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March 9, 2007

Sara Kyle, Chairman Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Pkwy. Nashville, TN 37243-0505

filed electronically in docket office on 03/09/07

Re: Petition for Arbitration of ITC^DeltaCom Communication, Inc. with

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. Pursuant to the

Telecommunications Act of 1996 TRA Docket No. 03-00119

## Dear Chairman Kyle:

On behalf of DeltaCom Inc. d/b/a DeltaCom Business Solutions ("DeltaCom"), I am filing this response to the February 28, 2007, letter from TRA General Counsel Richard Collier. In his letter, Mr. Collier asks DeltaCom and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., the two parties to the above-captioned arbitration proceeding, either to file an interconnection agreement consistent with the Authority's decision in this docket or to explain why no agreement can be filed at this time.

On May 18, 2006, the Authority issued its <u>Order on Reconsideration</u> in this docket. At about the same time, on May 15, 2006, the Authority orally approved the remaining issues in the generic "change-of-law" proceeding, Docket No. 04-00381. Recognizing that the party's new interconnection agreement must ultimately reflect both the results of the arbitration case and the results of the change-of-law docket, DeltaCom and BellSouth had agreed earlier that the parties would execute a new arbitration agreement for Tennessee after both the arbitration order and the change-of-law order for Tennessee had been issued.

Since May, 2006, DeltaCom has awaited the issuance of a written order in the change-of-law docket before beginning negotiations with BellSouth over the terms and conditions of a new arbitration agreement. Although the Authority's oral decision is public record, no written order has yet been issued.

In order to bring this matter to a conclusion in accordance with the instructions of the Authority, to provide the company with a reasonable and necessary amount of certainty in its

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Since the conclusion of the arbitration, DeltaCom has changed its name from ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc. to DeltaCom Inc.

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ongoing business operations, and to give DeltaCom the benefit of the Authority's decisions in the arbitration docket, DeltaCom asks that the Authority instruct the parties to submit an interconnection agreement to the TRA within seventy-five days.<sup>2</sup> The new agreement should reflect the agency's findings in the arbitration order. The new agreement can later be amended to reflect the agency's written findings in the change-of-law docket after that order is finally issued.

Therefore DeltaCom asks that the Authority instruct the parties to file, within seventy-five days, a new interconnection agreement consistent with the agency's findings in this docket. DeltaCom also concurs with BellSouth in requesting that the Authority issue, as soon practicable, a written order in the change-of-law docket.

Very truly yours,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

Clare Ide

Henry Walker

HW/djc

cc: Guy Hicks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Although the parties agreed to execute a proposed interconnection contract no later than the issuance of a final order in the Tennessee change-of-law docket, the parties' agreement does not preclude DeltaCom from beginning to negotiations and seeking to execute an interconnection contract prior to that time. The unanticipated delay in the issuance of a written order has caused DeltaCom to conclude that the process of creating a new contract should not be postponed any longer.