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**BellSouth Interconnection Services**

675 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

**Carrier Notification****SN91082239**

Date: February 21, 2001

To: Interexchange Carriers (IXCs)

Subject: IXCs - Billing Option Change for Farmers Telephone Company in South Carolina

This letter is to advise IXCs of a new billing option being implemented between Farmers Telephone Company (EC/OCN 0520) in South Carolina and BellSouth.

Multiple billing occurs when one Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) owns the wire center that serves the IXC and another LEC owns the wire center that serves the end-user. In this environment, each LEC may bill the IXCs for its portion of the access service (multiple bill) or one LEC may be designated as the Initial Billing Company (IBC) and render a single bill for both companies (single bill/multiple tariff). The Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) document, prepared by the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), establishes the guidelines for billing when multiple local exchange carriers are involved in providing access.

Effective with switched access usage generated as of April 16, 2001, the billing option will change from a single bill/multiple tariff option, with Farmers billing for BellSouth, to a multiple bill arrangement. Special access services are already multiple billed. Farmers' last bill for both companies will be for switched access usage through April 15, 2001 and will be billed on the May 2001 bill.

Farmers Telephone Company will also notify customers of this change.

All payments for bills reflecting usage from April 16, 2001, or any IBC bill date after May 2001, should be sent to the company rendering the bill. The first bill received from BellSouth under the new option will be generated beginning late April to mid-May 2001, depending upon your company's billing cycle and the date that BellSouth receives the usage from Farmers.

Please refer any questions or concerns regarding this subject to your Interexchange Carrier Service Center.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY TRISH CARTWRIGHT FOR JIM BRINKLEY**

Jim Brinkley – Senior Director  
BellSouth Interconnection Services