

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
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Nashville, TN 37201-3300



Charles L. Howorth, Jr.  
Regulatory Vice President

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August 28, 2000

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2000

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

K. David Waddell  
Executive Secretary  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee

RE: Tariff Filing of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. for CSA TN99-1553-02  
Docket 00-00676

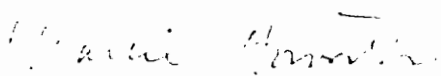
Dear Mr. Waddell:

Attached is BellSouth's response to the Staff's data request dated August 18, 2000.

We trust that this information will address the Staff's questions regarding this tariff filing, and we would appreciate your efforts to place this item before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority Directors at the earliest possible date.

Please contact Paul Stinson at 214-3839 if there are any questions regarding this response or if any additional information is required.

Yours truly,

  
Charles L. Howorth, Jr.

Attachment

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Docket 00-00676

TRA Data Request

August 18, 2000

Item No. 1

**REQUEST:** Provide a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP)

**RESPONSE:** The customer has marked this Request for Proposal (RFP) as "Confidential and Proprietary Information". In light of this designation, BellSouth cannot file a copy of the RFP with the TRA. However, BellSouth will make a copy of the RFP available for inspection at the TRA Staff's convenience.

BellSouth contacted the Staff by telephone on August 23, 2000 regarding this request and, at that time, offered to make this document available for the Staff's inspection at their convenience. To date, the Staff has not responded to that offer.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Docket 00-00676

TRA Data Request

August 18, 2000

Item No. 2

**REQUEST:** How many offers did the customer receive resulting from the RFP?

**RESPONSE:** Since BellSouth does not have this information, we forwarded a copy of the TRA's data request to the customer for this CSA and requested that they provide information responsive to this item. According to the customer, they received ten responses to the RFP.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Docket 00-00676

TRA Data Request

August 18, 2000

Item No. 3

**REQUEST:** If other offers were made, who submitted the offers?

**RESPONSE:** According to information received from the customer, the following companies submitted offers in response to the RFP:

Ameritech  
Bell Atlantic  
GTE  
Pacific Bell  
Sprint

AT&T  
BellSouth  
IBM Global Services  
SBC  
US West

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

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TRA Data Request

August 18, 2000

Item No. 4

**REQUEST:** Does BellSouth currently provide service to the customer that signed CSA  
TN99-1533-02?

**RESPONSE:** Yes.

**REQUEST:** Provide all rationale for excluding the negotiated language describing competitive alternatives available to the customer that is normally contained in the Tennessee Addendum attached to Contract Service Arrangements.

**RESPONSE:** During discussions with the TRA Staff to develop acceptable competitive language for the Tennessee Addendum, it is BellSouth's understanding that the Staff agreed that this competitive language would not be required when the competitive situation was already clearly documented by other means, such as the customer's use of an RFP (bid). RFPs/bids are inherently competitive situations providing competitive alternatives. In these cases, the competitive language in the Tennessee Addendum would simply be redundant, and no additional information would be necessary. Consistent with this understanding, BellSouth filed CSA TN98-6879-04 (TRA No 99-00812) in October 1999, where customer had issued an RFP, without the competitive language in the Tennessee Addendum. The Staff did not raise any issues or questions regarding the competitive situation for that customer or any other aspect of that CSA and this tariff became effective on November 24, 1999.

This CSA (TN99-1533-04) was initially filed with the TRA in January, 2000 (TRA 00-00062) until May, 2000 when BellSouth chose to withdraw this tariff until the customer signed the Tennessee Amendment containing language regarding termination liability charges. During the entire time that this CSA was on file with the TRA, the Staff did not raise any issues or questions regarding the competitive situation for that customer.

We certainly recognize that the Staff can ask questions and/or issue data requests at any time on any issues that they deem appropriate, and BellSouth commits to be responsive to those requests. BellSouth's tariff filing for this CSA is entirely consistent with its understanding of discussions with the Staff on the addendum language and with prior tariff filings that involved an RFP. If BellSouth's recollection on this matter is not consistent with that of the Staff, or if the Staff has identified additional concerns regarding this issue, BellSouth would appreciate a meeting with the Staff to ensure a common understanding of these issues and to avoid confusion in the future.