NETWORK ELEMENTS

16. Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process

The following is the BFR Process that the Telephone Company utilizes to consider requests for interconnection or access to new unbundled network elements. The following is the Telephone Company's BFR Process.

1. The Telephone Company shall promptly consider and analyze requests for interconnection or access to new unbundled network elements through the submission of a BFR hereunder.

2. A BFR shall be submitted in writing and shall include a technical description.

3. The Requesting TC may cancel a BFR at any time, but shall pay the Telephone Company's reasonable and demonstrable costs of processing and/or implementing the BFR up to the date of cancellation.

4. Within ten (10) business days of its receipt, the Telephone Company shall acknowledge receipt of the BFR.

5. Except under extraordinary circumstances, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of a BFR, the Telephone Company shall provide to the Requesting TC a Preliminary Report including analysis of such BFR. The preliminary analysis shall confirm that the Telephone Company will offer the arrangement, service or element or will provide a detailed explanation that it is not technically feasible and/or that the request does not qualify to be provided under the Act. If the request is found to be valid, the Preliminary Report shall include a time and cost estimate for completion of the Detailed Report.

6. If the Telephone Company determines that the BFR is technically feasible and otherwise qualifies under the Act, it shall promptly proceed with developing the BFR upon receipt of written authorization from the Requesting TC. When it receives such authorization, the Telephone Company shall promptly develop the requested service, element or interconnection arrangement, determine its availability, calculate the applicable prices and establish installation intervals.

7. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, the requested service, element or interconnection arrangement must be priced in accordance with Section 252(d)(1) of the Act.

NETWORK ELEMENTS

16. Bona Fide Request (BFR) Process (Cont'd)

8. As soon as feasible, but no later than ninety (90) days after its receipt of authorization to proceed with developing the BFR, the Telephone Company shall provide to the Requesting TC a Detailed Report containing the complete BFR quote which will include, at a minimum, a description of each request, the availability, the applicable rates and the installation intervals.

9. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the Detailed Report (BFR quote), the Requesting TC must either confirm its order for the BFR pursuant to the BFR quote or seek arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.

10. If a Party to a BFR believes that the other Party is not requesting, negotiating or processing the BFR in good faith, or disputes a determination, or price or cost quote, or is failing to act in accordance with Section 251 of the Act, such Party may seek mediation or arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.