through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Rule 28-106.210, Florida Administrative Code, hereby moves for a continuance and rescheduling of the prehearing conference and final hearing to dates falling at least ninety days after the currently scheduled dates for the prehearing conference and final hearing. In support of this Motion, US LEC states as follows:

- 1. This proceeding involves a complaint filed by US LEC against BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") for breach of certain interconnection agreements between US LEC and BellSouth previously approved by the Commission. The case is pending before the Commission on US LEC's Second Amended Complaint which alleges that BellSouth has breached interconnection agreements between US LEC and BellSouth approved by the Commission by failing to pay reciprocal compensation to US LEC for the transport and termination of Internet Service Provider ("ISP")-bound traffic. BellSouth denies liability for payment of reciprocal compensation for ISP-bound traffic under the interconnection agreements at issue.
- 2. The prehearing conference in this case is currently scheduled for February 5, 2001.

 The final hearing is currently scheduled for February 21, 2001. US LEC and BellSouth have initiated settlement discussions to attempt to resolve the reciprocal compensation claims of US LEC DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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at issue in this case. US LEC and BellSouth expect these negotiations to continue through the month of January, 2001. US LEC and BellSouth wish to devote their time and resources to a settlement and resolution of the issues in this proceeding rather than on litigating the issues through the final hearing process. A settlement, of course, would obviate the need for the expenditure of the parties' and Commission's time and resources on the hearing process.

- 3. In addition, counsel for US LEC is scheduled to appear before the First District Court of Appeal for oral argument on February 21, 2001 in First DCA Case Nos. 1D98-727 and 1D98-713. These appeals involve numerous parties and counsel and it is not likely the court would entertain a request to reschedule oral argument particularly since the appeals have been pending before the court for well over two years.
- 4. Counsel for US LEC has discussed a continuance of this case with counsel for BellSouth and is authorized to represent that BellSouth concurs with US LEC's request. Counsel for US LEC is further authorized to represent that in concurring with US LEC's request for a continuance, BellSouth does not intend to file a response to this Motion.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, US LEC respectfully requests that the Prehearing Officer grant a continuance of the prehearing conference and final hearing and reschedule the prehearing conference and final hearing in this case on dates falling at least ninety days after the currently scheduled dates of February 5, 2001 for the prehearing conference and February 21, 2001 for the final hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth A. Hoffman, Esq.

John R. Ellis, Esq.

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Attorneys for US LEC of Florida Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was furnished by U. S. Mail to the following this 22nd day of December, 2000:

E. Earl Edenfield, Jr., Esq. BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 675 West Peachtree Street Suite 4300 Atlanta, GA 30375

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Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Kenneth & Horiman, Esq

USLEC/motion