

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

601 W. Chestnut Street Room 407 Louisville, KY 40203

Dorothy.Chambers@BellSouth.com

Dorothy J. Chambers

General Counsel/Kentucky

502 582 8219 Fax 502 582 1573

October 24, 2003

001 2 4 2003

Mr. Thomas M. Dorman Executive Director Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P. O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602

Re:

Review of Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review Order Regarding Unbundling Requirements for Individual Network Elements PSC 2003-00379

Dear Mr. Dorman:

Enclosed is BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s ("BellSouth") Petition confirming BellSouth's intention to seek to overcome the national presumption that impairment exists in the markets addressed in this proceeding.

As requested at the October 14, 2003, informal conference, BellSouth also hereby files in this proceeding the September 10, 2003, letter from R. Douglas Lackey, counsel for BellSouth, and Jerry Watts, President of CompSouth, to Chairman Martin J. Huelsmann, Vice Chairman Gary W. Gillis, Commissioner Robert E. Spurlin, and Executive Director Thomas M. Dorman as a part of the record in this case. BellSouth and the CLEC coalition (CompSouth¹) have attempted to negotiate and have agreed upon proposals regarding some of the logistical and scheduling matters in an effort to avoid unnecessary conflicts between the commissions in BellSouth's nine state region and other proceedings in which CompSouth members may be involved. BellSouth also has confirmed that there appears to be no objection if this Commission chooses to select the hearing dates, April 26-28, 2004, previously scheduled for Mississippi, as state eight, in the schedule originally developed in this process.

¹ CompSouth members include: ITC DeltaCom; MCI; Business Telecom Inc.; NewSouth Communications Corp.; AT&T; Nuvox Communications Inc.; Access Integrated Networks, Inc.; Birch Telecom; Talk America; Cinergy Communications Company; Z-Tel Communications; Network Telephone Corp.; Momentum Business Solutions; Covad; KMC Telecom; IDS Telecom and Xspedius Corp.

Mr. Thomas M. Dorman October 24, 2003 Page 2

BellSouth also wishes to provide to the Commission and the parties a copy of the Telecom Regulatory Note, which are notes that were taken at the Triennial task force meeting of the Triennial Review Implementation Process Task Force ("TRIP"), which met in Washington, D.C., on Friday, October 10, 2003. Those notes were taken by Anna-Maria Kovacs with Regulatory Source Associates, LLC. At the Commission's October 14, 2003, informal conference, there was a discussion of whether discovery requests initially should go to non-ILECs. This issue was addressed, as Staff noted, at the October 10, 2003, TRIP meeting in Washington, D.C. The minutes of Regulatory Source Associates states, "[t]here was agreement that a short list of data-intensive questions might be sent to a large universe of companies [including even those companies that are not normally under the jurisdiction of the state, such as wireless, VoIP and cable] to determine a subset that needs to be asked further questions". Page 2, bullet point 3. This approach is consistent with BellSouth's October 10, 2003, motion to add all telecommunications carriers, including interexchange carriers, at least for the purposes for discovery, in BellSouth's motion to alter the procedural schedule filed October 10, 2003.

An original and four (4) copies of BellSouth's Petition confirming BellSouth's intention to seek to overcome the national presumption that impairment exists in the markets addressed in this proceeding, the September 10, 2003, letter referenced above, and the Telecom Regulatory Note prepared by Regulatory Source Associates, LLC of the October 10, 2003, Washington, D.C., TRIP meeting are enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy J. Chambers

cc: Parties of Record

Enclosures

509416

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

REVIEW OF FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS)	
COMMISSION'S TRIENNIAL REVIEW ORDER)	CASE NO.
REGARDING UNBUNDLING REQUIREMENTS	ý	2003-00379
FOR INDIVIDUAL NETWORK ELEMENTS	ý	

PETITION OF BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO OVERCOME PRESUMPTION OF IMPAIRMENT

Comes BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), by counsel, and hereby petitions the Kentucky Public Service Commission as follows:

- 1. The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") released its Triennial Review Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of ILECs effective October 2, 2003.¹ In that order the FCC delegated certain tasks to the individual state commissions, primarily relating to the FCC's national finding of impairment for certain unbundled network elements.
- 2. In response to the FCC's order, on October 2, 2003, the Kentucky Public Service Commission issued an order initiating this proceeding and establishing an initial procedural schedule. The Commission gave notice of the proceeding to all incumbent local exchange carriers, all competitive local exchange carriers, all wireless providers, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Cable

¹ Review of Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Report and Order and Order on Remand, CC Docket No. 01-00338, Rel. August 21, 2003.

Telecommunications Association. The Commission's October 2, 2003, Order provided that persons who were served with the order and wished to become parties were to send written notice of intervention to the Commission within ten days of the order. The Commission also set a date for initial data requests to incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") and date for responses. The October 2, 2003, Order also set an informal conference for October 14, 2003. The Commission's October 2, 2003, Order, stated that BellSouth Telecommunications as well as Kentucky Alltel, Inc., and Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company had until October 24, 2003, to file petitions seeking to overcome the national presumption that impairment exists in the markets addressed in this proceeding.

- 3. Pursuant to the Commission's October 2, 2003, Order, a number of parties have filed motions for intervention. Parties also have filed requests for production of documents and first sets of discovery. On October 10, 2003, BellSouth filed a motion requesting the Commission to make certain modifications to the procedural schedule, including adding additional entities, such as IXCs, local governments, and other utilities that provide telecommunications services, at least for the limited purpose of discovery. BellSouth also filed its first set of interrogatories and first set of production requests.
- 4. In its order the FCC established both "triggers" and alternate methods that the state commissions should examine in order to determine whether CLECs were impaired in the absence of unbundled switching, as well as with regard to high capacity loops and transport. On information and belief, BellSouth concludes that if the Commission conducts proceedings pursuant to the FCC order, the Commission will be

presented with evidence that demonstrates that CLECs are not impaired with regard to switching in various parts of the state, and that there are specific routes where CLECs will not be impaired in the absence of unbundled loops or transport. Discovery and further inquiries are necessary in order to substantiate these conclusions. However, pursuant to this Commission's October 2, 2003 Order, BellSouth hereby respectfully petitions the Commission to investigate and determine that the national presumption regarding impairment in the markets addressed in the proceeding have been overcome by the evidence which will be presented in this record in the specific market areas that will be identified in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Chambers

601 W. Chestnut/Street, Room 407

P. O. Box 32410-

Louisville, KY 40232

(502) 582-8219

R. Douglas Lackey Meredith E. Mays

Suite 4300, BellSouth Center

675 W. Peachtree Street, N.E.

Atlanta, GA 30375

(404) 335-0747

COUNSEL FOR BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

509412

September 10, 2003 Letter
From R. Douglas Lackey, Counsel for BellSouth, and
Jerry Watts, President of CompSouth, to
Chairman Martin J. Huelsmann,
Vice Chairman Gary W. Gillis,
Commissioner Robert E. Spurlin, and
Executive Director Thomas M. Dorman

September 10, 2003

Martin J. Huelsmann
Chairman
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Gary W. Gillis, CPA
Vice Chairman
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Robert E. Spurlin Commissioner Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P. O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602

Thomas M. Dorman
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

RE: State Triennial Proceedings

Dear Chairman Huelsmann, Vice Chairman Gillis, Commissioner Spurlin, and Mr. Dorman:

The purpose of this letter is to supplement the presentation made by representatives of BellSouth and CompSouth during the SEARUC breakfast in Denver. At that time, BellSouth and CompSouth reported that we were in discussions in an attempt to arrive at a region-wide

¹ CompSouth members include: ITC DeltaCom; MCI; Business Telecom Inc.; NewSouth Communications Corp.; AT&T; Nuvox Communications Inc.; Access Integrated Networks, Inc.; Birch Telecom; Talk America; Cinergy Communications Company; Z-Tel Communications; Network Telephone Corp.; Momentum Business Solutions; Covad; KMC Telecom; IDS Telcom and Xspedius Corp.

Martin J. Huelsmann, Chairman Gary W. Gillis, CPA/Vice Chairman Robert E. Spurlin, Commissioner Thomas M. Dorman, Executive Director September 10, 2003 Page 2 of 4

proposal for the scheduling and conduct of the state proceedings that have been required by the FCC's recent Triennial Review Order ("TRO"). As you know, the FCC's TRO requires the states to conduct and conclude certain proceedings within the next nine months. Because every state will have to engage in this process simultaneously, there has been considerable concern about avoiding scheduling and other potential conflicts among the various state proceedings in the BellSouth region, since these cases will often involve the same parties, issues, and witnesses.

We are pleased to report that BellSouth and CompSouth have developed a proposal that we believe will allow these state proceedings to occur in a manner that will avoid the inevitable conflicts that would occur if every state proceeded independently. The attached spreadsheet lays out our proposal in the form of a schedule that sets out dates for the filing of testimony, holding hearings, the filing of post-hearing briefs, and the presentation of oral arguments. If this proposal is adopted by all of the states in the BellSouth region, we should be able to avoid any major conflicts in scheduling among the states.

You will note that the schedule does not identify the order in which the states would proceed. While we do not intend to be presumptuous, and we understand fully that each state establishes its own calendar, based on what we understood the sentiments to be in Denver, we suggest that Florida and Georgia should be the first two states, followed by North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Kentucky. We understood that the order of the first three states and the last two were discussed in Denver. We arranged the middle four states in a manner that would minimize travel between the states, as we have proposed hearings to run week after week, with no real break for the participants.

As you will note, our proposal envisions lengthier hearings in the initial states and stages of these proceedings based on our experience that has shown that multistate hearings generally take longer during the first hearings than during later hearings. This is because in multi-state proceedings, the parties often find that they can enter into agreements to stipulate testimony and records in the latter states and stages of the proceedings, which tends to shorten the needed hearing dates and time necessary to conduct the proceedings. As the hearings in the latter states and stages become more truncated as a result of these stipulations, however, the need for the parties to be able to present oral argument to summarize the stipulated record increases in importance.

We also propose that these state proceedings be conducted either in two separate dockets, or one docket with two sub-dockets in each state for the reasons described below.

Essentially these state proceedings, which are required to be conducted in nine months, are going to be concerned with discharging the Commission's responsibilities in implementing the unbundling requirements of Rule 51.319 in determining principally (1) the continued availability of unbundled local switching for the mass market (the "UNE-P case"), and (2) the

Martin J. Huelsmann, Chairman Gary W. Gillis, CPA/Vice Chairman Robert E. Spurlin, Commissioner Thomas M. Dorman, Executive Director September 10, 2003 Page 3 of 4

continued availability of unbundled high capacity transport on certain routes and unbundled high capacity loops at certain locations (the High Capacity Loop Transport case). The FCC has provided an analytical framework and specific triggers for each of these determinations and cases. We have determined that some CLECs have an interest in the UNE-P portion of the case but not the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case, and vice versa. Given this, together with the fact that the data to be analyzed in the two situations are completely separate, there will be a need to create a different record for each portion of the case.

Furthermore, it appears that the issues raised by the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case will be much more fact specific, dealing with individual route- and location specific facilities. Given that the Commission must conduct and complete these proceedings in nine months, our schedule proposes that the hearings be bifurcated for each specific case/subject matter, with the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case to follow immediately after the conclusion of the UNE-P portion of the case. In addition, given the different nature of the UNE-P and High Capacity Loop Transport portions of the case, the schedule proposes that there will be three rounds of testimony (Direct, Rebuttal and Surrebuttal) for the UNE-P portion of the case, and two rounds of testimony (Direct and Rebuttal) for the High Capacity Loop and Transport portion of the case. As you will see from the attached schedule, the Direct testimony in the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case is to be filed at the same time as the Rebuttal testimony in the UNE-P portion of the case, and the Rebuttal testimony in the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case is to be filed at the same time as the Surrebuttal testimony in the UNE-P portion of the case.

We have also proposed that Week 32 (the week of May 10, 2004) be reserved across the region for "overflow" hearings. We anticipate that these "overflow" hearings could be necessitated by (1) the need to conclude the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case in any particular state or (2) the presentation of evidence concerning the potential deployment of certain high capacity loops and transport where the wholesale and self-provider triggers are not satisfied. (See Rules 51.319 (a)(5)(ii); 51.319 (a)(6)(ii); 51.319 (e)(2)(ii); and 51.319 (e)(3)(ii)). Until the completion of discovery, BellSouth cannot determine whether it will elect to present evidence concerning the "potential deployment" of certain high capacity loops and transport pursuant to these rules, but if it does, the parties anticipate that the time afforded by the period set aside for the "overflow" hearings may be necessary. The parties hope that the time scheduled for hearings in each state will accommodate all of these needs in the first instance, but should that not be the case, BellSouth and CompSouth believe it would be prudent to set aside time now for these "overflow" hearings. BellSouth has committed to notify the parties as soon as it makes a determination about how it intends to proceed in the High Capacity Loop Transport portion of the case with regard to presenting evidence on the potential, as opposed to actual, deployment of facilities under the FCC's rules. BellSouth anticipates making that decision very soon after the completion of discovery in these proceedings.

Martin J. Huelsmann, Chairman Gary W. Gillis, CPA/Vice Chairman Robert E. Spurlin, Commissioner Thomas M. Dorman, Executive Director September 10, 2003 Page 4 of 4

We are also able to report to the Commission that neither BellSouth nor CompSouth, on behalf of its members, intends to request that the Commission conduct a 90-day case regarding access to unbundled local switching for DS1 and above loops. (See Rule 51.319 (d)(3)(i)). However, if another party requests that the Commission conduct such a review, BellSouth and CompSouth, on behalf of its members, reserve the right to participate in such a proceeding.

In addition to the attached proposed schedule for the 9 months following the October 2nd effective date of the TRO, we are also working on, and have substantially completed, an agreement that deals with how region-wide discovery will be conducted; how the parties to these proceedings will serve each other with discovery, testimony, and other pleadings; and how region-wide confidentiality agreements will be handled. Because of the number of parties expected to participate and the short time in which these proceedings will have to conclude, we anticipate agreeing upon shortened discovery periods and electronic, rather than paper, service of everything we file in these proceedings, at least to the extent possible. If the schedule we propose is acceptable to the Commission, we will follow up with our proposal regarding these matters in short order.

In conclusion, let us reiterate that in making this proposal, we do not intend to compromise this Commission's authority in these matters. Rather, we are merely offering a proposal that we believe will facilitate the conduct and resolution of the proceedings that the FCC's TRO has delegated to the 9 state Commissions in the BellSouth region. We recognize that this proposed schedule leaves some matters open, such as pre-hearing and issue identification conferences if they are required. However, we believe that the proposed schedule captures all of the major activities that will be required. Consequently, we respectfully request that you treat this letter as a request to the Commission to open generic proceedings to address these issues and that the Commission adopt the schedule that we have proposed.

We are available to discuss this proposal either individually with each state Commission or collectively with the SEARUC Commissions.

Sincerely,

Jerry Watts, President

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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

R. Douglas Lackey

Sr. Corporate Counsel-Regulatory

Attachment

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Telecom Regulatory Note

Regulatory Source Associates, LLC

Anna-Maria Kovacs, Ph.D., CFA 617-661-4666 akovacs à regulatory source.com

Kristin L. Burns, Ph.D. 781-621-8371 kburns@regulatorysource.com

October 13, 2003

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

Triennial task force meeting

- The Triennial Review Implementation Process task force (TRIP) met in D.C. on Friday October 10th to share information, hear industry views, and help determine further steps that both the task force and individual states might take to facilitate the states' nine-month reviews of mass-market switching, as well as of high-capacity loop and transport. The session focused on process, not on conclusions.
- It is clear that the states must manage two simultaneous processes: establishing a
 batch-cut process (unless they determine that no such process is needed), and
 working through the nine-month proceedings with regard to mass-market
 switching and high-capacity loop and transport.
- There was debate about how a state goes about defining the relevant geographic market. The consensus seemed to be that it is up to the ILEC to initially define the market in which it believes it should be relieved from unbundling obligations, but that the state can choose to define the market differently once it has examined all the evidence presented by the ILEC and the CLECs. In other words, the relevant market is where there is no impairment.
- There was debate about the relationship of the physical location of the trigger switches vis a vis the market they serve. Valor pointed out that Cox (COX-\$32) serves Tulsa with a switch in Oklahoma City, and that the definition must take into account the market served by a switch, not the one where the switch is physically located.
- There was debate about whether the state needs to decide the market definition before all evidence is entered (the ILEC view) or whether it needs to look at the evidence before deciding the market (CLEC view). As far as we can tell, this chicken and egg question is still unresolved in the minds of most state commissions. One exception is Connecticut, which has already made its market definition, determining that the relevant geography is the wire center.

- There was debate about the role of intermodal competition, specifically wireless and voice-over-IP (VoIP). The CLECs believe the Triennial excludes both, the ILECs believe these cannot be ignored. Valor, for example, argues that if wireless is eligible for universal service support, it should qualify as a competitor for the Triennial's trigger analysis. In other words, the question becomes how perfect a substitute a competitor must be for it to count towards the Triennial's trigger analysis.
- There was debate about whether the states are expected to go beyond the trigger analysis (i.e, three switches serving end-users or two wholesale providers serving other CLECs in the relevant market) to the economic and operational analysis, if the triggers are met. Some argued that the triggers are automatic, others that if they are met but a state believes there are mitigating circumstances then the state must ask the FCC for a waiver to base its decision on the other factors.
- There were questions about how extensive the discovery process should be, and particularly how much should be required of companies that are not normally under the jurisdiction of the state (e.g, wireless, VoIP, cable). There was agreement that a short list of data-intensive questions might be sent to a large universe of companies to determine a subset that needs to be asked further questions.
- ILECs that are not currently providing UNEP or who do not seek relief for other reasons can tell the relevant state commission that they will not be filing a mass-market switching case.
- There was debate about what happens if a state does not finish its proceeding in nine months. It was indicated that the burden would be on the aggrieved party to take the case to the FCC, and that it was not likely that would happen if the state were close to concluding its proceeding.
- There was debate over what happens after the nine months are over and these cases are resolved. Do states have the right to say that they will not do another look for a certain period of time? If so, should it be short (e.g., six months) or longer (e.g., two years)?
- There were questions about how the creation of a batch-cut process interfaces
 with the initial nine-month process and with subsequent reviews, particularly if
 such reviews are foreclosed for a time.
- There was discussion of what the batch-cut process should cover. According to Covad (COVD-\$5), California has ruled that line-splitting must be covered by the

process. MCI (WCOEQ-\$0.06) noted that New York is considering whether the process should cover CLEC to CLEC as well as UNEP to UNEL transfers.

- There was discussion of various business-case models that states might use in looking at the feasibility of competitive entry. There seemed to be agreement that the battle will be over a handful of key inputs, regardless of the specific model being used.
- With regard to high-capacity loop and transport, there is no issue of market definition because the routes are very specific.
- The issue of discovery arises again, with the ILECs claiming that they cannot know buildings served by CLECs off CLEC fiber rings. The consensus seems to be that ILECs should generate lists of buildings and routes where they believe there is no impairment (as SBC (SBC-\$22) has done in Illinois), but that they can explore beyond those via discovery, ideally with fairly short and data-specific questionnaires (at least initially).
- There was discussion about whether the ILECs would bring only trigger cases at this point or "potential competition" cases as well. The ILEC view seemed somewhat divided on that, with BellSouth (BLS-\$24) not foreclosing the idea of bringing "potential competition" cases now, especially in states that decide to have a long "quiet period" after the initial proceedings.

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Dorothy J. Chambers

SERVICE LIST - KPSC 2003-00379

Houssam Abdallah Global Connection Inc. of America 3957 Pleasantdale Road Atlanta, GA 30340

Houssam Abdallah Prepaid Telecom, Inc. P. O. Box 620366 Atlanta, GA 30362

Karen Adams Regulatory Affordaphone, Inc. P. O. Box 1220 Bridgeport, TX 76426

Honorable Jonathon N. Amlung Attorney at Law 1000 Republic Building 429 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard Louisville, KY 40202-2347

Sylvia Anderson AT&T Communications of The South Central States, LLC 1200 Peachtree St., N.E. Suite 8100 Atlanta, GA 30309

Sylvia Anderson TCG Ohio c/o AT&T 1200 Peachtree Street NE, Ste. 8100 Atlanta, GA 30309

Deborah Arnott V.P. - Director of Compliance IG2, Inc. 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 5000 Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Clyde D. Austin Buy-Tel Communications, Inc. 6409 Colleyville Boulevard P. O. Box 1170 Colleyville, TX 76034

Jahan Babadi Sun-Tel USA, Inc. 5921-2 University Blvd., West Jacksonville, FL 32216 Ken Baritz Now Acquisition Corporation 6590 West Rogers Circle Suite 6A Boca Raton, FL 33487

Tony Barrett Covista, Inc. 721 Broad Street 2nd. Floor Chattanooga, TN 37402

Cheryl Beichner
Tax Supervisor
Adelphia Business Solutions
of Kentucky, Inc.
Adelphia's Cable Corporation Tax Dep
712 North Main Street
Coudersport, PA 16915

Sharon L. Belcher El Paso Networks, L.L.C. 1001 Louisiana Street Houston, TX 77002

Rene Bellerud Bellerud Communications, LLC 2023 Sam Houston Avenue, #2 Huntsville, TX 77340

Jim Belling
Dialog Telecommunications, Inc.
540 Griffith Road
Charlotte, NC 28217

Thomas Berkemeyer AEP Communications, LLC 1 Riverside Plaza Columbus, OH 43215-2373

Susan Berlin, Esquire Intermedia Communications, Inc. c/o MCI Telecommunications Corp. Concourse Corporate Center Six 6 Concourse Parkway, Suite 3200 Atlanta, GA 30328

Wendy Bluemling DSLnet Communications, LLC 545 Long Wharf Drive, Fifth Floor New Haven, CT 06511 Trevor R. Bonnstetter General Manager West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 237 North Eighth Street P. O. Box 649 Mayfield, KY 42066-0649

Kimberly A. Bradley Senior Director-Regulatory Affairs Winstar Communications, LLC 1850 M Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20036

Michael E. Britt LecStar Telecom Services, Inc. 4501 Circle 75 Parkway Suite D-4200 Atlanta, GA 30339

Randall Brooks USA Quick Phone P. O. Box 1170 Bridgeport, TX 76426

James Brown EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. 4727 South Main Stafford, TX 77477

Melissa Burris Staff Specialist MCIMetro Access Transmission Services, LLC 6 Concourse Parkway, Suite 3200 Atlanta, GA 30328

Stephen R. Byars ALLTEL Communications, Inc. One Allied Drive Little Rock, AR 72203-2177

Stephen R. Byars Vice President-External Affairs ALLTEL Communications, Inc. P. O. Box 1650 Lexington, KY 40588-1650

Stephen R. Byars Vice President-External Affairs ALLTEL Kentucky, Inc. P. O. Box 1650 Lexington, KY 40588-1650 Stephen R. Byars Vice President-External Affairs Kentucky ALLTEL, Inc. P. O. Box 1650 Lexington, KY 40588-1650

Robert A. Bye Corporate Counsel Cinergy Communications Company 8829 Bond Street Overland Park, KS 66214

Cable & Wireless USA, Inc. 11700 Plaza America Reston, VA 20190

Edward J. Cadieux NuVox Communications, Inc. 16090 Swingley Ridge Road, Ste. 500 Chesterfield, MO 63017

Robert W. Canary Ohio County Networks Dba Greater Ohio Valley Communications 105 South Dale Drive Hartford, KY 42347

Walter Carnes ACCESS Integrated Networks, Inc. Suite 202, 4885 Riverside Drive Riverside Corporate Center Macon, GA 31210-1845

Carlos Carpenter Northstar Technology, LLC 1895 Highway 461 Somerset, KY 42503

Kevin M. Chapman SBC Telecom, Inc. 1010 N. St. Mary's, Room 13K San Antonio, TX 78215

Honorable Ann Louise Cheuvront Assistant Attorney General 1024 Capital Center Drive Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

Kevin Clarke Alternative Access Telephone Communications Co., dba AA Tele-Com 2863 Northlake Boulevard, Suite #2 Lake Park, FL 33403 Steven C. Clay New Access Communications LLC 801 Nicollet Mall, Suite 350 Minneapolis, MN 55402

Kyle Coats EveryCall Communications, Inc. 10500 Coursey Boulevard, Suite 306 Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Comm South Companies, Inc. dba Kentucky Comm South, Inc. P. O. Box 821269
Dallas, TX 75382

David R. Conn McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. McLeodUSA Technology Park 6400 C Street, SW, P. O. Box 3177 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3177

Geoff Cookman Granite Telecommunications, LLC 234 Copeland Street Quincy, MA 02169

Anthony Copeland President/General Counsel Business Telecom, Inc. dba BTI 4300 Six Forks Road, Suite 500 Raleigh, NC 27609

James Cornblatt Alticomm, Inc. 115 Shawmut Road P. O. Box 216 Canton, MA 02021

Ms. Peggy Rubino
Z-Tel Communications
Regional Vice President
601 South Harbour Island Blvd., Ste. 220
Tampa, FL 33602

Daniel J. Coulter EZ Phone, Inc. P. O. Box 4656 Akron, OH 44310

Alan Creighton Momentum Business Solutions, Inc. 2090 Columbiana Road, Suite 3000 Birmingham, AL 35216 Maria Cruz Pilgrim Telephone, Inc. One Kendall Square Building 600, PMB 450 Cambridge, MA 02139-9171

Kaye Davis Access Point, Inc. 16 Hyland Road, Suite D Greenville, SC 29615

Susan Dlugos Arch Wireless Operating Co., Inc. 1800 West Park Drive, Suite 250 Westborough, MA 01581-3912

John M. Dolan Northcoast Communications, L.L.C. 80 Baylis Road, Suite 201 Melville, NY 11747

dPi-Teleconnect, LLC c/o TCS 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 250 Alpharetta, GA 30005

Gene R. Dry Image Access, Inc. dba NewPhone 3525 North Causeway Blvd. Suite 501 Metairie, LA 70002

Michael Duke Director-Regulatory Affairs KMC Data, LLC KMC Telecom, Inc. 1755 North Brown Road Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Andoni Economou
Executive Vice President
Metropolitan Telecommunications
of Kentucky, dba MetTel
44 Wall Street, 14th. Floor
New York, NY 10005

Bob Edgerly Sr. Manager, Interconnect Nextel West Corporation 2001 Edmund Halley Drive Reston, VA 20191 David Edwards Regulatory Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. 3720 Arrowhead Avenue, Suite 200 Independence, MO 64057

Joseph J. Ernest Ernest Communications, Inc. 6475 Jimmy Carter Blvd., Suite 300 Norcross, GA 30071

Donald M. Estep Fair Financial L.L.C. dba MidState Telecommunications 33111 Whitley Court P. O. Box 552 Fulshear, TX 77441

Jean-Sebastien Falisse
France Telecom Corporate Solutions,
L.L.C.
2300 Corporate Park Drive
Mailstop SP0606
Herndon, VA 20171

Ellis Falkoff U-Dial, Inc. dba U-Dial of Kentucky, Inc. 800 E. Reelfoot Avenue, Suite 200 Union City, TN 38261

Steven Fenker
Nexus Communications, Inc.
7830 North Central Drive
Suite C
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Barbara Fillinger Manager - Regulatory Compliance Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. 2020 Baltimore Avenue Kansas City, MO 64108-1914

Joe L. Ford Ford Communications 309 Kenwood Lane Greenville, KY 42345

Mr. Stacey Freeman Vice President Universal Telecom, Inc. P. O. Box 679 LaGrange, KY 40031 Beth K. Fujimoto West Virginia Cellular Tele. Corp. d/b/a AT&T Wireless Services 7277 164th. Avenue, N.E. Redmond, WA 98052

Beth K. Fujimoto Regulatory Counsel TeleCorp Communications, Inc. dba SunCom 7277 164th. Avenue, NE, Building 1 Redmond, WA 98052

Beth K. Fujimoto Regulatory Counsel Tritel Communications, Inc. A Division of AT&T 7277 164th. Ave., NE, Building 1 Redmond, WA 98052

Keith Gabbard Manager Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. P. O. Box 159 McKee, KY 40447

Kenneth L. Gardner Vice President-Marketing USA Telecom, Inc. 3201 Griffin Road, Suite 210 Dania, FL 33312

Paul Gearheart Inter-Mountain Cable, Inc. dba MTS Communications 20 Laynesville Road P. O. Box 159 Harold, KY 41635

W. A. Gillum General Manager Mountain Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 405 Main Street P. O. Box 399 West Liberty, KY 41472-0399

Rhonda Greer Regulatory Assistant Max-Tel Communications, Inc. 105 North Wickham Street P. O. Box 280 Alvord, TX 76225 Tom Gregson Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. 2150 Herr Street Harrisburg, PA 17103-1625

William K. Grigsby Assistant Manager Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Co., Inc. 9500 Communications Lane P. O. Box 789 Hindman, KY 41822

Greg Hale Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. P. O. Box 97 10725 Bowling Green Road Auburn, KY 42206

James Hamby
Office Manager
Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
P. O. Box 119
7840 Morgan County Highway
Sunbright, TN 37872

Jeff Handley
Manager-Revenue & Earnings
Leslie County Telephone Company, Inc.
c/o TDS-Telecom Southeast Division
9737 Cogdill Road, Suite 230
Knoxville, TN 37932-3374

Jeff Handley
Manager-Revenue & Earnings
Lewisport Telephone Company, Inc.
c/o TDS-Telecom Southeast Division
9737 Cogdill Road, Suite 230
Knoxville, TN 37932-3374

Jeff Handley
Manager-Revenue & Earnings
Salem Telephone Company
c/o TDS-Telecom Southeast Division
9737 Cogdill Road, Suite 230
Knoxville, TN 37932-3374

Mary Ann Hartman Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless Two Verizon Place Mail Stop GA282REV Alpharetta, GA 30004-8511 Mary Ann Hartman GTE Wireless of the Midwest dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Place Alpharetta, GA 30004-8511

Mary Ann Hartman Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership One Verizon Place Alpharetta, GA 30004-8511

Mary Ann Hartman New Par dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Place Alpharetta, GA 30004-8511

Mary Ann Hartman Verizon Wireless Messaging Services, LLC One Verizon Place Alpharetta, GA 30004

Kenneth S. Hawkins President Money To Go dba MTG Phone Service 2421 E. Broadway Avenue Maryville, TN 37804

Todd Heinrich Aero Communications, LLC 700 Kentucky Avenue Paducah, KY 42003

Keiki Hendrix NewSouth Communications Corp. NewSouth Center Two North Main Street Greenville, SC 29601

Greg Hogan Symtelco, LLC 1385 Weber Industrial Drive Cumming, GA 30041

John Hohman Source One Communications, Inc. 2320-B North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32303

Kathy L. Hough WilTel Local Network, LLC One Technology Center TC-7B Tulsa, OK 74103 Gerard J. Howe Big River Telephone Co., LLC 24 South Minnesota P. O. Box 1608 Cape Girardeau, MO 63702

Anna L. Hubbard A-Tech Telecom, Inc. 2040 W. Spring Creek Parkway Unit #141, PMB #293 Plano, TX 75023

Linda Hunt Manager - Regulatory Affairs Lightyear Communications, Inc. 1901 Eastpoint Parkway Louisville, KY 40223

William P. Hunt, III, Esquire Level 3 Communications, L.L.C. 1025 Eldorado Boulevard Broomfield, CO 80021

Susan Israel Kentucky CGSA,LLC dba Cingular Wireless 5565 Glenridge Connector, Suite 1710 Atlanta, GA 30342

Susan Israel
Associate Director/External Affairs
Westel-Milwaukee, LLC
dba Cingular Wireless
5565 Glenridge Connector, Suite 1710
Atlanta, GA 30342

Mildred Jones National Telecom, LLC 1205 Lantana Road P. O. Box 667 Crossville, TN 38557

Ms. Patsy Judd Kentucky CATV Association, Inc. 138 King Street P.O. Box 415 Burkesville, KY 42717-0415

Richard Keeshan Seven Bridges Communications, L.L.C. P. O. Box 309 Hope Hull, AL 36043 Tony H. Key Sprint Communications Company, L.P. 3065 Cumberland Blvd. Mailstop GAATLD0602 Atlanta, GA 30339

Dhruv Khanna
Executive Vice Pres./General Counsel
DIECA Communications, Inc.
dba Covad Communications Company
3420 Central Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Jouett Kinney CBW of Kentucky 201 East 4th. Street Building 103-1610 Cincinnati, OH 45201

Stephen D. Klein Ganoco, Inc. dba American Dial Tone, Inc. 802 2nd. Street North, Suite A Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Patricia Knese UbiquiTel Leasing Company One West Elm Street, Suite 400 Conshohocken, PA 19428-2007

Patricia Knese UbiquiTel Operating Company One West Elm Street, Suite 400 Conshohocken, PA 19428-2007

Patricia Knese UbiquiTel, Inc. One West Elm Street, Suite 400 Conshohocken, PA 19428-2007

Glenn Kofman Globcom Incorporated 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 150 Northbrook, IL 60062

Joseph T. Koppy NOS Communications, Inc. 4380 Boulder Highway Las Vegas, NV 89121-3002

Carol P. Kuhnow Qwest Interprise America, Inc. 4250 N. Fairfax Drive, 13th. Floor Arlington, VA 22203 Carol Kuhnow Regional Director, Policy & Law LCI International Telecom Corp. Qwest Government Affairs 4250 N. Fairfax Drive, 13th. Floor Arlington, VA 22203

Daphne Lane Cincinnati SMSA, Limited Partnership Attention: Regulatory Accounting 1000 Abernathy Road, Suite 190 Atlanta, GA 30328

Ami Larrison OneStar Communications, LLC dba Network One 7100 Eagle Crest Blvd. Evansville, IN 47715

Dan Leary Sr. Mgr. Legislative & Regulatory Af T-Mobile USA 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue #100 Chicago, IL 60631-3201

Angela Lee Epicus, Inc. 3599 W. Lake Mary Blvd., Suite E Lake Mary, FL 32746

Annette Lee General Manager Phone-Link, Inc. 1700 Eastpoint Parkway, Suite 270 Louisville, KY 40223

Stacy Lewis
Tax Manager
PNG Telecommunications, Inc.
dba PowerNet Global Communications
100 Commercial Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014-5556

Lisa Lezotte ACN Communication Services, Inc. 32991 Hamilton Court Farmington Hill, MI 48334

Anne Lynch 1-800 RECONEX, Inc. 2500 Industrial Avenue P. O. Box 9 Hubbard, OR 97032-0009 Anne Lynch 1-800-RECONEX dba USTel 2500 Industrial Avenue Hubbard, OR 97032

William W. Magruder
Duo County Telephone Cooperative
Corporation, Inc.
1021 West Cumberland Avenue
P. O. Box 80
Jamestown, KY 42629

Donald J. Manning NPCR, Inc. dba Nextel Partners 4500 Carillon Point Kirkland, WA 98033

Mark Mansour National Telecom & Broadband Services, LLC 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 720 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

Jim Marchant Maxcess, Inc. P. O. Box 951419 Lake Mary, FL 32795-1419

Robert C. Martin Key Communications, LLC dba West Virginia Wireless 27500 Riverview Center Blvd., Suite 202 Bonita Springs, FL 34134-4314

Jennifer Martin Teligent Services, Inc. 460 Herndon Parkway, Suite 100 Herndon, VA 20170

Alycia Massey
Best Communications
158 E. Market Street, Suite 801
Sandusky, OH 44870

Darrell Maynard SouthEast Telephone, Inc. 106 Power Drive P. O. Box 1001 Pikeville, KY 41502-1001 Darrell Maynard SouthEast Telephone, Inc. 106 Power Drive P.O. Box 1001 Pikeville, KY 41502-1001

Louis F. McAlister President/CEO Navigator Telecommunications, LLC 8525 Riverwood Park Drive N. Little Rock, AR 72113-0860

Avona L. McArter Tri-County Communications, Inc. 1401 Highland Avenue, Suite 2 Carrollton, KY 41008

Barbara J. McDowell Louisville Telephone Company, LLC P. O. Box 221066 Louisville, KY 40252-1066

Mrs. Malise McKenzie C & M Total Communications, LLC 512 Johnston Street Lafayette, LA 70501

Robert Y. McMillin
External Affairs
New Edge Network, Inc.
dba New Edge Networks
3000 Columbia House Blvd., Suite 106
Vancouver, WA 98661-2969

Ron Meece Regulatory AURA Communications, Inc. 2608-D Carver Street Durham, NC 27705

Sharon Mendon Operations Director CI2, Inc. 200 Galleria Parkway, NW, Suite 1200 Atlanta, GA 30339

Larry Miller Credit Loans, Inc. dba Lone Star Telephone 137 North Main Street Conroe, TX 77301

Dr. Samuel W. Mitcham, Jr. TelSon Communications, Inc. P. O. Box 13154 Monroe, LA 71213 Connie F. Mitchell VarTec Telcom, Inc. 1600 Viceroy Dallas, TX 75235

Ralph Monroe NationNet Communications Corporation P. O. Box 10006 Jackson, TN 38308

Wanda Montano
US LEC of Tennessee, Inc.
dba US LEC Communications, Inc.
Morrocroft III
6801 Morrison Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28211

Kit Morris Accutel of Texas, Inc. dba 1-800-4-A-PHONE P. O. Box 560803 Dallas, TX 75356-0803

Tina Moser Regulatory AllSouth Phone Connect 76-C Old Hickory Blvd., East Jackson, TN 38305

Ron Munn Budget Phone, Inc. P. O. Box 19360 Shreveport, LA 71149

Rick Murray All-Communications 2519 Madison Avenue Covington, KY 41014

Recee Norwood AmTel Communications, Inc. 3449 Lampton Avenue, Suite B Jackson, MS 39213

Michael Noshay IDS Telcom, LLC 1525 Northwest 167th. Street Second Floor Miami, FL 33169

Marlo Oliver Affinity Network, Inc. 4380 Boulder Highway Las Vegas, NV 89121-3002 Harlon E. Parker General Manager Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 159 W. 2nd Street P. O. Box 209 La Center, KY 42056-0209

Ms. Jacquetta Peace Premiere Network Services, Inc. 1510 North Hampton Road, Suite 120 DeSoto, TX 75115

Mike Perkins Tri-Star Communications, Inc. dba Mayfield Answering Service 329 1/2 South Main Street P. O. Box 364 Mayfield, KY 42066

Jeffrey M. Pfaff Sprint Spectrum, L.P. Agent for WirelessCo., L.P. 6391 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251-6100

Jeffrey M. Pfaff SprintCom, Inc. 6391 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251-6100

Laura Phipps
East Kentucky Network, LLC
dba Appalachian Wireless
355 Village Drive
P. O. Box 405
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Chad Pifer, Esq.
Dir. of Regulatory & Legal Affairs
Xspedius Management Company
of Lexington, LLC
901 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 8B
Lake Charles, LA 70629

Chad Pifer, Esq.
Dir. of Regulatory & Legal Affairs
Xspedius Management Company
of Louisville, LLC
901 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 8B
Lake Charles, LA 70629

PLG North One Kendall Square PMB 600 Cambridge, MA 02139 Marsha Pokorny Regulatory Affairs Intellicall Operator Services dba ILD 1270 Stone Street Oviedo, FL 32765

John Powell Excel Telecommunications, Inc. 4550 Excel Way Addison, TX 75001

Thomas E. Preston Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 1621 Kentucky Route 40 W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

Jack W. Pruitte
Holt & Company(i)
dba First Phone
3281-B Fort Campbell Blvd.
P. O. Box 504
Clarksville. TN 37041

QuantumShift Communications, Inc. c/o TCS 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 250 Alpharetta, GA 30005

Tony Ragland Smart-Tel 2728 Scottsville Road #9 Bowling Green, KY 42101

Kenneth L. Ramsey Cellular Phone of Kentucky, Inc. d/b/a Ramcell of Kentucky 6915 Harrodsburg Road Nicholasville, KY 40356

Kenneth L. Ramsey Litchfield County Cellular, Inc. d/b/a Ramcell of Kentucky 6915 Harrodsburg Road Nicholasville, KY 40356-8722

Teresa Reff Sr. Financial Analyst Global Crossing Local Services, Inc. 1080 Pittsford Victor Road Pittsford, NY 14534 Ronald Ripley ACC of Kentucky, LLC 14201 Wireless Way Oklahoma City, OK 73134

Stan Roberson Jilapuhn, Inc. dba VI-Telco P. O. Box 20734 Atlanta, GA 30320-0734

G. Ray Roberts Nustar Communications Corporation 1700 Hayes Street, Suite 101 Nashville, TN 37203

Ronald Rodemerk Global Crossing Telemanagement, Inc. 1080 Pittsford Victor Road Pittsford, NY 14534

Mark Romito
Director - Government Relations
Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company
201 East Fourth Street
P. O. Box 2301
Cincinnati, OH 45201-2301

Carl A. Rosberg West Virginia PCS Alliance, L.C. dba NTELOS 401 Spring Lane, Suite 300 P. O. Box 1990 Waynesboro, VA 22980-7590

Thomas F. Rowland North Central Communications, Inc. P. O. Box 70 872 Highway 52 By-Pass E Lafayette, TN 37083

F. Thomas Rowland Executive V.P./General Manager North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 872 Highway 52 By-Pass P. O. Box 70 Lafayette, TN 37083-0070

Stephen Rudd Ruddata Corporation dba Vision Communications 523 South Third Street Paducah, KY 42003 David Sandridge Electric & Water Plant Board of the City of Frankfort P. O. Box 308 Frankfort, KY 40602

Tony Schilens
Cricket Communications, Inc.
10307 Pacific Center Ct.
San Diego, CA 92121

John Schmoldt
Director of Operations
Gearheart Communications Co., Inc.
dba Coalfields Telephone Co.
5 Laynesville Road
Harold, KY 41635

Charles L. Schneider, Jr. BullsEye Telecom, Inc. 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 330 Oak Park, MI 48237

Bruce Schoonover, Jr. Knology of Kentucky, Inc. 1241 O. G. Skinner Drive West Point, GA 31833

R. Scott Seab, Esq. Vice President, Regulatory Affairs NOW Communications, Inc. 711 S. Tejon Street, Suite 201 Colorado Spring, CO 80903

David J. Sered AT&T Broadband Phone of Kentucky, LLC 188 Inverness Drive, West, Suite 400 Englewood, CO 80112

Pamela H. Sherwood Vice President of Regulatory Time Warner Telecom, L. P. 4625 West 86th. Street, Suite 500 Indianapolis, IN 46268

Ron Smith Kentucky RSA #3 Cellular General Partnership,d/b/a Bluegrass Cellular 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701 Ron Smith General Manager Cumberland Cellular Partnership d/b/a Bluegrass Cellular 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Ron Smith General Manager Kentucky RSA #4 Cellular General Partnership,d/b/a Bluegrass Cellular 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

O. V. Sparks Regulatory First Choice Technologies, Inc. 411 Ring Road Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Michael Tague Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. 300 Distillery Commons, Suite 400 Louisville, KY 40206-1995

Donald O. Taylor Consultant Tel West Communications P. O. Box 94447 Seattle, WA 98124

Robin H. Taylor, Manager Business Implementation & Compliance BellSouth BSE, Inc. 400 Perimeter Center Terrace, Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30346

Tina Tecce Regulatory The Other Phone Company, Inc. dba Access One Communications 6805 Route 202 New Hope, PA 18938

Sharon Thomas Director of Regulatory Affairs Talk America, Inc. 12001 Science Drive, Suite 130 Orlando, FL 32828 Judy B. Tinsley
Director of Regulatory Affairs
ALEC, Inc.
c/o DURO Communications, Inc.
3640 Valley Hill Road
Kennesaw, GA 30152

J. D. Tobin, Jr. Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. 200 Telco Road P. O. Box 599 Brandenburg, KY 40108

Unity Communications, Inc. 101 Business Park Drive, Suite C Ridgeland, MS 39157-6008

Cynthia Walker
Director-Business & Gov't Affairs
ICG Telecom Group, Inc.
fka ICG Access Services, Inc.
180 Grand Avenue, Suite 450
Oakland, CA 94612

Jeffrey J. Walker, Esq. General Counsel Preferred Carrier Services, Inc. dba Phones for All 14681 Midway Road, Suite 105 Addison, TX 75001-3147

Debra Waller
Regulatory Assistant
CAT Communications International,
Inc., dba CCI
P. O. Box 6335
Roanoke, VA 24017-0335

Rhonda Walters Delta Phones, Inc. P. O. Box 784 Delhi, LA 71232

Joseph J. Watson Horizon Personal Communications, Inc. 68 E. Main Street Chillocothe, OH 45601

Chris Watson TeleConex, Inc. 4100 Barrancas Avenue Pensacola, FL 32507 Jack L. Weis Kentucky Communications, LLC P. O. Box 627 4687 Catalpa Court Burlington, KY 41005

Linda Weitman VP Finance/Controller Annox, Inc. 6509 Highway 41A P. O. Box 230 Pleasant View, TN 37146-0230

Jeffrey Wente University Telcom, Inc. 611 N. Carol Malone Blvd. Grayson, KY 41143

Ms. Allison T. Willoughby Brandenburg Telecom, LLC 200 Telco Drive Brandenburg, KY 40108

A. D. Wright e-Tel, LLC 607 Broadway Paducah, KY 42001

Daryl Wyatt South Central Telcom, LLC 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Drawer 159 Glasgow, KY 42142-0159

Daryl Wyatt General Manager South Central Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42141-0159

John E. Selent, Esq. Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 1400 PNC Plaza 500 W. Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202