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February 27, 2006

J. Richard Collier
General Counsel
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Pkwy
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Re: Application of Bristol Tennessee Essential Services for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Provide Competing Telecommunications Services Docket No. 05-00251

Dear Richard:

In response to your letter of February 24, 2006, BTES concurs in your description of the status of the case with the following caveats.

First, as the parties discussed at the last conference, BTES and UTSE will file a joint motion prior to the hearing asking the TRA to approve the Settlement Agreement. That motion is expected to be filed on either February 27 or 28.

Second, BTES intends to put each witness on the stand to introduce and summarize his or her direct testimony. Any party, including the staff, will have the opportunity to cross-examine each witness. No one, of course, is required to do so.

Finally, in the event that the Authority on March 6 either modifies the proposed settlement in a manner that is not acceptable to BTES and UTSE or rejects the settlement altogether, UTSE and BTES would both request a short continuance so that they could either amend the settlement to address the Authority's concerns or file additional testimony and prepare for a hearing at a later date.

I am authorized to say that Ed Phillips, counsel for UTSE, has reviewed this letter and concurs with it.

Very truly yours,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:

Henry Walker

HW/djc
cc: Guy Hicks
Charles B. Welch, Jr.

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