

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
)
THE BELL ATLANTIC TELEPHONE)
COMPANIES)
)
Offer of Comparably Efficient)
Interconnection To Providers of)
Voice Messaging Services)

MINOR AMENDMENT TO BELL ATLANTIC'S CEI PLAN

Bell Atlantic¹ respectfully files this amendment to its approved comparably efficient interconnection ("CEI") plan for voice messaging services² to include two new voice messaging service features, Ring Count Change and Toll Saver, and a new complementary network service, Ring Count Change Interface ("RCCI"). This is a "minor" amendment that should become effective in 14 days.

¹ The Bell Atlantic telephone companies ("Bell Atlantic") are: Bell Atlantic-Delaware, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Maryland, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Pennsylvania, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Washington, D.C., Inc.; and Bell Atlantic-West Virginia, Inc.

² This CEI plan was approved in *The Bell Atlantic Telephone Companies, Offer of Comparably Efficient Interconnection to Providers of Voice Messaging Services*, 3 FCC Rcd 5772 (Com. Car. Bur. 1988).

Ring Count Change

Ring Count Change will permit a Bell Atlantic voice messaging service customer to change the number of rings before the customer's call forwarding service³ forwards a call from the customer's unanswered telephone line to his or her voice mail box. Following a menu on the Bell Atlantic voice messaging platform, a customer will be able to use the voice messaging platform to instruct appropriate Bell Atlantic network facilities to change the ring count associated with the customer's call forwarding service. Ring Count Change will benefit customers by permitting them to change the ring count for their call forwarding service through the voice messaging platform menu, thereby avoiding the need to make a separate telephone call to a business office to change ring count.

Toll Saver

Toll Saver is a specialized form of Ring Count Change which allows a customer to change the ring count on his or her call forwarding service automatically based upon whether or not there are new messages in the customer's voice mail box. When a customer elects to use Toll Saver, the voice messaging platform will instruct the appropriate network facilities to place a short ring count (two or three rings) on the customer's call forwarding service if there are new messages in the customer's voice mail box. If there are no new messages in the customer's voice mail box, the voice messaging platform will instruct the network facilities to place a longer ring count (four rings) on the customer's call forwarding service.

³ Ring Count Change will initially operate only with Bell Atlantic's Call Forwarding--Don't Answer service. However, in the future, it may be extended to operate with other Bell Atlantic call forwarding services.

A customer who calls his or her own telephone line can easily ascertain whether there are new messages in his or her voice mail box. If the call is forwarded to the voice messaging platform after only two or three rings, the customer will know that there are new messages that can be retrieved. If the call has not been forwarded after the third ring, the customer will know that there are no new messages and can hang up to avoid toll or message unit charges.

Ring Count Change Interface

Provision of Ring Count Change and Toll Saver requires the enhanced service provider's facilities to act on the customer's call forwarding service (a Complementary Network Service - "CNS") through a new Ring Count Change Interface offering. RCCI permits Bell Atlantic network facilities to receive customer ring count change requests electronically, such as from a voice messaging platform. Through use of the RCCI, competing voice messaging service providers will also be able to offer their customers ring count change and toll saver features through their own voice messaging platforms. As shown in Attachment I, state tariffs for RCCI are either effective or pending in all Bell Atlantic jurisdictions.⁴ Bell Atlantic's enhanced service provider will subscribe to RCCI in any jurisdiction only when the tariff is effective and RCCI is available to competing voice messaging service providers in that jurisdiction.

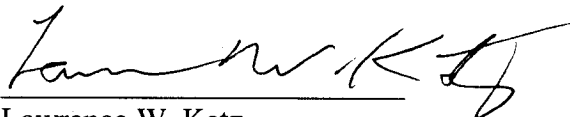
⁴ Sample state tariff pages are included in Attachment II.

Accordingly, Bell Atlantic is submitting this minor amendment to its voice messaging service CEI plan, to become effective 14 days after filing unless the Commission instructs Bell Atlantic otherwise.

Respectfully Submitted,

**The Bell Atlantic Telephone
Companies**

By their Attorneys



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