



LOCAL COMPETITION/INTERCONNECTION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE

**"It's Amazing
What We Can Do
Together!"**

Date: Fri. 6/14
 Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

To:

1 Reed Harrison
 Fax phone: 908-971-2219

2 _____
 Fax phone: _____

3 _____
 Fax phone: _____

4 _____
 Fax phone: _____

From:

GTE Telops
Irving, TX

Originator: Don Meade/
MEADE SEAMAN

Please call if all pages are not received

Phone: (214) 718-1300
 Fax phone: (214) 718-1279

REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please comment

FAX

PAT, RON : THE LATEST.

6-14-1996 3:24PM

FROM GTE REGULATORY 917181279

P. 2

Donald W. McLeod
Vice President-Local
Competition/Interconnection



GTE Telephone
Operations

June 14, 1996

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Mr. R. Reed Harrison III
Vice President
AT&T
Local Infrastructure & Access Management
Room 4ED103
One Oak Way
Berkeley Heights, N. J. 07922

Dear Reed:

This is just a brief response to your letter to me of June 10, 1996. Without attempting to make a point by point response, in order to move things forward and to appropriately deploy our resources to meaningful matters, I think it's fair to say that there have been a number of misunderstandings between our teams during the process of our negotiations pursuant to §251 and 252 of the Act. Hopefully, some of those have been cleared up and we can minimize the number of misunderstandings in the future. I think it is also fair to say that GTE and AT&T disagree in a number of areas concerning the appropriate interpretation of the Act, the rules applicable to the negotiations and both GTE's and AT&T's duties under the Act. Given our significant differences of opinion on many crucial issues, particularly issues surrounding price, I believe our teams have made astounding progress. However, I also agree that we still have "a long way to go" and not a great deal of time before the 135 day window expires and we face the prospect of arbitration, an end result I'm sure we would both like to avoid if at all possible. To that end, I suggest that the letter writing campaign cease and we apply ourselves to the matter at hand.

In the spirit of the foregoing, I would like to offer a proposal. GTE would be willing to participate with AT&T in a mediation process, as explained below, to see if we can bring ourselves closer on the remaining critical issues. I think both teams could benefit from the perspective of a neutral third party and such an exercise might bring us closer on our positions and perhaps entirely avoid the necessity of arbitration, or, at minimum, reduce the number of issues that would need to be arbitrated.

Given that most of the issues that are yet to be resolved between us have national applicability, GTE would propose that we engage in a single, national mediation process with a professional, neutral mediator that does not include governmental involvement.

AGBR 000313

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Mr. R. Reed Harrison
June 14, 1996
Page 2

I look forward to hearing your response to my proposal. I think it offers significant opportunities for breakthrough in our negotiations and I encourage you to give it serious consideration.

If you don't accept this proposal, the negotiations will continue as scheduled and you can rest assured that GTE is committed to doing everything possible to reach a total agreement as the end result of these negotiations.

Very truly yours,



Donald W. McLeod

DWM:sah

- c: Connie E. Nicholas - GTE
- Meade C. Seaman - GTE
- John C. Peterson - GTE
- R. H. Shurter - AT&T

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