
BellSouth Interconnection Services

675 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

Carrier Notification**SN91082467**

Date: June 21, 2001

To: Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs), Independent Telephone Companies (ICOs), Payphone Service Providers (PSPs), Interexchange Carriers (IXCs), and Wireless Service Providers (WLS)

Subject: CLECs, ICOs, PSPs, IXCs, WLS – Potential BellSouth Employee Work Stoppage
General Prioritization of Work

As noted in Carrier Notification Letter [SN91082393](#) dated June 1, 2001, the Communications Workers of America (CWA)/BellSouth working agreement (contract) expires effective 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on August 4, 2001. Bargaining for a new agreement has begun, and while all indications are that an equitable settlement will be reached, BellSouth must prepare for a potential work stoppage. To that end, this notification communicates the general priorities of work during a work stoppage and provides the basis for handling work received by the BellSouth wholesale centers in the event of a work stoppage. To ensure parity, BellSouth will allocate available resources based on the historical distribution of force to access, wholesale, and retail for the period just prior to the potential work stoppage.

BellSouth plans to handle demand maintenance and repair work first. In all likelihood, this will more than exhaust the available field force capability, at least during the initial period of a work stoppage. Available force will be monitored and allocated daily. If it appears that BellSouth can begin provisioning activities, the decision will be made on a location/area basis by the State Sub-Committee of the General Service Continuity Committee (GSCC). The State Sub-Committee membership is comprised of the Field Network Vice Presidents, the Headquarters Network Vice President-Operations Support, and the Network Vice President-Engineering/Construction Support. Please contact your BellSouth account team representative for referral to the State Sub-Committee of the GSCC. The priority of trouble resolution/dispatch will be as follows:

- 1) Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)/Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)/911 circuits as defined in BSP660-207-020SV
- 2) All other trouble resolution/dispatches will be prioritized in the same manner as BellSouth prioritizes today.

It is anticipated that some conditions will warrant treatment as emergencies, both provisioning and maintenance/repair. For purposes of potential work stoppage planning, a service emergency is defined as any service condition, either maintenance or provisioning that jeopardizes the general public's or individual's health or safety. This definition precludes any requests made on an economic and/or political basis. TSP, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requests, and the State counterparts to FEMA will, by definition, be considered as emergency needs. Determination of a condition warranting emergency consideration will be made by the Work Management Center with escalation to the Network Vice President if

required. The Chairman of the State Sub-Committee of the GSCC will act as the final arbiter. Please contact your BellSouth account team representative for referral to the State Sub-Committee of the GSCC.

Because of the limited number of forces available and the complexity associated with trunking additions, BellSouth anticipates no trunk additions will be made during a work stoppage. In the event a carrier (e.g. CLECs, IXCs, WLS) experiences a blockage condition severe enough to have, or threaten to have, a significant adverse impact on either BellSouth's or the carrier's network, BellSouth will respond appropriately to address the blocking condition. During a work stoppage, requests for time specific hot cuts and other coordinated cuts will need to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis in advance. It is likely that these orders will be impacted by resource limitations.

In the event that circumstances arise that are not addressed by the prioritization plan, the situation along with all relevant facts should be referred to the State Sub-Committee of the GSCC for a decision. Please contact your BellSouth account team representative for referral to the State Sub-Committee of the GSCC.

BellSouth would like to reinforce that it expects to reach an agreement with the CWA before the current contract expires on August 4, 2001. BellSouth is committed to providing excellent service to its retail and wholesale customers, which is a strategic imperative for 2001. BellSouth requests that your company also begin planning for the potential risk of a BellSouth work stoppage as your company considers future business plans. Thank you for your company's cooperation with this important effort.

Additional information will be provided by mid-July, including BellSouth's plan to resume normal business operations following a potential work stoppage. Information will also be available at the 2001 CLEC Summer Inforum scheduled for Tuesday, July 15-17, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. Details concerning BellSouth's 3rd Annual CLEC Summer Inforum are posted to the BellSouth Interconnection Services' Web site: <http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com>.

Please contact your BellSouth account team representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY GREG BECK FOR JIM BRINKLEY

Jim Brinkley – Senior Director
BellSouth Interconnection Services