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July 12, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BY HAND

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

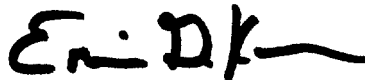
Re: Ex Parte Communication in CS Docket No. 00-30

Dear Ms. Salas:

On July 11, 2000, Erwin Krasnow and Michael Pratt of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, W. Larry Thompson, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division ("MLGW"), and Charlotte Knight-Griffin, an attorney in MLGW's Legal Department, met with Paul Jackson, Special Assistant to Commissioner Michael K. Powell. The discussion tracked MLGW's written comments filed in this proceeding on April 26, 2000, as well as topics related to the attached documents, which were distributed at the meeting.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, an original and one copy of this letter, including attachments, are being filed with your office. Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Erwin G. Krasnow

Enclosure

cc (w/o encl.): Paul Jackson

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List A B C D E

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**AOL/Time Warner Merger**  
**CS Docket No. 00-30**

*Ex Parte* Presentation of  
**Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division**

**July 11, 2000**

## Overview of Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division

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- Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division (“MLGW”) is a division and agency of the City of Memphis, Tennessee
- MLGW is a municipal utility that provides electricity, natural gas, and water to more than 400,000 customers in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee

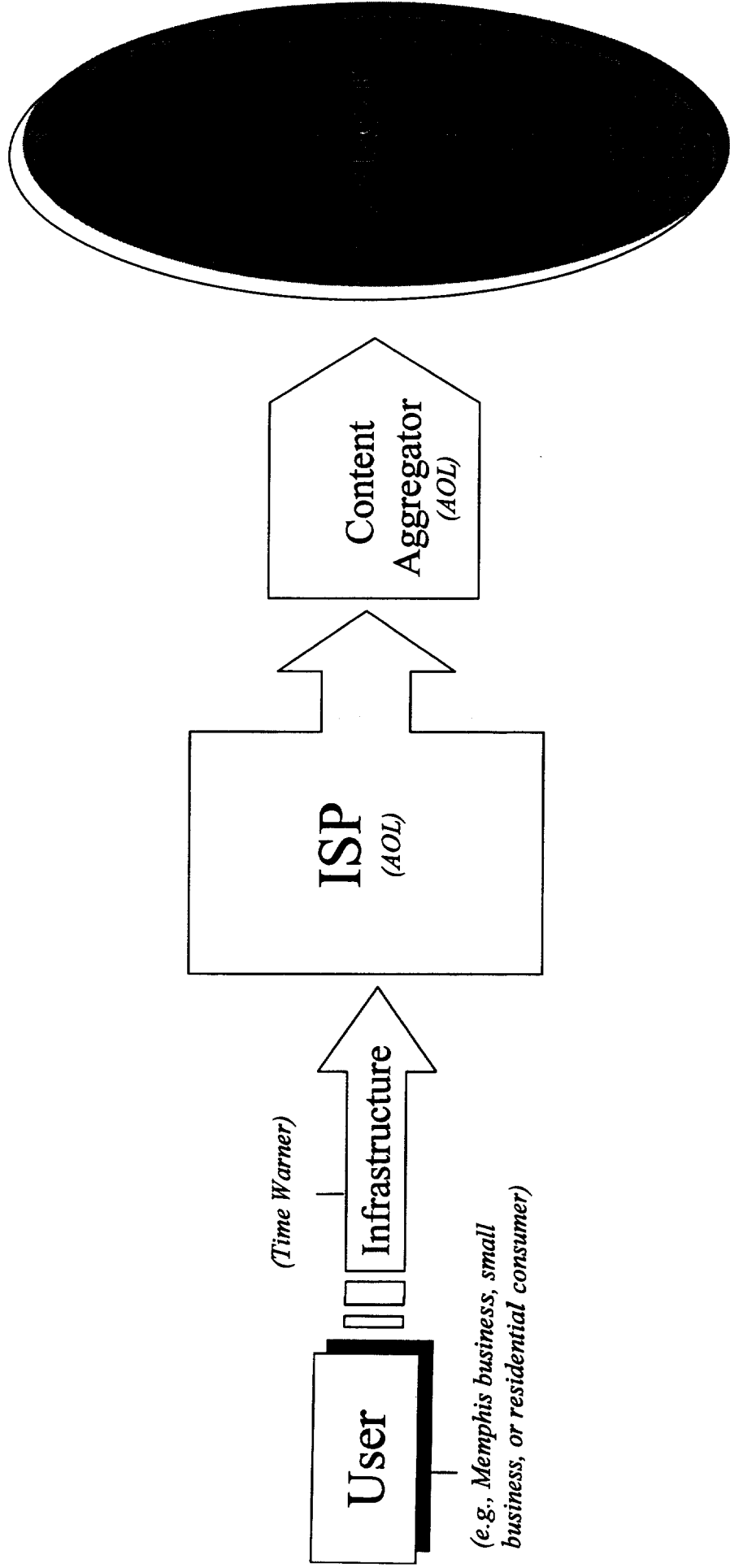
## Overview of MLGW's Memphis Network, LLC Joint Venture

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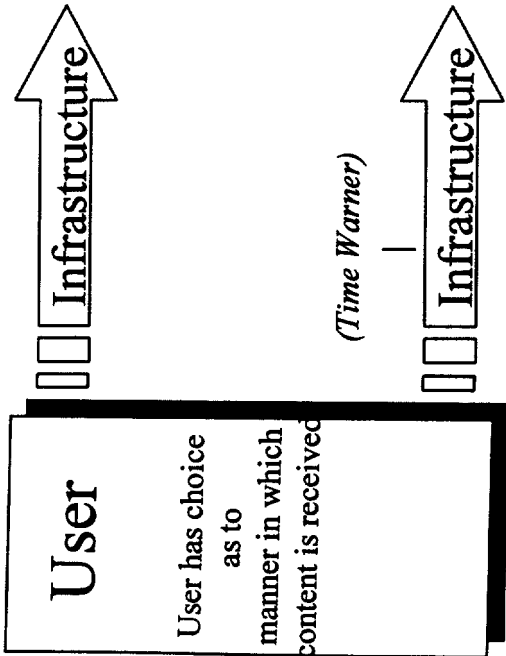
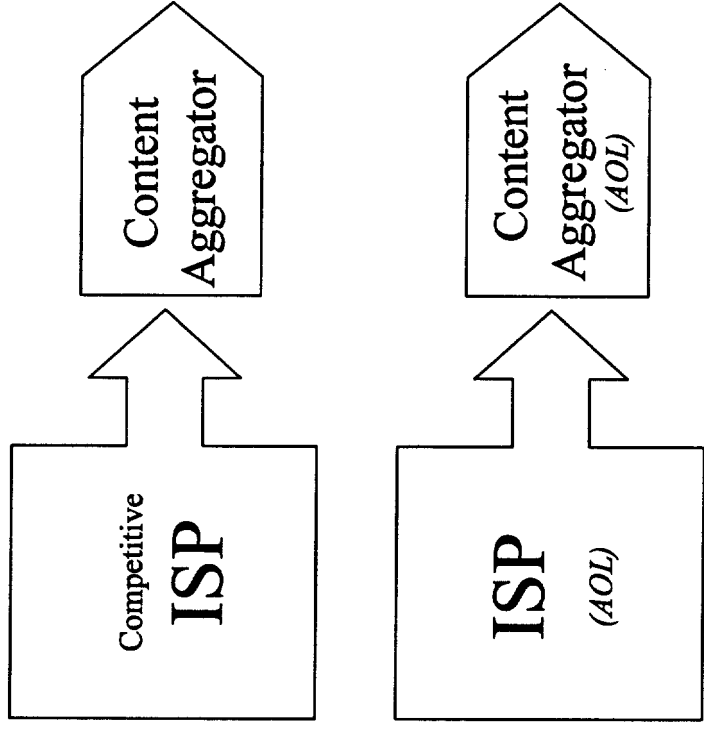
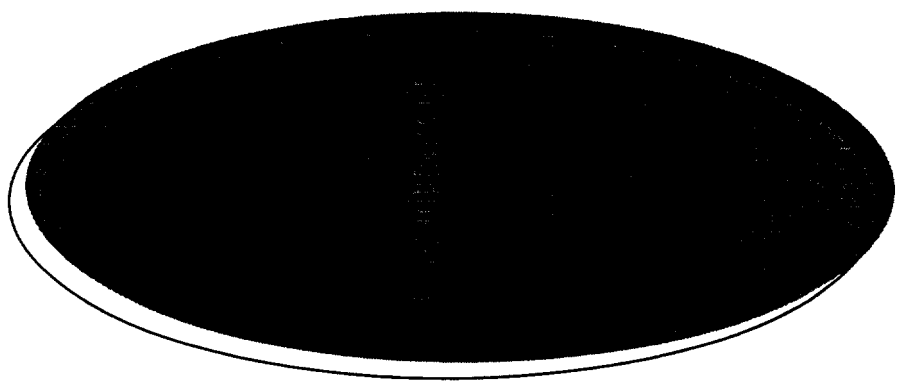
- Joint venture with A&L Networks-Tennessee, LLC
- Created pursuant to Tennessee statute that encourages municipal electric utilities to enter telecommunications markets
- Will provide primarily wholesale telecommunications services as an open access provider
- Will also eventually provide retail services to otherwise unserved and under-served portions of the community

In many communities such as Memphis, a user's access to data and content may be circumscribed by limited infrastructure and vertical integration:

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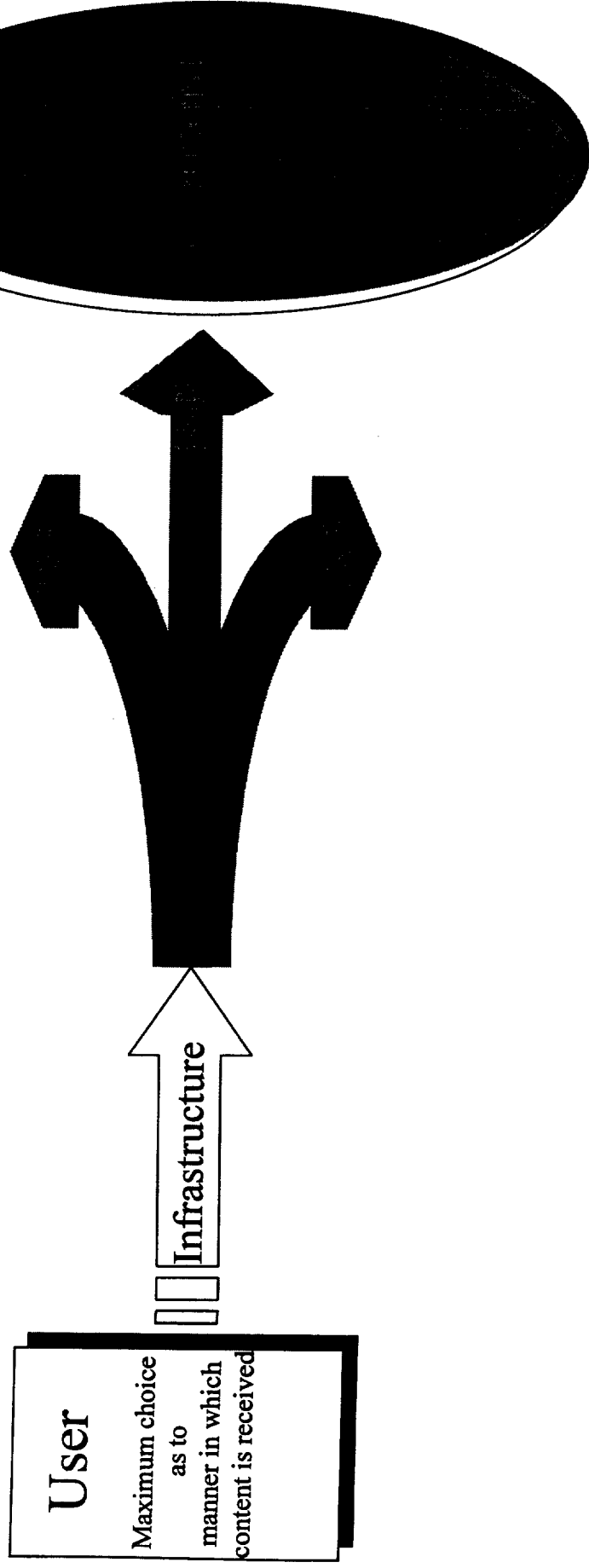
In light of industry consolidation and vertical integration/affiliation, user choice among sources of information must be ensured via competitive infrastructure.



(e.g., Memphis business, small business, or residential consumer)

If the competitive overbuilder adopts an “open access” platform, such as Memphis Networkx proposes, user choice is maximized and content is available in a form and manner chosen by the user:

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The AOL/Time Warner merger should be conditioned on the requirement that AOL/Time Warner provide open access to its broadband platform or, in the alternative, agree not to oppose or limit infrastructure competition by any action, agreement, or otherwise. Such a condition is in the public interest and will encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability and promote local competition.