

From: Klaus Bender

To: John Kennedy

Date: July 24, 2004

Subject:

FCC File # 0379-EX-ST-2004

---

Message:

To: jkennedy@fcc.gov

Confirmation #: EL14615

Questions and responses are provided below. Please contact Britton Sanderford for additional information.

1. Why are only 100 devices needed for the New Orleans, LA full-system test whereas 500 devices are needed for the Biloxi, MS full-system test?

The New Orleans test was intended to happen first so that we could qualify the electric meter endpoint hardware in an operating environment. The Biloxi and the Birmingham tests were mandated by Southern Company, the parent company of Mississippi Power and Alabama Power. Their intent was to verify reliable operation over a dispersed area in heavily wooded rural terrains in Biloxi and hilly terrains in Birmingham.

2. Will a full-system test in New Orleans, LA be acceptable as opposed to a full-system test in Biloxi, MS?

No, because we could not convince Southern Company that the New Orleans RF operating environment is comparable to that of Biloxi and Birmingham. They have had bad experiences with in-house RF voice system deployments where actual results did not match the propagation prediction models.