ATTACHMENT C

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. FPSC Docket No. 990649A-TP Request for Confidential Classification Page 1 of 1 1/28/02

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION OF BELLSOUTH'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS, ITEM 1, ATTACHMENT ONE AND TWO, FILED JANUARY 7, 2002, IN FLORIDA DOCKET NO. 990649A-TP

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CONFIGENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

This confidentiality request was filed by or for a "telco" for DN 0385-03No ruling is required unless the material is subject to a request per 119.07, FS, or is admitted in the record per Rule 25-22.006(8)(b), FAC.

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Cataldo, Jeannie

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. FPSC Dkt No. 990649A-TP Staff's 1st Request for Production

December 14, 2001

Item No. 1

Attachment No. 2 Page 1 of 2

From:

dent: `o:

Dickinson, Bernadette Tuesday, August 28, 2001 10:33 AM Cataldo, Jeannie

Cc: Subject:

Gagliano, Sam Computer Usage Inputs for the DUF Studies

importance:

High



dufinputs1cmptr.xls

The above file, dufinputs1cmptr.xls, contains the DUF jobs computer resource usage and the computer resource rates. Bernadette

Contains Private and/or Proprietary Information. May not be used or Disclosed Outside The BellSouth Companies Except Pursuant to a Written Agreement.

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ACCOUNTING FOR INTERNAL-USE SOFTWARE

Issued:

LETTER: 32 November 25, 1998

SECTION: 10

Effective: January 1, 1999

ACCOUNTING FOR INTERNAL-USE SOFTWARE

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1. **GENERAL**

- 1.1 Statement of Position 98-1, Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use ("SOP 98-1"), was issued March 4, 1998 by the Accounting Standards Executive Committee as approved by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). In general, statements of position devote attention to and provide interpretation of emerging issues. BellSouth Telecommunications. Inc. ("BellSouth" or the "Company") will adopt SOP 98-1's accounting requirements prospectively beginning January 1, 1999, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP").
- SOP 98-1 and this policy letter require the capitalization and amortization of the costs of all new software purchased or developed for internal use and certain enhancements and upgrades to existing internal-use software if the software provides additional functionality. Prior to January 1, 1999, BellSouth capitalized initial operating system software and expensed all other software costs. BellSouth has adopted new amortization methods and useful lives for the capitalized software costs in accordance with SOP 98-1.
- 1.3 Guidance contained in this Policy Letter is intended for internal-use software only. Software is considered internal-use if the software is acquired, internally developed, or modified solely to meet internal needs. In SOP 98-1, Appendix Examples, software that is necessary to run telecommunication switches for various telephone services was given as one specific example of internal-use software.

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1.4 Accounting Policy and Compliance will continue to review all software and associated agreements prior to enactment. In most cases, formal accounting rulings will be issued. Accounting support in early stages of agreement development will continue to be available. However, no definitive rulings will be issued until a final (or near final) draft of the agreement is available.

1.5 Situations related to the implementation and application of this policy letter may be referred to Accounting Policy and Compliance for resolution.

2. PURCHASED SOFTWARE FOR INTERNAL-USE

- 2.1 SOP 98-1 and this policy letter requires the capitalization of external direct costs of materials and services consumed in obtaining from a third-party vendor internal-use software that provides additional functionality. This will apply to most purchased new internal-use software.
- 2.2 Most purchased internal-use software will include software license costs or right to use fees (together, "Software Licenses") which are incurred when BellSouth has the right to use the contracted software. Right to use means the legal right to deploy a software product, generally recognized when the software is readily available from the vendor and substantially all testing is complete. The conceptual basis for this measurement point is the basic nature of the benefit acquired. Software Licenses permit utilization of an intellectual software property developed or owned by a vendor. If, where, and when the Software License is actually used is irrelevant since the basic economic benefit is tied to the right to use and not actual utilization.
- 2.3 Certain types of Software Licenses common to BellSouth's switching network (the "Network") are given as examples at APPENDIX I EXAMPLES.
- 2.4 For treatment of software related purchase credits, discounts, rebates, trade-in allowances, and/or "free" merchandise/service in accordance with Company Policy, see Policy Letter10:02, Accounting Guidelines for the Treatment of Purchase Credits.

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3. SOFTWARE DEVELOPED FOR INTERNAL-USE

3.1 The costs of software developed for internal-use may be expensed or capitalized depending on the nature of the cost. The cost of new software developed for internal-use that provides additional functionality is to be capitalized. For additional discussion of providers of software developed for internal-use, see Section 5.5. The stages of software development for internal-use are:

1) Preliminary Project Stage - expense,

- 2) Application Development Stage capitalize, and 460 C
- 3) Post Implementation/Operation Stage expense.
- 3.2 Preliminary Project Stage When a software project is in the Preliminary Project Stage, BellSouth will make strategic decisions to allocate resources between alternative projects, determine performance requirements, explore alternative means of achieving specified performance requirements, and/or select a consultant to assist in development or installation of the software. Preliminary Project Stage costs are to be expensed as incurred. Examples of activities in the Preliminary Project Stage include:
 - Conceptual formulation of alternatives/performance requirements
 - Evaluation of alternatives
 - Determination of existence of needed technology
 - Final selection of alternatives
- 3.3 Application Development Stage costs should be capitalized in accordance with the provisions of Section 5. The Application Development Stage includes:
 - Design of chosen path, including software configuration and interfaces
 - Coding
 - Installation of software
 - Testing, including parallel processing phase
- 3.4 Post Implementation/Operation Stage costs should be expensed. Post Implementation/Operation Stage includes training and application maintenance. Please note that SOP 98-1 and this policy letter should be applied based on the nature of the costs incurred, not the timing. In other words, training may occur concurrent with Application Development Stage activities. The training would still be considered a Post Implementation/Operation Stage activity and expensed as incurred.

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4. UPGRADES AND ENHANCEMENTS

- 4.1 SOP 98-1 clearly requires that the Application Development Stage of software developed for internal-use and most new purchased software will be capitalized. However, upgrades and enhancements require additional scrutiny. Costs related to upgrades and enhancements should be capitalized only if these modifications to existing internal-use software result in additional functionality.
- 4.2 Additional functionality is defined as enabling software to perform tasks that it was previously incapable of performing. Additional functionality normally requires new software specifications, and/or changes to all or part of the existing software specifications. In order to capitalize upgrades and enhancements that provided additional functionality, the additional functionality must be probable. Costs related to software maintenance and to upgrades and enhancements that do not provide additional functionality should be expensed as incurred. Examples are included in <u>APPENDIX I</u>-EXAMPLES.
- 4.3 External costs incurred for upgrades and enhancements under contracts that combine multiple elements require further scrutiny. If maintenance is combined with specified upgrades and enhancements in a single contract, the cost should be allocated based on objective evidence of fair value of the elements, not necessarily separate prices stated within the contract for each element. Components of multiple-element contracts to be allocated based on relative fair value include are included in <u>APPENDIX I</u>-EXAMPLES.
- 4.4 However, external costs related to maintenance, unspecified upgrades and enhancements, and costs under agreements that combine the costs of maintenance and unspecified upgrades and enhancements should be recognized in expense over the contract period on a straight-line basis.
- 4.5 If BellSouth cannot separate costs of software developed upgrades and enhancements on reasonable cost-effective basis between maintenance and relatively minor upgrades, such costs are to be expensed as incurred.

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5. CAPITALIZATION

5.1 Capitalization (and amortization) should begin for the cost of **purchased** software for internal-use when BellSouth has obtained the right to use the software, generally recognized when the software is readily available from the vendor and substantially all testing is complete.

- 5.2 The capturing of costs to be capitalized under SOP 98-1 and this policy letter should begin for **software developed for internal-use** when the preliminary project stage is complete, and management, with relevant authority, implicitly or explicitly authorizes and commits to funding a software project and it is **probable** that the project will be completed and the software will be used to perform the function intended. Probable does not require absolute certainty.
- 5.3 Only direct costs associated with software developed for internal-use projects are capitalized. While allocated overheads may be part of the overall cost of software developed, such costs are excluded from capitalization because the costs of accumulating and assigning overheads to software projects generally exceed the benefits.
- 5.4 The capturing of costs to be capitalized under SOP 98-1 and this policy letter should cease for **software developed for internal-use** when it is no longer probable that the software project will be completed, placed into service, or no later than the point at which a software project is substantially complete and ready for its intended use
- 5.5 Costs of software developed for internal-use that are to be capitalized should be treated no differently than capitalized costs of purchased software whether developed by employees or per diem independent contractors or whether obtained retail or developed by outside consultants for a flat fee or price.
- 5.6 **Software developed for internal-use** requires a period of time to get ready for the software's intended use. Therefore, the costs capitalized for software developed for internal-use must include capitalized interest, in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 34, *Capitalization of Interest Cost.*
- 5.7 All capitalized internal-use software will be recorded in <u>Intangible Asset Software</u> account(s). Software assets recorded in this account will be maintained on "Vintage Month/Year" subsidiary records.

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6. AMORTZATION

6.1 Costs of software developed or obtained for internal-use should be amortized on a straight-line basis unless another systematic and rational basis is more representative of the software's use. Given the history of rapid changes in technology, software often has had a relatively short useful life. The useful life of network switch, circuit, and other related software is three years for GAAP. The useful life of general purpose and all other internal-use administrative function software is five years for GAAP. For examples related to application of software useful lives, see APPENDIX I - EXAMPLES.

- 6.2 Amortization should begin when the software is ready for its intended use, regardless of whether the software will be placed in service in planned stages that may extend beyond a reporting period. Internal-use software is "ready for its intended use" after all substantial testing is complete.
- 6.3 Capitalization and amortization of Software License commitments (including generic upgrades and related Network switch software) will begin upon **first office** acceptance, regardless of the deployment schedule.
- 6.4 Determining and periodically reassessing the estimated useful life should consider obsolescence, technology, competition, rapidly changing environment, development of software, and/or development of hardware.

7. IMPAIRED INTERNAL-USE SOFTWARE

- 7.1 SOP 98-1 and this policy letter requires that impairment of internal-use Software should be recognized in accordance with FASB Statement No. 121, <u>Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to Be Disposed Of.</u>
- 7.2 Internal-use software is impaired if the asset is not expected to provide any service potential to the entity, when completion or placement in service is no longer "probable," and/or the rebuttable presumption is that the fair value of the internal-use software is zero.
- 7.3 FASB 121 guidance may be applicable if internal-use software is not expected to provide substantive service potential, a significant change occurs in the extent or manner the software is to be used, a significant change is made or will be made to the software program, and/or costs of developing or modifying significantly exceed the amount originally expected.

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7.4 Indications the software may no longer be completed or placed into service include lack of budgeted or incurred expenditures, programming difficulties not resolved on a timely basis, significant cost overruns, reanalysis of potential sources of software, and/or presence of significant new, available technology.

7.5 Given the relatively short useful life and amortization periods of internal-use software, significant impairment issues are not likely. Situations related to the potential internal-use software impairments must be referred to Accounting Policy and Compliance for analysis and resolution.

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- 1) Types of Software Licenses common to BellSouth's switching network (the "Network") include:
 - a) Software for new switches refers to the initial operating system and application software (together the "Initial Load") purchased for either a new or existing central office. Initial Loads are to be capitalized.
 - b) Upgrades or enhancements to existing central offices refers to upgrades or routine ongoing enhancements to the generic software installed in an electronic switching system. May be capitalized or expensed based upon the nature of the upgrade or enhancement. See Section 4 for further discussion.
 - c) A blanket corporate license covering a new or existing feature occurs when BellSouth purchases a right to use a specific feature (or group of features) in the entire embedded base in the network. Commonly referred to as "buy-outs" and are to be capitalized.
- 2) Examples of what may or may not provide additional functionality include:
 - a) A payroll system change in printing format to adjust from portrait to landscape, to a new type of paper, and adding a new tax field/category would be considered minor enhancements without providing additional functionality. The payroll system already provides these services, so the enhancements will not add anything new, just more of the same. The costs related to these software changes would be expensed.
 - b) A payroll system change to allow for direct deposit processing would be considered additional functionality. The system is now providing a new service. The costs related to providing this software enhancement would be capitalized.
 - c) A system change, such as table capacity and table access methods, that allows hardware to respond/process quicker, more reliably, and/or with more capacity is not considered to be providing additional software functionality. The costs related to these types of software modifications would be expensed.

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d) Generic upgrades to switching software allows switches to provide new or different features. The ability to provide those new or different features is additional functionality. The right to use this software item would be capitalized.

- e) A vendor provides the software licenses to allow a specific number of BellSouth users to access a server and utilize the software functionality. Subsequently, additional users are required based on **previously unknown** conditions or requirements. BellSouth purchases additional licenses. The additional licenses purchased may or may not provide the system with additional functionality or hardware, only more users. The costs related to this type of software upgrade may be expensed or capitalized, depending on the individual contract facts and circumstances, pending Accounting Policy and Compliance review.
- f) Adding a new customer/vendor to the accounts receivable/accounts payable routines or a system change that allows for more customers/vendors would be considered a minor enhancement without providing additional functionality. The costs related to these types of software upgrades would be expensed.
- 3) Components of multiple-element contracts to be allocated based on relative fair value include:
 - a) Rights to future upgrades and enhancements
 - b) Routine maintenance fees performed by a third party
 - c) Data conversion costs or Reengineering costs
 - d) Training for the software
- 4) Costs to develop or obtain software that allows for access or conversion of old data by new systems should also be capitalized. However, the process of data conversion from old to new systems, including purging or cleansing of existing data, reconciliation of balancing of the old data and the data in the new system, and the creation of new/additional data, should be expensed as incurred.

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The useful life of network switch, circuit, and other related software is three years with a mid-month convention for GAAP. The useful life of general purpose and all other internal-use administrative function software is five years with a mid-month convention for GAAP. Examples internal-use software include network switch initial load, full generic upgrades, and all switch features. Please note that minor upgrades within generic versions may not provide additional functionality and may not be subject to capitalization.

- During development or modification, no substantive plan may exist or is being developed to market the software externally. To be a "substantive plan", implementation of the plan should be reasonably possible. If a decision to market occurs subsequent to the development of internal-use Software, the proceeds should be applied against carrying amount of the software net of direct incremental costs of marketing. No profit should be recognized until aggregate net proceeds reduces carrying amount to zero. If a decision to market occurs during development of internal-use software, the costs should be accounted for in accordance with FASB Statement No. 86.
- 7) Other examples of internal-use software costs subject to capitalization include:
 - a) Software engineering costs relate to vendor services required to install certain switch specific software, such as Initial Loads or the upgrade from one generic software format to the subsequent generic software format. Software engineering must be performed by the vendor and subject to vendor technician availability. Therefore, software engineering must be capitalized to the proper Intangible Asset -Software account in the month the service is performed on each specific switch.
 - b) BellSouth purchases or develops software to process payroll, accounts payable, and accounts receivable.
- 8) Examples of internal-use software costs not subject to capitalization include:
 - a) Office Data Assembly and the One Night Process (together the "ODA/ONP") are the procedures performed by the vendor related to the conversion of certain data base, switch specific information from one generic software format to the subsequent generic software format. ODA/ONP must be performed by the vendor and must be performed during the course of each generic upgrade. Based on SOP 98-1, ODA/ONP is considered to be a type of data conversion cost and therefore expensed as incurred in each specific switch.

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- b) Software costs for research and development will still be expensed in accordance with the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Statement No. 2 and Company Policy.
- c) Year 2000 software costs will still be expensed (EITF No. 96-14).
- d) Firmware is permanent control coding at the hardware level of a processor that implements a fixed application program, instruction set, operating routine or user-oriented function. The control coding is "permanently" etched onto a microprocessor chip, but is not to be confused with application software provided by vendors on microprocessor chips. Examples of firmware driven hardware include non-programmable word processors, calculators, test sets, and fuel dispensing devices. Firmware driven hardware is not a computer and therefore, when not configured in a computer system, should be classified to the plant account appropriate for the equipment of which it is part.

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