

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**November 13, 2002**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF  
AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL SOUTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND  
NEWSOUTH COMMUNICATIONS CORP.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-01014**

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**ORDER APPROVING  
AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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This matter came before Director Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller, and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on October 21, 2002 to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of an amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and NewSouth Communications Corp.

The original interconnection agreement and first amendments between these parties were filed on August 1, 2001 and were assigned Docket No. 01-00680. The agreement and first amendments were approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on October 9, 2001. The second amendment was filed on December 11, 2001 under Docket No. 01-01100. The Authority approved the second amendment at the February 5, 2002 Authority Conference. The third amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on September 16, 2002.

Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.

3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).<sup>1</sup> Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

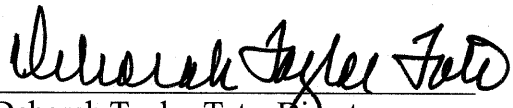
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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)(Supp. 2001).

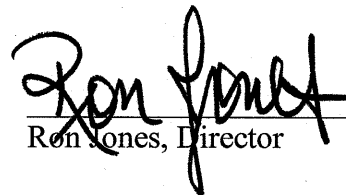
6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Petition is granted, and the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and NewSouth Communications Corp. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.

  
Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

  
Pat Miller, Director

  
Ron Jones, Director