COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND DELTACOM, INC. PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

CASE NO. 97-130

ORDER

On September 5, 1997, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and DeltaCom, Inc. ("DeltaCom") submitted to the Commission an amended negotiated agreement for interconnection. The agreement was negotiated pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"), 47 U.S.C. Sections 251 and 252. Section 252(e) of the 1996 Act requires the parties to an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation to submit the agreement for approval to the Commission.

The Commission has reviewed the amended agreement and finds that no portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement. The Commission also finds that the implementation of this amended agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

DeltaCom must comply with all relevant Commission mandates for serving in this Commonwealth including the submission of documents verifying the establishment of an escrow account or the posting of a bond to cover 6 percent of DeltaCom's gross receipts from the provision of intrastate service for Universal Service Fund obligations.¹

The Commission, having been otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. The negotiated amended agreement between BellSouth and DeltaCom is approved.

2. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, DeltaCom shall file documents demonstrating that an escrow account or bond has been established to pay its Universal Service Fund obligations.

3. DeltaCom shall file a tariff for local service prior to providing local service giving 30-days' notice to the Commission and shall comply with Commission regulations and orders as directed.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 15th day of October, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

B. J. Helton

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director

¹ <u>See</u> Administrative Case No. 355, An Inquiry Into Competition, Universal Service, and the Non-Traffic Sensitive Access Rate, Order dated September 26, 1996 at 51 and 54.