

March 17, 2003

DOCKET NO. 02-01310

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on May 22, 2002 in Docket No. 00-00079. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 19, 2002. The first set of amendments, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on December 20, 2002.

Based upon a review of the first set of amendments, 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 amendments are in the public interest as they provide consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.

3) The amendments are 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).¹ 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 amendments are 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.

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).

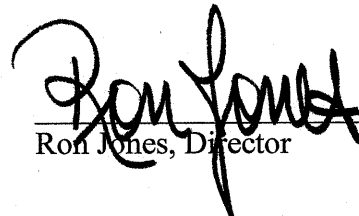
6) The amendments are reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the first set of amendments to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and AT&T Communications of the South Central States, LLC is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


Pat Miller, Director


Ron Jones, Director