

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROPRIETY OF,)	
AND POTENTIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR, THE)	
PROVISION OF LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE)	CASE NO. 98-410
BY GTE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION)	
AND BELL SOUTH BSE, INC.)	

O R D E R

On February 19, 1999, the Commission advised parties that in the absence of a request for an informal conference or hearing this proceeding would be submitted to the Commission for its final decision. On February 26, 1999, GTE Communications Corporation (GTE-CC) requested an informal conference. On March 1, 1999, Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association (SECCA) requested that the Commission set a procedural schedule that included discovery and a public hearing. On March 9, 1999, BellSouth BSE, Inc. (BSE) responded to SECCA's comments. BSE argues that SECCA should not be allowed to produce new arguments and that the information SECCA discussed in its motion was inaccurate and irrelevant. BSE urged the Commission to deny SECCA's request and the request of GTE-CC for an informal conference. On March 11, 1999, GTE-CC responded to SECCA's motion and argued that it and BSE have produced extensive comments and that the issues are well articulated with few or no factual issues disputed.¹ GTE-CC further noted that its request for an informal conference would provide an opportunity to focus its arguments. Finally, on March 18, 1999, SECCA responded to BSE's contentions that it merely

¹ Response of GTE-CC to SECCA at 1.

sought delay in this proceeding. SECCA argues that a public hearing would enable the Commission to hear highly relevant material obtained in discovery as well as newly available market information.²

The Commission, having considered the motions and having been otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. GTE-CC's request for an informal conference shall be granted.
2. SECCA's motion for discovery and a public hearing shall be held in abeyance pending the informal conference.
3. The informal conference shall be scheduled for April 29, 1999 beginning at 1:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in Conference Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of April, 1999.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Executive Director

² Response of SECCA to Reply of BellSouth BSE at 3.