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GOVERNOR

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September 29, 2005

Chris Lilly Commissioner Public Service Commission 100 Airport Road Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Comm South Companies, Inc.

Dear Commissioner Lilly:

I am forwarding you an application made to the Federal Communications Commission by the above referenced party to discontinue services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Alexander
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosure

# Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	) )
Section 63.71 Application of	) ) 
Comm South Companies, Inc.	WC Docket No
For Authority to Discontinue Certain Telephone Services	} } }
	)

To: The Wireline Competition Bureau

#### **SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Comm South Companies, Inc. ("Comm South") hereby files this Application to discontinue services pursuant to Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, and Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, in selected areas defined herein. Specifically, Comm South is seeking to discontinue the provision of certain domestic interstate and international long distance telephone service to residential customers on October 10, 2005 and business customers on October 26, 2005 in a number of locations across the United States and to discontinue all telecommunications services on January 1, 2006. In support of this Application, Comm South submits the following:

#### I. DESCRIPTION OF DISCONTINUANCE.

#### 1. Name and address of carrier.

Comm South Companies, Inc. ("Comm South") 8035 E. R.L. Thornton Suite 410 Dallas, TX 75228 Comm South also does business under the following names: Alabama Comm South Corp., Arkansas Comm South, Inc., Florida Comm South, Altair Communications, Inc., Mississippi Comm South, Missouri Comm South, Inc., E-Z Tel. Inc., Comm South in Tennessee, and Comm South Companies VA, Inc.

#### 2. Date of planned service discontinuance.

The anticipated date for the discontinuance of certain residential pre-paid local and domestic interstate and international long distance telephone services in selected states is October 10, 2005, or as soon thereafter as the necessary state and federal authorizations have been obtained. Certain business pre-paid local and domestic interstate and international long distance telephone services in selected states are scheduled for discontinuance on October 26, 2005 or as soon thereafter as the necessary state and federal authorizations have been obtained. Comm South is scheduled to discontinue all telecommunications services on January 1, 2006.

## 3. Points of geographic areas of service affected

By this application, Comm South seeks authority to discontinue the provision of domestic interstate and international long distance telephone services to residential and business customers located in the States of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming (the "Discontinuance States"). Comm South seeks authority to discontinue the provision of domestic interstate

and international long distance services to all customers in the United States effective January 1, 2006.

### 4. Brief description of the type of service affected

Comm South proposes to discontinue the provision of residential pre-paid local and domestic interstate and international long distance telephone service effective October 10, 2005. Comm South proposes to discontinue the provision of certain business pre-paid local and domestic interstate and international long distance telephone service effective October 26, 2005. Comm South proposes to discontinue all telecommunications services effective January 1, 2006.

### 5. Brief description of the dates and methods of notice to all affected customers

Written notice to all affected residential and business customers substantially in the form of the sample letter attached as Exhibit A was mailed by first class U.S. mail to customers in the Discontinuance States on September 10, 2005 or September 26, 2005 (for business customers). The customer notice letters were prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's rules.

# 6. Non-dominance of carrier with respect to the service to be discontinued

Comm South is a non-dominant with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue.

#### 7. Service

In accordance with Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's rules, Comm South has mailed a copy of this Application to the Governor and public utility commission of each of

the Discontinuance States listed above in Paragraph 3, and to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications for the Secretary of Defense.

#### 8. Additional questions regarding this application may be addressed to:

Paul C. Besozzi, Esq.
Jennifer L. Richter, Esq.
Patton Boggs, LLP
2550 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1350
202-457-6000 (Telephone)
202-457-6315 (Facsimile)
pbesozzi@pattonboggs.com
irichter@pattonboggs.com

#### II. CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISCONTINUANCE

Comm South is now in Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection and is in the process of liquidating its business and its assets, including discontinuing telecommunications service. The services to be discontinued are competitive in nature and customers have received sufficient notice in order to allow them to make arrangements for replacement services. Comm South will continue to provide limited business services until December 31, 2005 in order to allow its payphone customer to transition to another carrier. The proposed discontinuances have been approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

#### III. CONCLUSION

Comm South believes that the proposed discontinuance is reasonable and necessary. Comm South will take all reasonable steps, to the extent it is able, to ensure that the discontinuance of service is not unduly disruptive to the present or future public convenience and necessity. For the foregoing reasons, Comm South respectfully requests, pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214(a) and Section 63.71 of the

Commission's rules, that the Commission permit it to discontinue the provision of services to certain customers pursuant to Section 63.71.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

C. Besozzi, Esq.

Jennifer L. Richter, Esq. Patton Boggs, LLP

2550 M Street, NW

Washington, DC 20037-1350

202-457-6000 (Telephone)

202-457-6315 (Facsimile)

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irichter@pattonboggs.com

# Exhibit A Sample Customer Notice

Dear Comm South Customer:

# RE: NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE OF PRE-PAID LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE

It has been our pleasure at Comm South to provide you with quality, pre-paid local and long distance services. We regret to inform you that as of October 10, 2005, Comm South Companies, Inc.<sup>1</sup> ("Comm South") will no longer provide pre-paid local and long distance telephone service.

Your action is required! You must select a new local and/or long distance telephone provider to provide you with the same services you are currently receiving from Comm South as quickly as possible but no later than October 10, 2005. You can find a list of local and long distance telephone service providers in your local telephone directory.

As a pre-paid customer of Comm South, you are free to discontinue Comm South service at any time by simply not pre-paying Comm South for telephone service and choosing another provider. Your pre-paid phone service with Comm South will terminate in accordance with state law as soon as either you choose not to pre-pay for services or Comm South completes the required regulatory process for abandonment / discontinuation of services, whichever occurs first. Pre-paid customers do not maintain deposits with Comm South.

After selecting a new local telephone provider, you should also contact your current long distance provider to ensure that your current long distance calling plan is not changed as a result of your change in your local service. If you do not contact your long distance provider, you may be charged basic rates (non-calling plan rates) for long distance calls. Of course, if you are receiving long distance services from Comm South, you must select a new long distance provider.

The Federal Communications Commission will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments within 15 days after receipt of this notification. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554, referencing the Section 63.71 Application of Comm South, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Comm South also does business under the following names: Alabama Comm South Corp., Arkansas Comm South, Inc., Florida Comm South, Altair Communications, Inc., Mississippi Comm South, Missouri Comm South, Inc., E-Z Tel. Inc., Comm South in Tennessee, and Comm South Companies VA, Inc. Comm South has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for two years, and will liquidate and exit the telecommunications business after receipt of all necessary court and regulatory approvals.

acquire reasonable substitute service.

Again, it has been our pleasure to serve you. If you require assistance or have questions about termination of your service, please contact Comm South using the contact information found below.

Sincerely,

Comm South Companies, Inc. 8035 E. RL Thornton, Suite 410 Dallas, TX 75228 1-800-936-5223

#### VERIFICATION

I, Marla C. Reynolds, declare that I am Chapter 7 Trustee of Comm South Companies, Inc. I am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of Comm South Companies, Inc. and that the foregoing was prepared under my direction and supervision. The statements in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September <u>26</u>, 2005, at Dallas, Texas.

Marla C. Reynolds

Chapter 7 Trustee for

Comm South Companies, Inc.

rei B. Pringle

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 26 day of September, 2005, by Marla C. Reynolds.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires: September 7, 2009

Notary

X

SHERI B. PRINGLE IY COMMISSION EXPIRES September 7, 2009

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application of Comm South Companies, Inc. was served this 27 of September, 2005, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses appearing on the attached list.

Carly T. Didden

Department of Defense Office of the Secretary US Department of Defense Pentagon Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications Washington, DC 20301

Docket Office California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Ave Rm 2001 San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Blanca Bayo Director Florida Public Service Commission Capitol Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Elizabeth Rolando Chief Clerk Illinois Commerce Commission 527 E Capital Ave Springfield, IL 62701

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Mary Jo Kunkle
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Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
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The Honorable Janet Napolitano Office of the Governor State Capitol Executive, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower 1700 West Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85007

Sandra Squire Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia 201 Brooks St Charleston, WV 25301

The Honorable Robert Riley Office of the Governor State Capitol 600 Dexter, Suite N-104 Montgomery, AL 36130

The Honorable Mike Huckabee Office of the Governor State Capitol Rm 250 Little Rock, AR 72201

The Honorable Arnold A. Schwarzenegger Office of the Governor State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814 Geneva Thigpen Chief Clerk North Carolina Public Utilities Commission 430 N Salisbury St Dobbs Bldg Rm 5082 Raleigh, NC 27603

Sharon Steed Chief Clerk Oklahoma Corporation Commission 2101 N Lincoln Blvd Oklahoma City, OK 73 105

Joel Peck Clerk of the Commission Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission Tyler Bldg 1300 E Main St Richmond, VA 23219-3630

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The Honorable Jeb Bush Office of the Governor PL 05 The Capitol 400 S Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich Office of the Governor State Capitol 207 Statehouse Springfield, IL 62706 The Honorable Sonny Perdue Office of the Governor 203 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius Office of the Governor State Capitol 2nd FI Topeka, KS 66612-1590

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The Honorable David Heineman Office of the Governor State Capitol P.O. Box 9848 Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

The Honorable Michael Easley Office of the Governor 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

The Honorable Edward Rendell Office of the Governor 225 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Rick Perry Office of the Governor PO Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711 The Honorable Thomas Vilsack Office of the Governor State Capitol Building Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Mitch Daniels Office of the Governor 206 State House Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Emie Fletcher Office of the Governor The Capitol Bldg 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm Office of the Governor Governor's Office PO Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Blunt Office of the Governor Missouri Capitol Building Rm 216 Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Brian Schweitzer Office of the Governor P.O. Box 200801 Helena, MT 59620-0801

The Honorable Kenny Guinn Office of the Governor Executive Chambers, 101 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701

The Honorable Brad Henry Office of the Governor State Capitol Bldg Ste 212 Oklahoma City, OK 73105 The Honorable David Freudenthal Office of the Governor State Capitol 200 West Room 124 24<sup>th</sup> Street Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary Alabama Public Service Commission PO Box 304260 100 N. Union Street, Suite 850 Montgomery, AL 36130

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William D. McCarthy, Chairman Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Indiana Government Center South 302 West Washington Street Suite E-306 Indianapolis, IN 46204

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The Honorable Phil Bredesen Office of the Governor State Capitol, First Floor Nashville, TN 37243-0001

The Honorable Mark Warner Office of the Governor Executive Office Bldg 3rd FI 11 1 E Broad St Richmond, VA 23219

Chairperson Agnes Alexander Yates District of Columbia Public Service Commission 1333 H Street, NW Suite 200, West Tower; Washington, DC 20005

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The Honorable Christine Gregoire Office of the Governor PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002 Andy Polluck Executive Director Nebraska Public Service Commission 1200 N Street, Suite 300 Lincoln, NE 68508

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