

Donald W. McLeod
Vice President-Regulatory and
Governmental Affairs-East
Local Competition/Interconnection Program Office



GTE Telephone
Operations

HQE01E63
P.O. Box 152092
Irving, TX 75015-2092
214/718-6330

March 19, 1996

Mr. R. Reed Harrison III
Vice President-Local Infrastructure &
Access Management Regional Operations
One Oak Way, Room 4ED103
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Re: Your letter dated March 11, 1996, received by GTE on March 12, 1996,
Request for Interconnection

Tom White has referred your letter to me for response. Before I respond directly to your letter, I will take this opportunity to provide a brief description on how GTE is preparing to manage interconnection negotiations and issues associated with Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (The Act). I have been assigned as the head of a new group entitled, "Local Competition/Interconnection Program Office." I am in the staffing phase of implementing the program office and expect it to be fully functional by March 31, 1996. In this capacity I am working closely with Larry Sparrow, GTE's Carrier Line of Business President, and Frank Compton, ABT National Account Management. Frank will be a member of the negotiating team. It is our full intent to begin negotiations as soon as possible. In this regard, it is our proposal that the initial meeting be held at 9 a.m. CST on Tuesday, April 2, in our offices located at 600 Hidden Ridge, Irving, Texas.

Your proposal that such negotiations be held at the corporate level is not consistent with GTE's position. It is our view that state level negotiations are required given the different state regulatory environments, ongoing state level negotiations with other carriers, specific state network/operational differences and the non-discrimination requirements of the Act that, in our opinion, can best be assured via state level negotiations. We do agree that the initial meeting should be limited to a small number of representatives from each company to facilitate agreement on the scope, structure, and guidelines that GTE and AT&T will adopt for the negotiations process.

Further, we anticipate that your team will provide the specific interconnection arrangements and issues you wish to pursue with GTE in support of your interconnection request prior to the meeting.

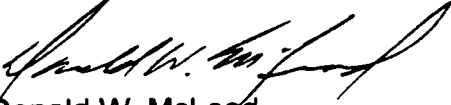
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We look forward to meeting with you on April 2, 1996. If you can not meet on this date, please call me, 214/718-6330, or Frank Compton, 214/718-3167, so we can make alternate arrangements.

Sincerely,



Donald W. McLeod
Vice President-Regulatory and
Governmental Affairs-East
Local Competition/Interconnection Program Office

DWM:mlh

c: F. W. Compton - HQE02L22 - Irving, TX
L. J. Sparrow - HQE04E57 - Irving, TX

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