

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

BELLSOUTH OPERATING COMPANIES Transmittal No. 185

Revisions to Tariff F.C.C.
No. 1

Billing of Jointly Provided
Feature Group A Access
Service

ORDER

Adopted: January 12, 1989; Released: January 13, 1989

By the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. On September 16, 1988, the Bell South Operating Companies (BellSouth) filed the above-captioned proposed revisions to modify BellSouth Tariff F.C.C. No. 1 as it pertains to the billing of customers for certain jointly provided Feature Group A (FGA) access service. On October 3, 1988, MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI) filed a petition to suspend the proposed tariff revisions (MCI Petition). BellSouth filed its reply on October 14, 1988 (BellSouth Reply). The proposed revisions are currently scheduled to become effective on January 15, 1989.¹

2. Under BellSouth's current tariff, if FGA access service is jointly provided with another local exchange carrier (LEC), the carrier in whose territory the first point of switching is located accepts the order, arranges the service, and bills the customer in accordance with its own tariff. The currently proposed revisions would add an exception to this meet point billing rule. Specifically, when BellSouth and one or more other LECs jointly provide the transport facility between the first point of switching and the customer's point of termination, these revisions would enable each of the LECs involved to use its own tariff to bill the customer for each LEC's portion of such facility. Such separate billing will occur if each affected LEC agrees to that arrangement.

3. In its petition, MCI first claims such meet point billing is not a viable option for FGA access service because of certain characteristics of such service within each local access and transport area. MCI Petition at 2 n.6. Second, MCI argues that continuing Bureau and industry investigation of meet point billing for both FGA and Feature Group B makes it inappropriate for BellSouth to adopt these revisions at this time. *Id.* at 2-3. Finally, MCI submits that BellSouth's adoption of these revisions would be inconsistent with the meet point billing implementation cycle previously negotiated by BellSouth and others. *Id.* Accordingly, MCI asks the Bureau to suspend the tariff until these investigations are completed. *Id.* at 3.

4. BellSouth replies first by asserting that the pendency of these investigations is not a sufficient reason to suspend these proposed revisions and that suspension is only appropriate if there are significant questions as to the lawfulness of the transmittal. Since MCI has not challenged the lawfulness of these tariff revisions, BellSouth argues, the transmittal should be permitted to become effective as scheduled. Bell South Reply at 1-2. BellSouth also states that if further changes to its tariff become necessary as a result of subsequent Commission action, the tariff can be revised at that time. *Id.* at 3.

5. The Common Carrier Bureau has reviewed the tariff transmittal as recently modified, as well as the pleadings filed by MCI and BellSouth, and concludes that no compelling argument has been presented that an investigation of the proposed revisions is warranted at this time.

6. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the petition against BellSouth Operating Companies Tariff F.C.C. No. 1, Transmittal No. 185, filed by MCI Telecommunications Corporation IS DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Gerald Brock
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

FOOTNOTE

¹ BellSouth filed Application No. 75 to modify its revisions on December 9, 1988, and amended that application on December 13, 1988. BellSouth was granted permission to make these modifications to the proposed revisions on December 15, 1988, pursuant to Special Permission No. 88-608.