

# TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Melvin Malone, Chairman  
Lynn Greer, Director  
Sara Kyle, Director



August 23, 1999

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 23 1999

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
GENERAL COUNSELS OFFICE

Mr. Charles Howorth, Jr.  
Regulatory Vice President  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Suite 2104  
333 Commerce Street  
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

In Re: Tariff Filing to Introduce Late Payment Charges  
Docket No. 99-00574

Dear Mr. Howorth:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BST) has filed a tariff to apply a five per cent (5%) late payment charge to General Service subscribers and to increase the existing late payment charge from one and one-half per cent (1.5%) to five per cent (5%) in its Private Line Tariff. To aid the Authority's review of this tariff, please provide a response to the following data requests regarding this tariff filing.

1. Does BST propose to apply the five per cent late payment charge to basic services as defined by T.C.A. § 65-5-208?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please explain why BST believes the late payment charge does not violate the prohibition against raising basic rates in T.C.A. § 65-5-209 for a period of four years.
3. In the Executive Summary provided with the tariff, BST explains that it currently recovers costs of collecting late payments from subscribers who pay their bills on time and it is the intent to pass these costs back to the subscribers generating the costs. If that is the case, what rates does BST propose to reduce to offset the revenues it will generate from the proposed late payment fee?
4. If BST does not propose to offset the proposed revenues generated by the late payment fee, explain why the proposed revenues do not cause BST to exceed the revenue cap imposed by T.C.A. § 65-5-209.

Provide an original and thirteen copies of your responses to these request items by noon Monday, August 30, 1999. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Knight at 741-2904 ext. 154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Davis Waddell', written in a cursive style.

K. Davis Waddell  
Executive Secretary

Xc: Official File