

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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:                   In the Matter of                   :                   DOCKET NO. 980696-TP
   
:
   
:                   Determination of the cost of                   :
   
:                   basic local telecommunications                   :
   
:                   service, pursuant to                   :
   
:                   Section 364.025,                   :
   
:                   Florida Statutes.                   :
   
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VOLUME 18

Pages 2096 through 2162

PROCEEDINGS:           HEARING

BEFORE:                   CHAIRMAN JULIA L. JOHNSON  
                          COMMISSIONER J. TERRY DEASON  
                          COMMISSIONER SUSAN F. CLARK  
                          COMMISSIONER JOE GARCIA  
                          COMMISSIONER E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

DATE:                    Thursday, October 15, 1998

TIME:                    Commenced at 9:10 a.m.

PLACE:                   Betty Easley Conference Center  
                          Room 148  
                          4075 Esplanade Way  
                          Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY:            H. RUTHE POTAMI, CSR, RPR  
                          Official Commission Reporter

APPEARANCES:

(As heretofore noted.)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE  
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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTS

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2	<b>WITNESSES</b>		
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11	73	2100	
12	Revised DDC-1		
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**P R O C E E D I N G S**

(Hearing reconvened at 9:10 a.m.)

(Transcript follows in sequence from  
Volume 17.)

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** We're going to go back on  
the record today. Any preliminary announcements  
before we go to the witness?

**MR. COX:** Staff isn't aware of any  
preliminary matters.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** Okay. I think we're  
prepared.

- - - - -

**D. DAONNE CALDWELL**

was called as a witness on behalf of Bellsouth  
Telecommunications, Inc. and, having been duly sworn,  
testified as follows:

**DIRECT EXAMINATION**

**BY MS. WHITE:**

**Q** Ms. Caldwell, would you please state your  
name and address for the record?

**A** Yes. My name is Doris Daonne Caldwell. My  
address is 675 West Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta,  
Georgia 30375.

**Q** By whom are you employed and in what  
capacity?

1 filed as revisions and so indicated on each page.

2 Q Was that exhibit prepared by you or under  
3 your direction and supervision?

4 A Yes, it was.

5 Q Do you have any substantive corrections or  
6 changes to that exhibit at this time?

7 A No, I do not.

8 MS. WHITE: Madam Chairman, I'd like to have  
9 the DDC-1, revised DDC-1 that's attached to  
10 Ms. Caldwell's direct testimony labeled as the next  
11 exhibit.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: It will be marked as 73.  
13 (Exhibit 73 marked for identification.)

14 Q (By Ms. White) Ms. Caldwell, you also  
15 filed rebuttal testimony in this docket consisting of  
16 nine pages; is that correct?

17 A That is correct.

18 Q Do you have any additions or changes to your  
19 rebuttal testimony at this time?

20 A No, I do not.

21 Q If I were to ask you the same questions that  
22 are posed in your prefiled rebuttal testimony today,  
23 would your answers be the same?

24 A Yes, they would.

25 MS. WHITE: I would like to have the

1 rebuttal testimony of Ms. Caldwell inserted into the  
2 record.

3           **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** It will be so inserted.

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1 BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
2 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF D. DAONNE CALDWELL  
3 BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
4 DOCKET NO. 980696-TP  
5 AUGUST 3, 1998  
6

7 **Q. Please state your name, occupation and address.**

8  
9 **A. My name is D. Daonne Caldwell. I am a Director in the Finance**  
10 **Department of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (hereinafter referred to**  
11 **as "BellSouth" or "the Company"). My area of responsibility relates to**  
12 **economic costs. My business address is 675 W. Peachtree St., N.E.,**  
13 **Atlanta, Georgia, 30375.**

14  
15 **Q. Please state your professional experience and education related to**  
16 **the issues in this proceeding?**

17  
18 **A. I joined South Central Bell in 1976 in the Tupelo, Mississippi, Engineering**  
19 **Department where I was responsible for Outside Plant Planning. In 1983, I**  
20 **transferred to BellSouth Services, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama, and was**  
21 **responsible for the Centralized Results System Database. I moved to the**  
22 **Pricing and Economics Department in 1984 where I developed**  
23 **methodology for service cost studies until 1986 when I accepted a**  
24 **rotational assignment with Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore).**  
25 **While at Bellcore, I was responsible for development and instruction of the**

1 Service Cost Studies Curriculum including courses such as "Concepts of  
2 Service Cost Studies", "Network Service Costs", "Nonrecurring Costs", and  
3 "Cost Studies for New Technologies". In 1990, I returned to BellSouth and  
4 was appointed to a position in the cost organization, which is now a part of  
5 the Finance Department, with the responsibility of managing the  
6 development of cost studies for transport facilities, both loop and  
7 interoffice. Since mid-1996, I have been dedicated to reviewing  
8 BellSouth's cost methodology and cost study results.

9  
10 I attended the University of Mississippi, graduating with a Master of  
11 Science Degree in mathematics. I have attended numerous Bellcore  
12 courses and outside seminars relating to service cost studies and  
13 economic principles.

14

15 **Q. Please state your relevant experience in testifying.**

16

17 **A.** I have testified in each of the nine BellSouth states in the local competition  
18 dockets, including arbitration dockets and/or generic cost dockets.  
19 Additionally, I have testified in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,  
20 North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee in universal service  
21 hearings. My extensive involvement in these dockets has provided me  
22 with the opportunity to evaluate numerous cost models and methodologies  
23 used by BellSouth and other parties to estimate the cost of providing  
24 unbundled network elements and universal service.

25

1 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

2

3 A. The purpose of my testimony is to explain and support the cost inputs  
4 used in the Benchmark Cost Proxy Model 3.1 (BCPM 3.1) by BellSouth to  
5 develop universal service costs for Florida. Further, I will explain why  
6 these inputs are appropriate to use and show why the inputs I recommend  
7 produce more realistic results than other parties' inputs. I will also address  
8 Issue 4 of Order No. PSC-98-1008-PCO-TP, Issued July 24, 1998.

9

10 The universal service cost proxy model selected in this proceeding must  
11 accurately determine the cost an efficient carrier would incur in providing  
12 universal service to high cost areas in the state of Florida. In this regard,  
13 Dr. Duffy-Deno's, Dr. Bowman's and Mr. Martin's testimonies discuss the  
14 reasons this Commission should select the BCPM 3.1 as the model to be  
15 used to determine the cost of universal service in Florida. As I have stated  
16 previously, my testimony explains why BellSouth's inputs, used in  
17 conjunction with the BCPM 3.1, enable the Commission to determine the  
18 appropriate costs of universal service in Florida.

19

20 BellSouth conducted a study utilizing BCPM 3.1 and BellSouth-specific  
21 inputs for Florida. The results from that study, supporting documentation  
22 and data, and a CD-ROM are submitted as Exhibit DDC-1 attached to this  
23 testimony.

24

25



1 **Q. What are the appropriate inputs to be used in determining the costs**  
2 **of universal service?**

3

4 A. In accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's)  
5 Universal Service Order, only inputs reflective of forward-looking economic  
6 costs should be used to determine the costs of providing universal service.  
7 Additionally, in order to accurately determine costs representative of  
8 providing service in high cost areas in the state of Florida the inputs must  
9 be as specific as possible. The inputs contained in Exhibit DDC-1 meet  
10 both these criteria; they are forward-looking and they reflect BellSouth's  
11 provisioning practices and costs in Florida.

12

13 **Q. Should Universal Service cost studies be company specific or**  
14 **generic?**

15

16 A. The cost study approach, i.e. the underlying model used to process the  
17 input data, should be generic. A generic cost proxy model determines the  
18 costs of a network designed to serve existing customer locations,  
19 assuming existing wire center locations, without regard to the specific  
20 company serving the area. The model can be used, with the appropriate  
21 inputs, to identify the costs an efficient provider would incur to provide  
22 universal service in Florida, specifically in the high cost areas of the state.  
23 Furthermore, Florida Statutes, Section 364.025 requires the Commission  
24 to determine "the total forward-looking cost, based upon the most recent  
25 commercially available technology and equipment and generally accepted

1 design and placement principles, of providing basic local  
2 telecommunications service on a basis no greater than a wire center basis  
3 using a cost proxy model to be selected by the commission..."

4

5 **Q. Are BellSouth's universal service cost estimates based on national**  
6 **default input values or BellSouth-specific values?**

7

8 **A. In contrast to the model itself, the inputs to the model should be company-**  
9 **specific by territory. For example, BellSouth inputs should be used to**  
10 **calculate universal service costs in BellSouth's territory in Florida.**  
11 **BellSouth is a large, efficient provider of quality telecommunications**  
12 **service in this state and its cost inputs reflect economies of scale and**  
13 **vendor discounts that an efficient provider would be expected to achieve**  
14 **on a going forward basis. Additionally, BellSouth has experience**  
15 **providing service in the high cost areas that are identified by the cost**  
16 **proxy model.**

17

18 Even though we are dealing with a hypothetical network designed by a  
19 cost proxy model, the cost of that network should be as real world as  
20 possible. That is, it should reflect the costs of an efficient provider  
21 building and operating that network. The inputs used by BellSouth reflect  
22 the most accurate view of conditions and experiences that an efficient  
23 carrier would experience in providing universal service in BellSouth  
24 territory in Florida.

25

1 The national default values of both the Hatfield Model and BCPM are not  
2 necessarily reflective of the costs of providing service in Florida. Instead,  
3 these defaults are designed to represent an average cost across the  
4 nation. Since the purpose of this proceeding is to determine the costs of  
5 providing service in rural, insular, and high cost areas of Florida, it makes  
6 no sense to use only national average inputs which tend to equalize the  
7 costs in all areas.

8  
9 BellSouth has used, whenever possible, Florida-specific cost inputs which  
10 reflect the forward-looking cost of providing service in BellSouth territory  
11 in Florida. These input values include BellSouth specific costs for cable,  
12 structures, switches and other network components of universal service.  
13 BellSouth reviewed the BCPM 3.1 default inputs. Defaults which were  
14 found to be representative of BellSouth's Florida costs, were used when  
15 BellSouth-specific data was not available in the format, or at the level of  
16 detail, required by the BCPM 3.1.

17  
18 We recommend to the Commission that the BCPM 3.1 with the values  
19 included in BellSouth's filing be used to determine the cost of universal  
20 service for BellSouth's Florida territory.

21  
22 **Q. Please list the categories of inputs for which BellSouth used**  
23 **BellSouth-specific values rather than BCPM 3.1 default values.**

24  
25

1 A. BellSouth-specific input values were used for the following categories of  
2 cost inputs:

- 3 Category 1 - contractor costs of placing cable, conduit and poles
- 4 Category 2 - sharing percentage associated with structures
- 5 Category 3 - cable material and labor unit costs
- 6 Category 4 - cable sizing/utilization
- 7 Category 5 - drop terminal cost
- 8 Category 6 - feeder/distribution interface costs
- 9 Category 7 - switch costs
- 10 Category 8 - interoffice transport and signaling costs
- 11 Category 9 - network interface device and drop costs
- 12 Category 10 - land and building loading factors
- 13 Category 11 - depreciation lives, survivor curves and net salvage  
14 percentages
- 15 Category 12 - cost of capital
- 16 Category 13 - actual wire center line count
- 17 Category 14 - expenses and support assets
- 18 Category 15 - taxes

19  
20 Q. What are the major categories of inputs in BCPM 3.1?

21

22 A. Following is a list of major user input groups which significantly impact the  
23 BCPM 3.1 cost results. Additionally, the cost category and issue numbers,  
24 as designated by the commission order, are indicated in the parentheses  
25 for reference.

- 1 Network Interface Device (NID) and Drop (Category 9, Issues 4j and  
2 4k)  
3 Terminal Investment (Material plus Engineering and Installation Costs)  
4 (Categories 5 and 6, Issue 4n)  
5 Distribution Investment (Material plus Engineering and Installation  
6 Costs) (Category 3, Issue 4i)  
7 Copper Feeder Investment (Material plus Engineering and Installation  
8 Costs) (Category 3, Issue 4i)  
9 Fiber Feeder Investment (Material plus Engineering and Installation  
10 Costs) (Category 3, Issue 4h)  
11 Structure Costs (Category 1, Issues 4d and 4g)  
12 Structure Sharing (Category 2, Issue 4e)  
13 Copper and Fiber Fill Factors (Category 4, Issue 4f)  
14 Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) Investment (Issue 4m)  
15 Interoffice Investment (Category 8, Issues 4q and 4r)  
16 Central Office Switching Investment (Material plus Engineering and  
17 Installation Costs and Switch Traffic Characteristics) (Category 7,  
18 Issues 4o and 4p)  
19 Expense Factors (Category 14, Issue 4s)  
20 Cost of Capital (Category 12, Issue 4b)  
21 Depreciation Lives (Category 11, Issue 4a)

22

- 23 **Q. Are BellSouth's BCPM 3.1 studies and input values reflective of**  
24 **forward-looking costs?**

25

1 A. Yes. All inputs used by BellSouth are designed to represent forward-  
2 looking costs. BellSouth used current material prices, labor costs, and  
3 contractor costs that are adjusted by Telephone Plant Indices (TPIs) to  
4 reflect 1998-2000 costs. In certain plant accounts, the TPIs add inflation  
5 estimates to the costs. However, in other accounts, the TPIs actually  
6 result in lower costs when material prices are forecasted to decline in a  
7 particular type of telephone plant. The use of BCPM's forward-looking  
8 network designs combined with forward-looking 1998-2000 input values,  
9 definitely produce forward-looking results.

10

11 **Q. How were Digital Loop Carrier (Issue 4m) inputs developed?**

12

13 A. BellSouth's Network experts reviewed the BCPM 3.1 default inputs and  
14 found them to be reasonable and reflective of BellSouth's operation in  
15 Florida. Additionally, BellSouth does not deploy systems less than 96 lines  
16 and therefore, had no data on small systems. Thus, the default inputs  
17 were used in this filing.

18

19 **Q. How were BellSouth's contractor costs and structure sharing  
20 percentages inputs (Categories 1 and 2) developed?**

21

22 A. BellSouth's structure placement costs (contractor costs) for placing  
23 conduit, trenching/plowing buried cable, and placing poles are based on an  
24 average of the 10 existing BellSouth contracts with outside plant  
25 contractors in Florida. These 10 contracts cover the entire BellSouth



1 territory in Florida. BellSouth also used BellSouth-specific inputs from  
2 these contracts for the costs for manholes and handholes in Florida.

3

4 BellSouth does not have data that identifies the percentage of time  
5 associated with each activity in the structure tables. Therefore, BellSouth  
6 Network experts reviewed the BCPM defaults. Since these experts found  
7 the values to be reasonable and representative of BellSouth's operations  
8 in Florida, the defaults were used.

9

10 BellSouth used structure sharing percentages that are BellSouth-specific  
11 values representative of BellSouth's sharing arrangements in Florida.

12

13 BellSouth is a large efficient provider of telecommunications services in  
14 Florida. Thus, BellSouth-specific investments and installation costs, as  
15 well as structure sharing arrangements reflect economies of scale that an  
16 efficient provider would be able to expect to achieve on a going-forward  
17 basis.

18

19 **Q. How were BellSouth's cable costs inputs (Category 3) developed for**  
20 **BCPM 3.1?**

21

22 **A. BellSouth used BellSouth-specific costs for both copper and fiber cable.**  
23 **Material prices for copper and fiber cable were obtained from procurement**  
24 **records that reflect actual BellSouth purchase prices and contractual**  
25 **agreements. As previously explained, future inflation trends (TPIs) were**

1 also taken into consideration in order to reflect forward-looking costs.  
2 Telephone company engineering and labor costs were derived from  
3 BellSouth's Florida in-plant loading factors. In-plant factors convert  
4 material prices to a Florida-specific installed investment (less contractor  
5 costs that are handled separately in the structure tables of BCPM 3.1).  
6 BellSouth-specific cable costs reflect economies of scale and vendor  
7 prices that an efficient provider would be able to expect to achieve on a  
8 going forward basis.

9

10 **Q. How was the outside plant mix (Issue 4I) determined for BCPM 3.1?**

11

12 **A.** BellSouth analyzed the BCPM 3.1 default values at the wire center level.  
13 The distribution between aerial, buried, and underground placement was  
14 found to be reasonable. Thus, the BCPM 3.1 defaults were used.

15

16 **Q. What utilization factors (Category 4) are included in BellSouth's**  
17 **BCPM 3.1 study?**

18

19 **A.** Universal service costs should be based on a forward-looking projection of  
20 actual utilization. BCPM 3.1 determines the network design required to  
21 provide quality service to an area, calculates the cost of that network, and  
22 then determines a cost per line based on the number of lines served by the  
23 network. Thus, BCPM 3.1 uses an actual, or average, utilization to  
24 determine universal service costs. BCPM 3.1 requires a cable sizing factor  
25 input which, along with standard cable sizes and number of distribution



1 pairs per housing unit, is used to determine distribution cable  
2 requirements. BellSouth used a distribution cable sizing factor of 100%  
3 and 2 distribution pairs per housing unit to size distribution cable. These  
4 factors are designed to produce a fill representative of BellSouth's  
5 projection of actual fill, based on experience over time, for Florida. The  
6 feeder cable sizing factor is designed to produce a fill for feeder cable  
7 representative of the projection of actual fill of copper feeder plant  
8 experienced in Florida over time. The cable sizing factors are located in  
9 Exhibit DDC-1 Bates Stamp 000244.

10

11 **Q. Please explain BellSouth's BCPM 3.1 input values for drop terminal**  
12 **and feeder distribution interface costs (Categories 5 and 6)?**

13

14 **A.** BellSouth's drop terminal costs for line sizes below 100 pairs are included  
15 as exempt material in the in-plant factors used to develop the installed  
16 investments of cable. Therefore, terminal costs are not included in  
17 BellSouth's BCPM 3.1 study as a separate input. BellSouth used  
18 BellSouth-specific feeder distribution interface costs to reflect BellSouth's  
19 costs in Florida. The material prices were obtained from procurement  
20 records and were adjusted for inflation. The engineering and labor costs  
21 were developed from Florida-specific in-plant factors. As previously  
22 explained, the in-plant factor converts material prices to installed  
23 investments.

24

25 **Q. How were BellSouth switch cost inputs (Category 7) developed?**

1

2 A. BellSouth Florida-specific analyses were used to provide the detailed data  
3 for wire centers in the state. State-specific information on calling rates,  
4 usage rates, loading factors and host/remote characteristics were used  
5 along with company average data and line counts that are consistent with  
6 data generated from other BCPM modules. ARMIS data was used for  
7 items such as percentages of residence, business, local and toll traffic.

8

9 **Q. How were BellSouth's interoffice transport and signaling cost inputs**  
10 **(Category 8) developed?**

11

12 A. Transport costs are determined from the BCPM interoffice transport  
13 module. This module incorporates the forward-looking Synchronous  
14 Optical Network (SONET) ring architecture in determining network design  
15 and subsequent costs. Inputs to this module reflect BellSouth-specific  
16 costs for Florida. They include fill factors, SONET material prices, number  
17 of nodes on a ring, air-to-route factor, the mix of aerial, underground and  
18 buried fiber in the interoffice transport.

19

20 Signaling costs are determined in BCPM 3.1 based upon two investments  
21 for signaling; investment per line for residence and investment per line for  
22 business. Default values were found to be representative of BellSouth's  
23 forward-looking signaling costs.

24

25

1 **Q. Please describe how network interface device (NID) and drop inputs**  
2 **(Category 9) were developed?**

3

4 **A. BellSouth used BellSouth-specific costs for the material, travel, and**  
5 **installation labor associated with the NID and the drop in BCPM 3.1.**  
6 **These costs are based on material prices for equipment/material and**  
7 **BellSouth's expertise and experience in placing the equipment/material.**  
8 **The costs represent the costs an efficient provider would be able to expect**  
9 **to achieve on a going-forward basis. The model, through internal**  
10 **calculations determines the appropriate drop length.**

11

12 **Q. Did BellSouth use BCPM 3.1 default input values for land and**  
13 **building factors (Category 10)?**

14

15 **A. No. BellSouth-specific land and building loading factors were used which**  
16 **reflect the relationship between equipment investment and its associated**  
17 **land and building investments as they occur in Florida. Since these**  
18 **factors are calculated from BellSouth's accounting records and the**  
19 **projected view of BellSouth's future additions in these accounts, these**  
20 **values reflect land and building costs that an efficient provider would be**  
21 **able to expect to achieve on a going forward basis.**

22

23 **Q. Should forward-looking economic costs reflect prescribed**  
24 **depreciation lives (Category 11)?**

25

1 A. No. The appropriate lives to use in depreciation calculations in a forward-  
2 looking cost study are economic lives, as opposed to prescribed lives.  
3 Economic lives reflect the useful, or revenue-producing, life of an item of  
4 plant and are appropriate for use in economic cost studies to ensure that  
5 costs are recovered over a time period equal to the revenue-producing life  
6 of the plant. BellSouth witness David Cunningham is filing direct testimony  
7 that provides support for the proposed depreciation parameters used in  
8 BellSouth's BCPM 3.1 study. Therefore, BellSouth recommends that the  
9 Commission use the projected economic lives and net salvage  
10 percentages proposed by BellSouth in its study.

11

12 **Q. What cost of capital (Category 12) did BellSouth use in the**  
13 **determination of universal service costs?**

14

15 A. BellSouth used a cost of capital of 11.25% that reflects forward-looking  
16 expectations of the debt rate, cost of equity, and debt/equity ratio.  
17 BellSouth witness Dr. Randall Billingsley is filing direct testimony that  
18 supports these inputs.

19

20 **Q. Does the BCPM 3.1 meet the criteria of the FCC that requires "wire**  
21 **center line counts should equal actual ILEC wire center line counts"**  
22 **(Category 13)?**

23

24 A. Yes. BellSouth's filing is based on actual line counts by wire center as of  
25 December 31, 1997.

1

2 **Q. Did BellSouth use default support investments and operating**  
3 **expenses from BCPM 3.1 (Category 14)?**

4

5 A. No. BellSouth developed BellSouth-specific support investment ratios for  
6 input into BCPM 3.1 and also developed BellSouth-specific expenses  
7 using 1998-2000 period total regulated expenses.

8

9 **Q. How does BCPM 3.1 handle expenses?**

10

11 A. Expenses are handled in BCPM 3.1 in two ways. Certain categories of  
12 expenses, including retail expenses, are expressed on a per line basis  
13 using 1998 -2000 projected lines. However, the other category of  
14 expenses is directly related to investments (e.g., copper cable expenses).  
15 These expenses are calculated based on BellSouth plant-specific expense  
16 factors specific to Florida.

17

18 **Q. How did BellSouth determine the expenses for BCPM 3.1?**

19

20 A. The plant-specific expenses consist mainly of maintenance expenses.  
21 These types of expenses are considered to be causally related to  
22 investment and are developed from three years of projected expense data  
23 relative to the same period projections for investment. The result is an  
24 expense per dollar of investment for these plant-specific expense  
25 accounts. Non-plant specific expenses, such as Network Operations and

1 Executive and Planning, are not causally related to investment. These  
2 expenses are determined on per line per month basis using projected  
3 forward-looking expenses and projected number of lines to derive an  
4 expense per line.

5

6 **Q. What tax factors (Category 15, Issue 4c) did BellSouth use for BCPM**  
7 **3.1?**

8

9 A. BellSouth has input Florida-specific tax rates for the following categories;  
10 effective federal tax rate, state tax rate, ad valorem, and other taxes (e.g.  
11 gross receipts tax).

12

13 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

14

15 A. BellSouth has entered inputs in BCPM 3.1 that reflect the costs BellSouth  
16 will incur to provide universal service in Florida. Costs for structures,  
17 cable, and other components of the network reflect BellSouth contract  
18 prices with vendors, including discounts provided to BellSouth as a large  
19 telecommunications carrier. Installation and engineering costs are based  
20 on actual experience by BellSouth network personnel. These inputs are  
21 reflective of costs that a large, efficient telecommunications carrier would  
22 expect to achieve on a going-forward basis. We therefore recommend to  
23 the Commission that the BCPM 3.1 with the input values included in  
24 BellSouth's filing be used to determine the cost of universal service in  
25 BellSouth's territory in Florida.

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**Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

**A. Yes.**



1                   BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
2                   REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF D. DAONNE CALDWELL  
3                   BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
4                   DOCKET NO. 980696-TF  
5                   SEPTEMBER 2, 1998  
6  
7

8 **Q.   Please state your name, occupation and address.**

9  
10 **A.   My name is D. Daonne Caldwell. I am a Director in the Finance**  
11 **Department of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (hereinafter referred**  
12 **to as "BellSouth" or "the Company"). My area of responsibility relates**  
13 **to economic costs. My business address is 675 W. Peachtree St.,**  
14 **N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, 30375.**

15  
16 **Q.   Are you the same D. Daonne Caldwell who filed direct testimony in**  
17 **this docket?**

18  
19 **A.   Yes.**

20  
21 **Q.   What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

22  
23 **A.   The purpose of my testimony is to respond to the direct testimonies of**  
24 **Joseph Gillan on behalf of the Florida Competitive Carriers Association,**

25



1 Don Wood on behalf of AT&T and MCI, and James W. Wells, Jr. on  
2 behalf of MCI Telecommunications Corporation.

3

4 **Q. On page 18 of his testimony, Mr. Gillan states that the same cost  
analysis should be used to determine universal service subsidy  
6 and to establish network element prices. Do you agree?**

7

8 **A. No. While I agree that the relevant standard for both studies should be  
9 forward-looking, least cost technology, I do not agree that one cost  
10 analysis can accurately determine the cost of both universal service  
11 and unbundled network elements (UNEs). While there is nothing  
12 wrong with using one model for both UNE costing and universal service  
13 costing if the model accurately identifies costs for each, I know of no  
14 model that currently provides such flexibility. UNEs are wholesale  
15 network elements while universal service is just that -- a retail service.  
16 By their very nature, the costs of UNEs are very different than the costs  
17 of a retail service. While BellSouth does not use one model to  
18 calculate both UNE costs and universal service costs, consistent  
19 methodology has been used in calculating the costs of both UNEs and  
20 universal service. Both studies are forward-looking in nature and  
21 employ consistent inputs. When two models using consistent inputs  
22 produce costs for UNEs and universal service more accurately than  
23 one model, there is no incentive to abandon accuracy provided by the  
24 two just to have one inaccurate cost model.**

25

- 1 Q. On page 5 of Don Wood's testimony, he states that Kentucky and  
2 Louisiana have selected the HAI Model for universal service  
3 funding. Please comment.  
4
- 5 A. It is true that the Kentucky and Louisiana Commissions chose the HAI  
6 Model for universal service funding. However, Mr. Wood fails to  
7 mention that while selecting the HAI Model, both Commissions rejected  
8 the values proposed by the HAI sponsors for the significant cost drivers  
9 in the model. For example, the Kentucky Commission Order in  
10 Administrative Case No. 360 found that "some of the inputs that are  
11 used in the default version of the HAI Model are reasonable and  
12 accurate. Others will be changed to reflect the conditions in  
13 Kentucky..." (emphasis added). While choosing the HAI Model as the  
14 platform, the Kentucky Commission chose HAI Model input values filed  
15 by the Georgetown Consulting Group on behalf of BellSouth as the  
16 most appropriate values for the significant cost drivers. This, of course  
17 radically changed the outputs from those that were yielded by the use  
18 of the Hatfield default inputs. The Georgetown Consulting Group has  
19 also filed rebuttal testimony in this docket which discusses why the HAI  
20 Model's national default inputs as proposed by AT&T and MCI are  
21 inappropriate. Examples of Georgetown Consulting Group's input  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 values selected by the Kentucky Commission in lieu of the HAI default  
2 values are:

3 Distribution Cable Investments, Fiber Feeder Investments,  
4 Copper Feeder Investments, Underground and Buried  
5 Excavation Costs, Aerial and Buried Drop Placement Costs,  
6 Outdoor Serving Area Interfaces Investments, Copper and Fiber  
7 Feeder Fill Factors, Buried Cable Jacket Multiplier, Network  
8 Interface Device Costs, Digital Loop Carrier Costs.  
9

10  
11 Furthermore, the Kentucky Commission adopted the HAI Model with  
12 the following footnote,

13 "The Commission acknowledges that universal service models  
14 will continue to evolve while the FCC continues to investigate  
15 crucial aspects of model design and the model developers  
16 continue their work. Therefore, the Commission may, in the  
17 future, reconsider its decision of the model to be used."  
18

19 This is certainly less than the ringing endorsement implied by Mr.  
20 Wood.

21  
22 The Louisiana Commission, in Docket U-20883 (Subdocket A) also  
23 selected the HAI Model as its platform for determining universal service  
24 costs. However, the Commission not only rejected the HAI default  
25

1 input values for all of the significant cost drivers, but then made  
2 "adjustments" to the output of the HAI Model even when used with the  
3 Commission's input values. In other words, while on the surface  
4 "selecting" the HAI Model, the Louisiana Commission in reality did not  
5 accept the model's output even when used with their own input values!  
6 Again, the "bottom line" result was drastically different than what was  
7 advocated by the Hatfield proponents in the case.  
8

9  
10 Not surprisingly, Mr. Wood does not mention that the BCPM 3.1 was  
11 selected over the HAI Model in two other states in BellSouth's region.  
12 North Carolina, in its 4/20/98 Order, concluded that "the BCPM 3.1 is  
13 more reasonable, more accessible, and more appropriate than the  
14 Hatfield [HAI] Model for determining the forward-looking economic cost  
15 of providing universal service in North Carolina." In its May 6, 1998  
16 Order, the South Carolina Public Service Commission stated: "after  
17 careful consideration of the evidence presented on this subject, the  
18 Commission concludes that BCPM 3.1's network design is superior to  
19 HM 5.0a's" and adopted the BCPM 3.1 as the universal service model  
20 for that state.  
21  
22  
23

24 **Q. Mr. Wells spends a great deal of time in his testimony discussing**  
25 **the HAI OSP Engineering Team. How does the process utilized by**

1           **this team differ from the process BellSouth utilized in establishing**  
2           **input values?**

3  
4    A.    BellSouth's BCPM 3.1 cost inputs are based on actual experience in  
5           terms of material prices paid and actual labor costs incurred by  
6           BellSouth. These actual costs have been projected forward, to include  
7           adjustments for inflation/deflation as well as productivity improvements,  
8           to reflect the forward-looking economic costs, of providing service to  
9           customers in BellSouth's Florida territory. While the HAI Model OSP  
10          Engineering Team certainly has a number of years of experience, no  
11          one, regardless of experience, can better estimate the costs of  
12          providing service in BellSouth's territory in Florida than BellSouth's own  
13          engineers and BellSouth's own actual cost records. As Mr. Wells  
14          admits on page 12 of his testimony, "The input values to the HAI Model  
15          were derived directly from the judgment of the OSP Engineering  
16          Team." (emphasis added). In other words, the HAI input values are  
17          based on their team's opinions as to what costs should be on a  
18          nationwide basis in contrast to BellSouth's BCPM input values that  
19          reflect real-world costs in Florida.

20  
21  
22    Q.    On page 19 of his testimony, Mr. Wells states that HAI national  
23           default OSP input values produce results appropriate for Florida.  
24           Do you agree?

25

1 A. No. The Florida Public Service Commission, along with other  
2 regulatory authorities in BellSouth territory, are well aware that costs  
3 vary by state. For that reason, BellSouth typically files state-specific  
4 costs in support of tariff filings. A prime example of this is the Florida-  
5 specific UNE costs filed by BellSouth. Varying only a few categories of  
6 the one thousand plus HAI Model national default user adjustable  
7 input values will not produce Florida-specific results as Mr. Wells  
8 implies. Specifically, AT&T has only modified national default HAI 5.0a  
9 values in these input categories: depreciation lives and salvage, cost of  
10 money parameters, an End Office Traffic Sensitive fraction input, and a  
11 regional labor adjustment factor. On the other hand, BellSouth has  
12 input over 10,000 BellSouth-specific input values into BCPM 3.1 which  
13 result in a cost that is specific to BellSouth's territory in Florida.

14

15 Q. Mr. Wells recommends the use of a "best in class" approach to  
16 selecting input values in which a company would determine the  
17 "benchmark", or lowest cost provider of a particular item, and  
18 then emulate that company's costs. Is this a realistic approach to  
19 developing cost inputs?

20

21 A. Absolutely not. In reality, BellSouth awards master outside plant  
22 contracts for a particular geographic area by evaluating the overall bids  
23 submitted by outside plant engineering contractors for that area. The  
24 contractor selected by BellSouth will be the one providing the best  
25 overall contract proposal considering price, quality and ability to

1 provide the quantity needed by BellSouth in a timely manner. On any  
2 given master contract, the selected contractor may not offer the lowest  
3 price for each and every item in the contract, but does provide the best  
4 overall value to BellSouth.

5  
6 Mr. Wells' proposal can be looked at in two ways, neither of which is  
7 realistic. One way of looking at Mr. Wells' proposal would result in  
8 BellSouth working with many, many different contractors on a single  
9 job. For example, BellSouth would buy poles from one contractor who  
10 offers the best material price for a pole, and purchase installation of the  
11 poles from another vendor who offers a better price on the labor to  
12 install the pole. Every job would require coordination with multiple  
13 outside plant contractors providing various parts of the job. The  
14 second way to interpret Mr. Well's proposal is to erroneously assume  
15 that the one contractor who wins the bid to provide services to  
16 BellSouth in a given area will offer the lowest price on every item of  
17 plant.

18  
19 Neither option is achievable. It is not realistic to expect to be able to  
20 pick and choose the cheapest plant items among multiple contractors  
21 within a given geographic area. Neither is it realistic to expect to ever  
22 get one contractor to be the low cost provider on every item offered in a  
23 contract. Therefore, Mr. Wells' proposal of a "best in class" approach  
24 to establishing input values is not a realistic method for determining  
25 cost study inputs that reflect real world, forward-looking costs.

1

2

3 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

4

5 A. Yes.

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1 Q (By Ms. White) Ms. Caldwell, you had no  
2 exhibits to your rebuttal testimony, did you?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Have you prepared a summary of your  
5 testimony?

6 A Yes, I have.

7 Q Would you please give that?

8 A Okay. Good morning. The last few days  
9 you've heard a lot about the two cost models that are  
10 being looked at here; the BCPM and the HAI 5.0a.

11 My purpose is not to discuss the models  
12 themselves, but rather to discuss the user adjustable  
13 inputs that we put into those models. So I make no  
14 comments about whether the models are correct in any  
15 of their design assumptions, but rather just  
16 concentrate on the inputs.

17 If you think about the models, there are  
18 thousands of inputs. You have all of the CBG data,  
19 you have household accounts, you have terrain data.  
20 That type data is pretty common in both models.  
21 There's not a lot of differences there. If there are,  
22 they're just very minor. They're not big drivers.

23 Where you really see the difference in the  
24 inputs is what you call the user adjustable inputs.  
25 These are things such as your material prices, the

1 installation for that material, your percent  
2 distribution to code, aerial, buried, underground;  
3 your cable fields; things of that type.

4           These inputs are very important because they  
5 allow the user to take a purely hypothetical  
6 theoretical design of the network, which is what both  
7 models do, and make it more real world or actual; more  
8 costs that you would actually see and incur in that  
9 network.

10           And in looking at that, you have to consider  
11 the geographical area you work in and the territory,  
12 and we firmly believe that the inputs should be  
13 territory specific; not necessarily company specific,  
14 but territory. If I'm looking at costs associated  
15 with the BellSouth territory, we need to consider the  
16 costs that are in that territory. If you're looking  
17 at Sprint, GTE, the small LECs, that would be the same  
18 for them.

19           So what we are proposing is that we look at  
20 user adjustable inputs that are BellSouth-specific for  
21 their territory. And the reason you want to use  
22 BellSouth numbers is they are indicative of the type  
23 costs you would incur going forward.

24           BellSouth is a large corporation with many  
25 access lines in the state of Florida. We have

1 significant discounts on purchases for material, for  
2 our switches especially. Those type discounts are a  
3 result of being a large carrier.

4 We're also efficient. We have been  
5 regulated by this Commission for years. We have  
6 abided by the rules and regulations. We are an  
7 efficient provider in the states in our territory. So  
8 we feel that's the type user inputs you should use.

9 Another important aspect of these user  
10 inputs is that we have engineers with experience  
11 specific to this state. They know about the Keys.  
12 They know about Miami. They know about the different  
13 areas that BellSouth serves. So based upon that  
14 information, it helps them to look at the inputs and  
15 see if they are appropriate for inputs into this  
16 model.

17 And we have relied very heavily upon our  
18 network personnel with their many years of experience  
19 in the state, and they are qualified engineers. And  
20 we have produced quality telecommunications service  
21 for many years with the result of using these  
22 engineers.

23 Just to give you an idea of the number of  
24 inputs we're talking about, the user adjust inputs is  
25 approximately 12,000 for the BCPM. Out of the 12,000,

1 what BellSouth did was look at each one of these  
2 inputs and determine whether or not we had  
3 Florida-specific data or some type of company-specific  
4 data. In most cases, well over 90% of those numbers  
5 we used were actually Florida-specific.

6 But out of those 12,000, we determined that  
7 88% of those we could identify and include  
8 Florida-specific, BellSouth-specific data for; and  
9 those are your major cost drivers. Out of the others,  
10 we did use some defaults. If we used a default, we  
11 went to our network personnel, or if it happened in  
12 the purchasing area we would talk with them, but  
13 normally it was in the network area.

14 We talked with our personnel to see if they  
15 felt those defaults were reasonable, and if they did,  
16 we used the defaults. So that would be for 12%.  
17 There were just a handful, I think about 50, that we  
18 just went with the defaults, but they're very minor.  
19 They're in the area of the -- like the terrain data,  
20 you would increase the cost by 1.2 due to the level of  
21 the terrain. Those type inputs, those are not real  
22 significant cost drivers, so we felt we were okay with  
23 those.

24 The one thing -- I think that two points I  
25 want to make about the particular inputs we used is

1 the following: You've heard several times that we use  
2 forward-looking -- that we did not use forward-looking  
3 data, that we've used embedded data.

4 In some cases BellSouth did start with  
5 accounting data off of our records, but that was only  
6 a starting point. In every case we adjusted that data  
7 to make it forward-looking.

8 In the area of maintenance, we have  
9 recognized productivity changes. In the area of  
10 expenses, we have recognized personnel decreases.  
11 During the last three to four years, BellSouth has  
12 decreased personnel by 11,300 employees. That's a  
13 well-announced number, and, as you know, in fact, in  
14 that area we have decreased to the point in the  
15 network area that in the state of Florida we are  
16 actually hiring technicians again so that we could  
17 have service.

18 I think there's been some information in the  
19 paper about that. Florida is not the only state.  
20 We're also looking at hiring in Georgia. So we're  
21 actually in the process now of adding those  
22 technicians in some areas where we need them. I think  
23 in a way you might could think of it as rebalancing  
24 the forces to really get them where you need them.

25 So I think it's important to realize you can

1 start with an embedded historical number as long you  
2 adjust it and still get a forward-looking study.

3           The other point is we use master contracts  
4 in the state of Florida. We have 10. And we look at  
5 the ones that are vendor bid contracts. They cover 10  
6 geographical areas. The important point of these  
7 contracts is, is those are competitive bids and they  
8 are the prices BellSouth pays for trenching, plowing,  
9 placing poles, things of that type.

10           And when one of those contracts is bid it is  
11 bid as a whole, and vendors know that when they come  
12 in and bid. In other words, if we buy a pole from  
13 them, we're going to buy installation from them. And  
14 it is written in the contract that if an item is in  
15 their contract, we cannot go to someone else and buy  
16 it. That's in violation.

17           The only thing is, is if that job was to  
18 exceed a certain amount -- and in most cases it's  
19 around \$100,000 -- we could have a separate bid, but  
20 in talking with our network personnel, that doesn't  
21 mean I'm going to get a lower bid. If I'm placing  
22 cable in the Keys across wetlands, it will even be  
23 higher than what's in the master contract. And we  
24 filed data requests with network backing that  
25 information up, and I think that's what's significant

1 when we look at this.

2           When you look at our user adjustable inputs,  
3 you need to look at all of them, not just take one by  
4 itself and try to analyze it. It is the whole package  
5 you need to consider.

6           I think that pretty well covers the high  
7 points of my user adjustable inputs. The one thing I  
8 would just like to ask is that this Commission  
9 consider those inputs and consider our model and rule  
10 upon our inputs as the ones that should be used for  
11 the BellSouth territory.

12           Thank you.

13           **MS. WHITE:** Ms. Caldwell is available for  
14 cross-examination.

15   **CROSS EXAMINATION**

16 **BY MR. NELSON:**

17           **Q**    Good morning, Ms. Caldwell. Rick Melson  
18 representing MCI.

19           **A**    Good morning.

20           **Q**    How are you doing?

21           **A**    Just fine.

22           **Q**    Would you agree that the purpose of this  
23 proceeding is to establish the forward-looking cost of  
24 providing basic local service?

25           **A**    Yes. I think I said a little bit more as



1 in -- kind of like in detail. It also looks at  
2 determining the cost model to do that and then the  
3 inputs to that model to establish it.

4       ~     Okay. And would you agree in doing all of  
5 that the Commission shouldn't be looking for the cost  
6 of a particular carrier, but should be looking for the  
7 forward-looking costs that would be incurred by an  
8 efficient carrier?

9       A     Yes, I agree with that, and I think I said  
10 in my summary that in that particular instance, I feel  
11 that in the BellSouth territory our inputs provide  
12 that -- exactly what you need.

13       Q     And would you agree with me also -- I  
14 believe you said in your summary that BellSouth was  
15 a -- you believed BellSouth was a large, efficient  
16 carrier.

17                Would you agree with me that just because a  
18 carrier is large doesn't necessarily mean it's  
19 efficient?

20       A     Oh, I would agree that, but I think our  
21 indication in our performance in quality of service  
22 has by far indicated we are an efficient provider.

23       Q     Is it fair to say that it's your judgment  
24 that nobody could serve BellSouth's territory more  
25 efficiently than BellSouth?



1           A     In looking at the territory as a whole, I  
2 think we would be the efficient provider.

3           Q     I believe you told us that in looking at the  
4 user adjustable inputs, that if you had specific  
5 Florida experience, then you used BellSouth data;  
6 correct?

7           A     That is correct.

8           Q     And if you didn't have Florida-specific  
9 data, either in the level of detail or in the format  
10 required by the model, then you used the default  
11 values that were supplied by the model; is that  
12 correct?

13          A     Yes; after we had our network personnel  
14 review them.

15          Q     Now, when you had that review done, your  
16 network personnel were obviously looking at things  
17 where you did not have specific data in the model  
18 format.

19          A     In the model format; that's correct.

20          Q     So is it fair to say that they had to  
21 exercise some degree of engineering judgment in  
22 determining whether they felt the inputs in the format  
23 required for the model were reasonable for Florida and  
24 for BellSouth?

25          A     Yes, I agree that they used their judgment,

1 and I think I point out in my summary they do have a  
2 lot of experience on which they base that judgment.

3 Q And you're relying for those inputs on the  
4 judgment of your network engineering people. Those  
5 are not inputs about which you have personal  
6 knowledge; is that correct?

7 A In most cases I would say that. In -- for  
8 instance, in some of the -- let me just give you an  
9 example of where I would have had some personal  
10 knowledge. I'm just looking at the contracts and the  
11 material prices.

12 In the digital loop carrier environment we  
13 use the defaults because we do not have the  
14 information in the format. BCPM requires a --  
15 different sizes of systems; a 24, a 48, a 96, a 192,  
16 and so forth. BellSouth does not deploy anything  
17 smaller than a 96. So we stay with the defaults  
18 because we didn't have the right format of our inputs,  
19 but we analyze, like the 96 system, and I was part of  
20 that analysis because I do have the material prices  
21 and the physical makeup.

22 Q Ms. Caldwell, I know we've done this before.  
23 You're anticipating a lot of future questions. If you  
24 could answer the questions I ask, I think I will get  
25 to questions that allow you to say everything you want

1 to say this morning.

2 A Okay.

3 Q On the other hand, do feel free to expand on  
4 an answer if you need to.

5 And for about 50 of the default values, I  
6 believe you said BellSouth did not perform any sort of  
7 reasonableness inquiry; is that correct?

8 A Yes; after we determined they were not  
9 significant cost drivers, too.

10 Q So there are how many total user definable  
11 inputs?

12 A Approximately 12,000.

13 Q So if 12% were reviewed by your engineers,  
14 that's roughly 1400, give or take?

15 A Give or take.

16 Q All right. Of those default values reviewed  
17 by your engineers, how many were modified or rejected?

18 A They did not change any of them. They  
19 stayed with the defaults.

20 Q And the default values in the model were  
21 based on a survey, nationwide survey, of information  
22 from incumbent LECs; is that correct?

23 A That's my understanding.

24 Q And you did not personally participate in  
25 the development of those default values; is that

1 right?

2 A That is correct.

3 Q To the extent that those values represent  
4 average of nationwide survey data, do you know if any  
5 of the outlier information was discarded before  
6 averages were calculated?

7 A No, I do not. I do not know how the data  
8 was processed in the survey.

9 Q So if we wanted to understand how those 1400  
10 default values were developed, you're not the person  
11 really to answer those questions in detail?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q Now, for the 88% of the user definable  
14 inputs where BellSouth had its own data and you did  
15 not rely on the default value, did you make any  
16 comparison of the BellSouth numbers to the default  
17 values?

18 A No, I did not. If I had BellSouth data, I  
19 used BellSouth data.

20 Q All right. So that in every instance where  
21 you had to rely on default data, you found that it was  
22 reasonable, but in every area where you had data of  
23 your own you made no sanity check, if you will,  
24 against the default data?

25 A That's right.

1           Q     You mentioned during your summary that  
2 BellSouth has a series of 10 master contracts, I  
3 believe. Is that correct?

4           A     That's correct.

5           Q     And are those -- those are divided by  
6 geographic area in Florida; is that correct?

7           A     Yes, they are.

8           Q     And a master contractor, if I understand  
9 correctly, does all of the small jobs in the  
10 territory, for example, small scale pole placements  
11 and so forth, and gets some of the large jobs; is that  
12 right?

13          A     I'm trying to think -- I think the answer to  
14 that is yes, but let me just be sure that I'm clear on  
15 that. There is a dollar limit, I think I mentioned;  
16 like the \$100,000. If a job is less than \$100,000,  
17 then they're going to get that job. There are a few  
18 extreme exceptions.

19                     That would be like a major, I think some  
20 of -- like the major road moves or something. Those  
21 do not always follow under that limit. And something  
22 like that there may be like a special bid, timing or  
23 something on that.

24                     So there are those minute cases, but in  
25 most, I would say 99% of the time they are going to

1 get all the small jobs and then some portion of the  
2 large jobs.

3 Q And will they get some portion of the jobs  
4 over 100,000?

5 A Oh, yes.

6 Q And do those contracts spell out which large  
7 jobs the master contractor will get and which ones  
8 BellSouth will put out for bid?

9 A Based on my understanding, it does not. It  
10 just -- the only thing that I'm aware of is the dollar  
11 amount, which then leads it to the possibility of  
12 bidding.

13 Q So the price reflects -- the price implicit  
14 in those contracts reflects a mix of small and large  
15 jobs, but does not reflect all of the work that's done  
16 in that geographic territory?

17 A That is correct.

18 Q Now, the 10 geographic areas aren't all the  
19 same size; is that correct?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q And is it also fair to say that BellSouth's  
22 outside plant is not evenly distributed amongst those  
23 10 geographic areas.

24 A Yes, due to the geographic size and then the  
25 density of the areas.

1           Q     Can you tell us anything -- what's the  
2 largest area, either in terms of geography or dollar  
3 volume?

4           A     I'm not going to be able to do that. I'll  
5 just give you an idea. You have the Dade County area,  
6 you have a south Dade, and then you have a north and  
7 central joined together. So that kind of gives you an  
8 idea of how they're set up, but in terms of just  
9 naming which one would be the largest, I can't really  
10 do that.

11          Q     Now, I understand that for purposes of  
12 developing the inputs you took a simple average of the  
13 prices of the 10 contracts; is that correct?

14          A     Yes, we did. That was a decision by the  
15 network personnel.

16          Q     I'd like to ask you to assume hypothetically  
17 that one contractor works in an area where the BCPM  
18 model would place 25% of the total amount of poles  
19 that are placed statewide in BellSouth's territory.

20                 As I understand your methodology, that  
21 contractor's price for pole placement, even though  
22 he'd be installing 25% of the poles, got only a 10%  
23 weight in determining the input price; is that right?

24          A     Yes, based on the simple average.

25          Q     Do you know what the vintage is of these



1 master contracts; how old they are?

2       A     No, I don't know the vintage. I do know --  
3 I had looked a little bit into that after a question  
4 in the deposition I wasn't able to get the dates. I  
5 do know that the most current one is the Indian river.  
6 I don't know the vintage of it, but it is the most  
7 current one that was bid.

8       Q     So I take it you don't know the last time  
9 that any of these contracts was bid?

10       A     No, just the one that was the most current.  
11 They are continual -- the contracts are continually  
12 bid as they become ready -- reach expiration. So it's  
13 a continuing process. I just don't know the dates on  
14 them.

15       Q     Well, are they continually bid, or in some  
16 cases is contract simply renewed with the existing  
17 contract or without an additional bid?

18       A     In some cases they would be renewed.

19       Q     Have you attempted to give any consideration  
20 to how the master contract prices might vary if the  
21 contractor knew that he was going to get 100% of all  
22 the jobs in the area rather than just a percentage of  
23 the jobs?

24       A     No, I have not.

25       Q     Let's talk about a few of the specific

1 inputs. I believe you indicated that -- well, let me  
2 ask. Is outside plant mix one of the inputs in which  
3 you relied on the BCPM default values rather than on  
4 Florida -specific data?

5 A Yes, it is. We did not have the data broken  
6 down by density zones. We only had some data at a  
7 wire center level or statewide level. So it didn't  
8 have the format.

9 Q All right. Could you turn to Page 181 of  
10 your exhibit, Exhibit 73?

11 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Which numbering system  
12 are you using, Mr. Melson?

13 MR. MELSON: The Bates stamp numbers on the  
14 bottom of the page.

15 Q (By Mr. Melson) It's a sheet entitled  
16 "BCPM Loop Costs Inputs," and at the bottom of the  
17 page there's a section labeled "Indoor -- I don't know  
18 whether it's "SAI" or "SA1".

19 A SAI.

20 Q Can you tell me what an indoor SAI is?

21 A It stands for serving area interface. It's  
22 a point of interconnection where the outside cable  
23 comes into the building and connects to the cable that  
24 then feeds the working phones within that building;  
25 cross-connect point.

1           Q     And looking at the -- 4200 indicates a  
2 4200-pair serving area interface; is that correct?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     And BellSouth's total installed cost for  
5 that serving area interface as shown over the last  
6 column is \$85,789; is that correct?

7           A     That's correct.

8           Q     And of that amount, the thirteen, six  
9 eighty-eight in the first column is the material cost;  
10 is that right?

11          A     Correct.

12          Q     Focusing on the total cost of 85,000, can  
13 you provide any explanation for why that is more than  
14 three and a half times the BCPM default value, which  
15 is also the value used by GTE in this proceeding, or  
16 why it's more than two and a quarter times the \$37,000  
17 cost used by Sprint?

18          A     In terms of what the other companies used, I  
19 cannot explain what they particularly included. I can  
20 only explain what I have included in my numbers.

21                     And what I have picked up is the material  
22 price. And what you do is you buy these components in  
23 100-block connecting blocks with the protections on  
24 them. So I have picked up the costs associated with,  
25 in this particular case, 4200 100 blocks, and that's

1 material price from our catalog for that item.

2           The other information includes the cost  
3 associated with the labor and the engineering that we  
4 would incur in BellSouth associated with this. And  
5 that is what is included in my numbers.

6           Q     This essentially is a panel or a wall  
7 mounted frame in the basement of a building where  
8 wires come in from outside and connect to wires going  
9 up in the building; is that right?

10          A     That, I think, oversimplifies it. At a  
11 minimum, what you're going to have is you're going to  
12 have a piece of cable that comes in from the outside.  
13 Once it reaches the inside of that building, it has to  
14 be fire retardant cable. From that it goes to a  
15 connection point where we connect it to the outside  
16 cable to inside. That is a panel. From there we  
17 jumper it over to another panel where it is  
18 cross-connected into the building.

19                So you have several pieces of connect --  
20 excuse me -- points of connection, and you have --  
21 excuse me -- the cost of all of those jumpers, that  
22 connection, as well as the connecting blocks with  
23 protection on it.

24                And one of the things I think you may see in  
25 our numbers is we -- there is no cost in BCPM for

1 entrance cable. We didn't include entrance cable, but  
2 we did include labor associated with that type of  
3 placement. So those -- that would be something else  
4 that you see here.

5 Q Well, to come back to my question, do you  
6 have any reason to believe that a price which is three  
7 and a half times the price used by GTE for a similar  
8 SAI, in fact, represents the most efficient cost for  
9 installing 4200-pair SAI?

10 A In terms of -- as I said, I have no idea how  
11 GTE established their numbers, and I've explained how  
12 ours are. If you look at our records, this is the  
13 cost we would incur.

14 Q All right. Turn, if you would, to Page 236.  
15 I'd like to you look here under the -- this is a sheet  
16 entitled "BCPM Manhole Inputs". Under the normal  
17 manhole conduit per duct foot, we see a material cost  
18 of 224 of which -- \$2.22 gets assigned to telephone.  
19 Do you see that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Do you have any explanation for why  
22 BellSouth's cost of conduit is more than three times  
23 Sprint's cost of 73 cents or more than one and a half  
24 times GTE's cost of a \$1.39?

25 A I believe my answer would be the same thing

1 there. I don't know what they've put in their  
2 numbers.

3           The 224 is a result of what is included in  
4 the master contracts for BellSouth. And this is the  
5 one number -- let me do point out this is a region  
6 number for conduit. There is not a significant amount  
7 of placement of conduit at this point in time. So  
8 that is -- it is, to the best of my knowledge, the  
9 only really true regional number that we used. But  
10 that would be the number that we incur, and that's  
11 what we pay. I just don't know what they have in  
12 theirs.

13           Q     Well, you say you know what's in that number  
14 is simply the material cost of a 4-inch conduit; is  
15 that right?

16           A     That is correct, and that is taken directly  
17 from the contracts. That's what we pay.

18           Q     And that's what you believe an efficient  
19 carrier would pay?

20           A     I believe if you look at all of the -- let  
21 me just answer yes first. And you have to consider  
22 that the master contracts cover multiple items. So  
23 all of my numbers that -- whether it be for a pole or  
24 if it be for conduit or buried placement are a result  
25 of those contracts.

1           In some cases it may be lower, some cases it  
2 may be higher, but when you take it as a whole, we've  
3 covered the cost, and it would be competitively bid.  
4 So it's a real problem when you just start looking at  
5 one individual number and try and analyze it. It's  
6 the collection of numbers from the contracts that make  
7 it an efficient provider.

8           Q     Let me ask you this: Have you done any  
9 analysis of the whole collection of BellSouth input  
10 numbers versus the whole collection of Sprint or GTE  
11 input numbers?

12          A     No, I have not.

13          Q     If you turn to Page 246 of your exhibit BCPM  
14 DLC -- which I guess is digital loop carrier -- and  
15 electronic inputs, this is a place where I believe you  
16 said during your summary that BellSouth uses default  
17 values because you don't normally place anything  
18 smaller than a 96-line DLC system; is that right?

19          A     That's correct.

20          Q     And you do place the larger DLC systems; is  
21 that right?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     And I believe -- is it true that the reason  
24 you used the default values was that since you didn't  
25 place anything smaller than 96, you felt it would be



1 approach.

2 Q Let's turn back to Page 180.1. And dot is  
3 telephone terminology for a little period. I learned  
4 that in a prior lifetime.

5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Are you looking at  
6 another page?

7 Q (By Mr. Nelson) 180.1, which is entitled  
8 "BCPM Loop Costs Inputs," and the top of the page is  
9 "24-gauge cable underground copper." Are you with me  
10 there?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Now, in this situation I noticed that the  
13 price for the 25-pair cable, the 18-pair cable, and  
14 the 12-pair cable is all the same; is that correct?

15 A That is correct.

16 Q And this is a situation which the smallest  
17 cable that BellSouth actually deploys in its network  
18 today is 25-pair; is that right?

19 A Yes. We do that for inventorying and  
20 placement purposes.

21 Q And the BCPM model when it models the  
22 network will place a 12-pair cable or an 18-pair cable  
23 if that's sufficient to serve the demand calculated by  
24 the model; is that correct?

25 A The model allows that placement. That is

1 inappropriate to use that higher price for the smaller  
2 systems, and also that you wanted the numbers to be on  
3 a consistent basis, so you used the default values as  
4 being both consistent and covering the whole range of  
5 sizes.

6 I apologize. That was a complicated  
7 question. Do I need to do it again?

8 A Well, what I got lost on, when you said the  
9 higher price back on -- that's what threw me.

10 Q Okay. Would you agree with me that it would  
11 be inappropriate to use the cost of the smallest  
12 system that Bell uses, the 96-line system, as a  
13 surrogate for the smaller size DLCs?

14 A This particular scenario I agree with that  
15 because of the way the BCPM models the number of  
16 lines. You would have such an excess capacity on that  
17 96, it would distort the cost in this particular area.

18 Q And for that reason, since you did not have  
19 BellSouth actual costs for the smaller units, you used  
20 the default costs for all of the DLC sizes?

21 A That is correct, but after we tested the  
22 sizes that we did have. Like we looked at the 192 and  
23 the 672, and our numbers were reasonable. I think in  
24 most cases they were actually a little bit higher, but  
25 we stayed with the defaults for that consistency

1 correct.

2 Q And yet given the fact that you use the same  
3 input cost for the 25-pair, 18-pair and 12-pair cable,  
4 the USF cost calculation gets charged with the cost of  
5 the larger 25-pair cable even where BCPM is deploying  
6 one of the smaller sizes; is that correct?

7 A It would be based on the 25, but the real  
8 cost of burying the cable is the cost of placing it in  
9 the ground. It's not the pair itself. So that's the  
10 reason we've chosen this.

11 Q And it's my understanding smaller size  
12 cables are available, BellSouth just doesn't use them  
13 today; is that right?

14 A Yes. I believe we stated it's easier to  
15 inventory, maintain and just place the 25.

16 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Easier or more  
17 efficient?

18 WITNESS CALDWELL: More efficient.

19 Q (By Mr. Nelson) Now, in the prior TSLRIC  
20 and TELRIC models that were used to price UNEs, one of  
21 the inputs was a fill factor; is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Could you define, if you would, for me what  
24 a fill factor is as it relates to distribution plant?

25 A The fill factor is the -- if you look at the

1 number available pairs and the relationship to the  
2 working pairs. So you take the working pairs divided  
3 by the available, and that is your fill factor. In  
4 other words, if you had 100-pair cable and it had a  
5 fill factor of 70%, that would mean 70 were working.

6 Q And is fill factor synonymous with  
7 utilization factor, which I believe may be the term  
8 used in your testimony?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And would you agree with me that the fill  
11 factor, or utilization factor, is a significant driver  
12 in determining the cost of distribution plant?

13 A Yes, it is.

14 Q Now, in BCPM, fill factor is not a specific  
15 model input; is that right?

16 A That is correct. They use something called  
17 a cable sizing factor.

18 Q And if I understand what BellSouth did, you  
19 chose a cable sizing factor and a number of lines per  
20 residential and business unit that would result, when  
21 the model was finished performing its calculations,  
22 with an output of a fill factor that's equal to the  
23 fill factor BellSouth has in its distribution network  
24 today; is that correct?

25 A Yes. For the distribution, we used a number

1 of lines at the -- each customer premises for your  
2 residence of two, and then we used a fill factor --  
3 excuse me -- a cable sizing factor of 100%. So they  
4 work together to produce the distribution fill.

5 Q And what they actually -- and what using  
6 those two numbers produces is a utilization factor of  
7 roughly 40% for distribution cable; is that correct?

8 A We believe it's somewhere in that particular  
9 neighborhood. The number that we have in our  
10 distribution plant is -- to the best of my  
11 recollection is 41% for distribution.

12 Q And your attempt was to select inputs that  
13 got as close as possible to that 41% as an output. Is  
14 that fair to say?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now, BellSouth has got about 6.4 million  
17 lines in Florida today; is that correct?

18 A That sounds reasonable. I think that's  
19 about right.

20 Q I think it's actually 6,444,000 that's used  
21 in the model.

22 A Could be.

23 Q And just so I can do the math, I'm going to  
24 round that down to 6 million, and I'm going to round  
25 your 41% fill factor down to 40%.

1           That means that in the network model by  
2 BCPM, given the inputs that you used, there would be  
3 about 6 million working pair of distribution cable and  
4 a total of about 15 million pair of available cable,  
5 which means there are 9 million for spares or growth,  
6 et cetera. Did I do the math right?

7           A     I'd have to work through it, but that sounds  
8 fairly reasonable in terms of in the percentages.  
9 Subject to check, you calculated the math right.

10          Q     Okay. Well, let's -- 15 million total.  
11 What's 40% of 15 million?

12          A     (Pause) Trouble getting the zeros straight.

13          Q     It will be millions. (Laughter)

14          A     That's true. It comes back to your  
15 6 million. I agree with you.

16          Q     Okay. And then 15 million total, less  
17 6 million, leaves 9 million that are spares for future  
18 growth?

19          A     Yes, I agree with you on that.

20          Q     Now, if those results are used to calculate  
21 the amount of universal service funding, then for  
22 every working line in a high cost area, the fund would  
23 pick up the difference between some price or revenue  
24 benchmark on the one hand, and the cost on the other  
25 hand of two and a half pair of distribution cable; is

1 that correct?

2           A     That's correct; and it should, because the  
3 fact that that is the cost of doing business. A  
4 distribution plant is sized at the level it is because  
5 as of -- I think I've probably talked about this in  
6 the UNE dockets -- is that it's the distribution to  
7 your home. And when you size that plant you do not  
8 want to go back into that neighborhood again and place  
9 it.

10           The real cost is in the placing of that  
11 cable, and so that's the reason the network is built  
12 that way. It's a function of building the network  
13 and, therefore, it's a cost of the network that should  
14 be included in universal service fund.

15           Q     Is it fair to say that BellSouth has not  
16 presented in this proceeding any study or analysis to  
17 demonstrate that a 40% distribution fill factor is a  
18 forward-looking factor as opposed to a historical one?

19           A     The only data we have -- excuse me. The  
20 only data we have presented is we filed a revised data  
21 request that listed, I believe, two years' worth of  
22 data, and then with the -- that shows what this --  
23 actually what's occurring; and then our network  
24 personnel looked and said that's how they feel it  
25 would go forward. That's what's been filed into the



1 record.

2 Q All right. Let me ask you -- I want to  
3 change -- we've been talking about various inputs that  
4 drive plant investment.

5 I now want to talk about the expense side  
6 for just a moment. If you could turn to Pages 159 and  
7 160 of your exhibit.

8 A Okay.

9 Q Now, looking on Page 159 in the lower  
10 right-hand corner I see a 9.136. Does that indicate  
11 that every line bears a monthly expense of \$9.13?

12 A Yes. When you -- I think that number  
13 actually gets rounded to 9.14 when it's moved forward;  
14 but yes.

15 Q Now, one of the expenses that is figured  
16 into the cost of each line is an amount for  
17 uncollectible revenues; is that right?

18 A Correct.

19 Q And if we look on the next page, on Page  
20 160, we see that the total amount of uncollectible  
21 revenues that is allocated to basic local service for  
22 BellSouth Florida is \$98 million a year; is that  
23 right? I'm looking there on Line 11.

24 A Yes. I was just double-checking on the --  
25 my total. Just give me one minute, please. (Pause)

1 Yes.

2 Q When we turn back to the preceding page, to  
3 Page 159, we see that that translates to 32 cents per  
4 line per month; is that right?

5 A That is correct.

6 Q And so hypothetically if BellSouth served  
7 1 million lines in high cost areas where it was going  
8 to be entitled to receive a check from the universal  
9 service fund, it would receive an additional \$320,000  
10 a month, or roughly 3.8 million a year, as a result of  
11 including uncollectibles in the calculation of the  
12 per-line cost. Would you agree with that?

13 A That is correct. And this is -- again,  
14 uncollectibles is a cost of doing business and,  
15 therefore, it's a cost and it's just expressed here on  
16 a per-line basis.

17 Q Don't you believe it would be more  
18 appropriate to reflect uncollectibles as a reduction  
19 in revenue rather than as an expense to be borne by  
20 universal service fund?

21 A No, I do not. It's a cost of doing  
22 business.

23 MR. NELSON: That's all I've got. Thank  
24 you, Ms. Caldwell.

25 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me ask a quick

1 question. The amount of uncollectibles, is that  
2 uncollectibles for what type services? All services?

3 **WITNESS CALDWELL:** This would be for basic  
4 local service. We develop this number by taking a  
5 relationship between the basic local exchange revenues  
6 and then the total revenues. It works out to be -- on  
7 this page it shows that it's 61%.

8 So we only took 61% of total uncollectibles.  
9 So it's basic local exchange revenues.

10 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** So you took a  
11 percentage of total uncollectibles to the -- you  
12 compared total uncollectibles and the amount of  
13 revenue that's derived from local service to get the  
14 percentage -- I'm sorry. Explain to me again how you  
15 did that.

16 **WITNESS CALDWELL:** Okay. If you look at the  
17 ARMIS data, it gives you your total revenues,  
18 operating revenues. And then we took a relationship  
19 between basic local exchange revenues and total  
20 operating revenues, and that gave us the 61%. Then we  
21 apply that percentage to total uncollectibles.

22 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** Is that a reasonable  
23 assumption? It seems like most people would -- if  
24 they pay anything, they're probably going to pay their  
25 basic service so they don't get terminated.

1           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** Well, we base that on the  
2 fact that the uncollectibles would follow the  
3 particular revenues, so basic local -- I mean, that  
4 was our assumption.

5           **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Well, what all is  
6 included in total revenue other than basic service?

7           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** In this particular case  
8 it would be all the revenues that would come to BST.  
9 So that would be all of your toll revenues as well as  
10 all of your access revenues.

11           **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** Are there any  
12 unregulated services revenue included in total  
13 revenue?

14           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** No.

15           **MR. NELSON:** If I could ask one follow-up.

16           **Q**        **(By Mr. Nelson)** Were ECS revenues and  
17 revenues for vertical services counted as basic local  
18 service revenues in your calculation?

19           **A**        Yes, they would be.

20           **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Ms. Caldwell, I would  
21 just like to ask, do you know what the fill factor for  
22 distribution plant is for the other companies in  
23 Florida? Do you know what they've used?

24           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** I'm sorry. I don't.

25           **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Would you know what was

1 used in the Hatfield?

2           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** On the Hatfield I'm not  
3 going to know the distribution. I know on our feeder  
4 we're very close because we used the -- we actually  
5 used Hatfield to derive our effective fill because  
6 BCPM does not produce that number for us. So we know  
7 in the -- as far as they're very close on the feeder.  
8 I just do not remember the distribution number.

9           **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** On a feeder what would  
10 the fill factor be?

11           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** The actual fill factor is  
12 65.4% for the state of Florida. So you input into the  
13 model a cable sizing factor of about 71.

14           **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** That number would be  
15 available for the distribution plant; we could readily  
16 get that from the Hatfield model?

17           **WITNESS CALDWELL:** I believe you could.

18   - - - - -

19   (Transcript continues in sequence in  
20 Volume 19.)

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Page 2096

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of :  
Determination of the cost of :  
basic local telecommunications :  
service, pursuant to :  
Section 364.025, :  
Florida Statutes. :  
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DOCKET NO. 960696-TP

VOLUME 18  
Pages 2096 through 2162

PROCEEDINGS: HEARING

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN JULIA L. JOHNSON  
COMMISSIONER J. TERRY DRAGON  
COMMISSIONER SUSAN F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER JOY GARCIA  
COMMISSIONER E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

DATE: Monday, October 15, 1996

TIME: Commenced at 9:10 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: M. RUTHIE POTAMI, CSR, RPR  
Official Commission Reporter

APPEARANCES:  
(As heretofore noted.)



8	7	BC/BA 2129/30, 2131/32, 2133/34, 2142/77, 2148/3, 2148/74, 2148/74, 2147/25, 2148/74, 2148/73, 2151/15, 2152/8, 2153/21, 2153/3, 2154/74, 2156/2, 2162/4 beers 2158/71 Bell 2151/13 BellSouth 2096/74, 2099/7, 2130/15, 2130/23, 2130/24, 2131/13, 2132/7, 2133/4, 2133/11, 2134/9, 2135/11, 2136/11, 2136/14, 2136/15, 2136/28, 2137/3, 2137/24, 2137/54, 2138/6, 2138/6, 2140/14, 2140/16, 2140/73, 2140/79, 2141/2, 2142/8, 2147/4, 2149/4, 2150/9, 2150/16, 2151/19, 2153/77, 2153/73, 2154/18, 2154/23, 2155/14, 2157/15, 2158/23, 2159/6 BellSouth's 2136/24, 2142/21, 2143/19, 2146/4, 2148/23 BellSouth-specific 2130/20, 2133/8 benchmark 2156/24 Betty 2096/79 bid 2134/5, 2134/70, 2136/71, 2136/73, 2136/79, 2136/21, 2141/22, 2142/8, 2144/7, 2144/9, 2144/73, 2144/75, 2144/77, 2150/3 bidding 21-7/11 blde 2126/7 big 2120/23 blt 2135/25, 2144/3, 2151/24 blocks 2142/23, 2146/25, 2147/23 borns 2159/79 bottom 2148/74, 2148/75 brehm 2146/8 BRT 2161/8 building 2148/23, 2148/24, 2147/7, 2147/9, 2147/13, 2147/18, 2147/73 bull 2157/11 buried 2136/2, 2148/24 burying 2153/8 business 2154/20, 2157/3, 2159/14, 2159/23 buy 2134/12, 2134/13, 2134/15, 2146/23	
<p>51.59 2148/24 \$100,000 2134/19, 2141/16 \$2.23 2148/78 \$320,000 2159/9 \$37,000 2146/14 \$85,789 2146/4 \$9.13 2158/71 \$98 2158/23</p>	<p>70 2154/8 70% 71 2163/13 73 2097/11, 2100/12, 2100/13, 2148/70, 2148/23</p>		
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