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GTE SERVICE CORPORATION

One Tampa City Center 201 North Franklin Street (33602) Post Office Box 110, FLTC0007 Tampa, Florida 33601-0110 813-483-2606 813-204-8870 (Facsimile)

Kimberly Caswell Counsel

June 9, 2000

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records & Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 991376-TL Initiation of Show Cause Proceedings against GTE Florida, Inc., for Violation of Service Standards

Dear Ms. Bayo:

On June 5, 2000, GTE Florida Incorporated and the Office of Public Counsel filed a Motion for Continuance of the hearing in this case. In addition to requesting a continuance of the hearing, the Motion also sought suspension of the remaining testimony dates in this proceeding.

I understand that Public Counsel intends to withdraw from the request for continuance. However, I have contacted Public Counsel and they do not oppose extension of the testimony dates in the event the Motion for Continuance is denied. We have agreed that a 2-week extension of the due dates for both GTE rebuttal and intervenor surrebuttal would be appropriate. The extension is warranted to allow the parties to redirect resources that until now have been wholly dedicated to resolution of the case without litigation. Under the proposed schedule, GTE's testimony would be due on June 29. Public Counsel's and Staff's testimony would be due on July 14. The hearing would remain as scheduled.

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Please note that GTE has not withdrawn from the Motion for Continuance and still fully supports that Motion. GTE continues to believe that continuance of the hearing is the best approach because it will allow the parties the greatest opportunity to resolve their differences without the time and expense of litigation. If the Motion is granted in its Ms. entirety, there will be no need to establish new testimony dates at this time. The abovediscussed extension will be necessary only if the Motion is denied. GTE thus asks the prehearing officer to consider the request for extension in conjunction with deliberations on the Motion for Continuance.

A part of GTE Corporation

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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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KC:tas

c: Walter D'Haeseleer (by facsimile 850-413-6567) Lee Fordham (by facsimile 850-413-6250)