

August 30, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL

Jim Schenk  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
600 North 19th Street  
8th Floor  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

RE: Coordinated Bulk Hot Cut Process

Dear Jim:

The purpose of this letter is to request BellSouth's adoption of a new process in our companies' efforts to address the insufficiency in today's loop-by-loop hot cut process. As we have discussed on several occasions, in spite of its commitment to serving customers on our own local network, AT&T has found it increasingly difficult to use unbundled loops to provide service to our small business local customers. While there are many factors, the inability to complete individual hot cuts in a commercially reasonable manner has proven to be a significant initial hurdle. In fact, in spite of the development of detailed individual hot cut processes to avoid outages, our experience has shown that current methods are unreliable, uneconomical and incapable of sustaining commercial volumes in a competitive environment.

However, AT&T has achieved a small measure of success in New York where, using an outside contractor, AT&T has been able to convert thousands of customers to AT&T's network using a bulk hot cut process. We wish to implement a similar process in the BellSouth territory. This process allows for the project-based conversion of a number of AT&T customers within a single local serving office ("LSO") and takes advantage of the efficiency of converting a number of lines, after regular business hours, with real time coordination between AT&T and BellSouth. Contrary to the current individual hot cut processes, the bulk conversion process can eliminate many of today's problems with customer outages and the lack of commercial volumes, while at the same time significantly lowering the cost to both BellSouth and AT&T.

Based on the New York experience, it is clear that it would be worthwhile to develop a process which would allow AT&T to migrate those customers currently served on the

UNE platform to AT&T's own network using unbundled loops. More importantly, because a bulk conversion process will be less costly for BellSouth to implement, we would anticipate substantial reductions on UNE-L hot cut charges associated with this process. Therefore, I am now asking for your commitment to work collaboratively with AT&T to fully document and implement the necessary procedures for such bulk conversions. AT&T has identified a number of factors that must be addressed in order to ensure a successful process. Although probably not a comprehensive list, these factors include:

- The ability to convert between 100 – 250 lines within a single LSO at one time;
- The development of a streamlined ordering process to avoid unnecessary individual orders and both the work and costs associated with them;
- A project managed focus at both AT&T and the BellSouth;
- BellSouth's conversion readiness, including dial-tone/ANI testing, loop qualification testing and pre-wiring in advance of the conversion;
- Dedicated personnel at BellSouth for the duration of the conversion process, including personnel able to resolve CFA discrepancies identified during the bulk conversion;
- Commitment of immediate service restoration in the event of a service outage during the conversion process;
- The development of appropriate measurements and tracking to ensure the quality of the process, and if necessary, to further improve the process;
- Substantially reduced prices for UNE-L hot cuts to take into account reduced costs for BellSouth.

Additional requirements, which, we believe, BellSouth already delivers via COSMOS and LENS, are the electronic access to BellSouth's CFA inventory and the ability to identify spare and utilized facilities.

In order to most efficiently develop and test a bulk hot cut process, I suggest that each company designate a representative to lead our implementation teams with this effort. I will lead the AT&T team and ask that you designate the appropriate BellSouth team leader as soon as possible. Given the importance of this process to any attempt by AT&T to use unbundled loops to serve our customers, I ask that negotiations on the process begin no later than September 16, 2002.

Sincerely,

cc: Greg Terry