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October 3, 2008

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Chairman Tre Hargett c/o Sharla Dillon, Dockets and Records Manager Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

filed electronically in docket office on 10/03/08

Re:

Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Tennessee and Covista, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Docket No. 08-00187

## Dear Chairman Hargett:

Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Covista, Inc. and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Tennessee are hereby submitting to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority the original plus four paper copies and one electronic copy of the attached Petition for Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2005. The Amendment extends the term of the Agreement for an additional three (3) years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Guy M. Hicks

Thomas W. Brinkman, V.P. Local and Regulatory, Covista, Inc.

cc:

## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY Nashville, Tennessee

In re:

Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Tennessee and Covista, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

# PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BETWEEN BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., D/B/A AT&T TENNESSEE AND COVISTA, INC. PURSUANT TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

COME NOW, Covista, Inc. ("Covista") and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., d/b/a AT&T Tennessee ("AT&T"), and file this request for approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2005 (the "Amendment") negotiated between the two companies pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, (the "Act"). In support of their request, Covista and AT&T state the following:

- 1. Covista and AT&T have successfully negotiated an agreement for interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements offered by AT&T and the resale of AT&T's telecommunications services to Covista. The Interconnection Agreement was approved by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") on November 21, 2005.
- 2. The parties have recently negotiated an Amendment to the Agreement.

  The Amendment extends the term of the Agreement for an additional three (3) years. A copy of the Amendment is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

- 3. Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Covista and AT&T are submitting their Amendment to the TRA for its consideration and approval. The Amendment provides that either or both of the parties are authorized to submit the Amendment to the TRA for approval.
- 4. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, the TRA is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated Amendment between AT&T and Covista within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the TRA may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.
- 5. Covista and AT&T aver that the Amendment is consistent with the standards for approval.
- 6. Pursuant to 47 USC Section 252(i) and 47 C.F.R. Section 51.809, AT&T shall make available the entire Interconnection Agreement approved pursuant to 47 USC Section 252.

Covista and AT&T respectfully request that the TRA approve the Amendment negotiated between the parties.

This 30 day of 0  $4 \times ...$ , 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. D/B/A AT&T TENNESSEE

DIDIA AT&T TENNESSEL

By: Guy M. Hicks

333 Commerce Street, Suite 2101 Nashville, Tennessee 37201-3300

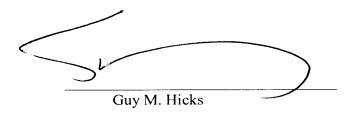
(615) 214-6301

Attorney for AT&T

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Guy M. Hicks, hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Petition for Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement on the following via United States Mail on the day of  $\searrow$ , 2008:

Thomas W. Brinkman V.P. Local and Regulatory Covista, Inc. 4803 Highway 58 Chattanooga, TN 37416



## AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT UNDER SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

BETWEEN

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
d/b/a AT&T ALABAMA, AT&T FLORIDA, AT&T GEORGIA,
AT&T KENTUCKY, AT&T LOUISIANA, AT&T MISSISSIPPI,
AT&T NORTH CAROLINA, AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA AND
AT&T TENNESSEE
AND
COVISTA INC.

COVISTA, INC.

The Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2005 by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Alabama, AT&T Florida, AT&T Georgia, AT&T Kentucky, AT&T Louisiana, AT&T Mississippi, AT&T North Carolina, AT&T South Carolina and AT&T Tennessee ("AT&T") and Covista, Inc. ("Covista") ("Agreement") effective in the state(s) of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee is hereby amended as follows:

- 1. The Parties agree that <u>AT&T-9STATE</u> shall be defined as the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Section 2.1 of the General Terms and Conditions is amended by adding the following section:
  - 2.1.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 2.1, the original expiration date of this Agreement, as modified by this Amendment, will be extended for a period of three (3) years from 7/23/2008 until 7/23/2011(the "Extended Expiration Date"). The Agreement shall expire on the Extended Expiration Date; provided, however, that during the period from the effective date of this Amendment until the Extended Expiration Date, the Agreement may be terminated earlier either by written notice from Covista, by AT&T pursuant to the Agreement's early termination provisions, or by mutual agreement of the parties.
- 3. The Agreement is also amended as follows to reflect prior changes of law, and Covista acknowledges and agrees that it will promptly amend the Agreement to reflect future changes of law as and when they may arise.
- 4. EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN, ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE UNDERLYING AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.
- 5. In entering into this Amendment neither Party waives, and each Party expressly reserves, any rights, remedies or arguments it may have at law or under the intervening law or regulatory change provisions in the underlying Agreement (including intervening law rights asserted by either Party via written notice predating this Amendment) with respect to any orders, decisions, legislation or proceedings and any remands thereof, which the Parties have not yet fully incorporated into this Agreement or which may be the subject of further review.
- 6. This Amendment shall be filed with and is subject to approval by the Commission(s) and shall become effective on the date of the last signature executing the Amendment

Covista, Inc.	January .		AT&T Alabama AT&T Kentuc	ecommunication , AT&T Florida, ; ky, AT&T Lou &T North Carolin f&T Tennessee	AT&T Georgia iisiana, AT&T
8y. 37 / 100	1/3,c		By		
Name: INOMAS W BRINKMAN			Name: Kristen E. Shore		
(Print or Type)  Title: V. P. Locate & Regulatory (Print or Type)			Title: Director		
(Print or Type)  Date: 9/3/2008			Date:		
	<u>ocn#</u>	<u>ACNA</u>		OCN#	<u>ACNA</u>
ALABAMA	169C	777	MISSISSIPPI	168C	TTV
FLORIDA	170C	770	NORTH CAROLINA	175C	771
GEORGIA	1716	<b>11</b> V	SOUTH CAROLINA	1746	770
KENTUCKY	1720	770	TENNESSEE	467c	MV
LOUISIANA	173 c	771			