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HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 555 13TH STREET, N.W. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BANK OF AMERICA WASHINGTON, D.C.

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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5115 P.O. Box 358115 International Bureau - Telecommunications Federal Communications Commission

Re: and Section 63.18 of the Commission's Rules for Application Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act Consent to the Transfer of Control of TeleDistance, Inc. from Qwest Communications International Inc. to Touch America, Inc

Dear Sir or Madam:

a check in the amount of seven hundred eighty dollars (\$780.00) for the filing fee that the original signature page will be delivered by hand on the next Commission from Qwest Communications International Inc. ("Qwest") to Touch America, Inc business day. Also enclosed please find FCC Form 159 (Fee Remittance Advice) and Please note that the enclosed filing contains a facsimile signature for Qwest and Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 and Section 63.18 of the Commission's Rules for Consent to the Transfer of Control of TeleDistance, Inc., Enclosed for filing are the original and two copies of an Application

undersigned counsel for the parties directly. If there are any questions regarding this filing, please contact the

Charles H. Héleih Ву

The Helein Law Group, P.C Jonathan S. Marashlian

8180 Greensboro Drive

Suite 700

McLean, VA 22101-3828

Phone: (703) 714-1300

Fax: (703) 714-1330

Counsel for Touch America, Inc

Respectfully submitted

Phone: (202) 637-5458 555 Thirteenth Street, N.W. Ronnie London Washington, D.C. 20004-1109 Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. David L. Sieradzki Peter A. Rohrbach

Fax: (202) 637-5910

and TeleDistance, Inc International Inc. Counsel for Qwest Communications

Enclosures

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of

TeleDistance, Inc.

Application Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 and Section 63.18 of the Commission's Rules for Consent to the Transfer of Control of TeleDistance, Inc. from Qwest Communications International Inc. to Touch America, Inc.

Attention: International Bureau

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROL

TeleDistance, Inc. ("TeleDistance") from Qwest to Touch America (collectively "Applicants") hereby seek consent to the transfer of control of amended, and Sections 63.18 of the Commission's rules, Touch America, Inc ("Touch America") and Qwest Communications International Inc. ("Qwest") Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as

interLATA business in the U S WEST region prior to or upon closing the Merger. Opinion and Order, FCC 00-91 (rel. March 10, 1999). Qwest must divest its International Inc. and US WEST, Inc., CC Docket No. 99-272, Memorandum (the "Merger") would serve the public interest. Merger of Qwest Communications divestiture of its interLATA business in the 14-state U S WEST, Inc. ("U S WEST") The Commission recently found that the merger of Qwest and U S WEST The proposed transfer of control will enable Qwest to complete the

Holdings Inc. ("TD Holdings"), which owns 100 percent of TeleDistance, from Qwest. This application seeks authority for Touch America to acquire TeleDistance

basis change carrier clearly is in the public interest and should proceed on an expedited This application for consent to the sale of a nondominant interex-

I. STRUCTURE OF THE TRANSACTION.

following two steps will occur Immediately prior to the merger of Qwest and U S WEST, the

Commission approval is not necessary, pursuant to Section 63.24(a)(5) Section 214 authorizations will be pro forma assignments for which prior company of TeleDistance), to TeleDistance. Qwest, and a transfer from Qwest, through TD Holdings (the immediate parent achieved through the Qwest Subs' transfer of these assets as a dividend payment to network facilities and employees, to TeleDistance. 1/ That assignment will be their in-region interLATA service customers, together with certain associated Phoenix Network, Inc., collectively referred to as the "Qwest Subs" – will transfer Corporation, LCI International Telecom Corp., USLD Communications, Inc., and First, Qwest's wholly-owned subsidiaries -All of the related assignments of **Qwest Communications**

TeleDistance of TeleDistance; (3) TD Holdings will make a capital contribution of these assets to (2) Qwest will make a capital contribution of such assets to TD Holdings, the parent dividend or otherwise make intercompany assignments of such assets to Qwest Inc.; divested (which include the Qwest Subs and other subsidiaries of Qwest) will succession, as follows: (1) the affiliates of TeleDistance that hold the assets to be The mechanics of the assignments to TeleDistance will happen in immediate

Second, Qwest will transfer the stock of TD Holdings to Touch

TeleDistance will remain a wholly-owned subsidiary of TD Holdings but Touch America, and Touch America will pay cash to Qwest. As a result of this transaction,

America will have ultimate control over TeleDistance

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 63.18

Touch America seeks authority to acquire, by transfer of control from

Qwest, a carrier holding authority under Section 214 to provide interstate and

international telecommunications service (the former being held by virtue of the

"blanket" Section 214 authorization provided for by Section 63.01 of the Commis-

sion's rules). 2/ Therefore, pursuant to Section 63.18(e)(3) of the Commission's

rules, the Applicants submit the following information in support of this

Application:

address and telephone numbers are: (a) The transferor is Qwest Communications International Inc. ("Qwest").

Qwest Communications International Inc

555 Seventeenth Street

Denver, Colorado 80202 Phone: (303) 992-1400

Fax: (303) 992-1044

The transferee is Touch America, Inc. ("Touch America"). numbers are: Its address and telephone

with this Application. interexchange telecommunications service is being separately filed concurrently 2/ An application for Commission consent to the transfer of control Section 214 authorizations held by the Qwest Subs to provide domestic An application for Commission consent to the transfer of control of the

 ω

Touch America, Inc.

130 E. Main St. Butte, Montana 59701

Phone: (406) 496-5100

Fax: (406) 496-5330

telephone numbers are: The carrier being transferred is TeleDistance, Inc. ("TeleDistance"). Its address and

TeleDistance, Inc. 555 Seventeenth Street Denver, Colorado 80202 Phone: (303) 992-1400

Fax: (303) 992-1044

- (b) Qwest is a Delaware corporation.

 Touch America is a Montana corporation.

 TeleDistance is a Delaware corporation.
- following: <u>O</u> Correspondence concerning this application should be addressed to the

For Qwest and TeleDistance:

R. Steven Davis
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Qwest Communications International Inc.
555 Seventeenth Street

Denver, CO 80202 Phone: (303) 992-4200

Fax: (303) 992-1044 E-mail: <u>steve.davis@qwest.com</u>

With a copy to:

Peter A. Rohrbach Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. 555 13th Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004-1109

Phone: (202) 637-8631 Fax: (202) 637-5910

E-mail: PARohrbach@hhlaw.com

For Touch America:

40 E. Broadway Phone: (406) 496-5199 Butte, Montana 59701 Touch America, Inc. President and Chief Operating Officer Michael J. Meldahl

With a copy to:

Fax: (406) 497-2150

McLean, VA 22102-3823 Phone: (703) 714-1300 Suite 700 8180 Greensboro Drive The Helein Law Group, P.C Jonathan S. Marashlian Charles H. Helein

Fax: (703) 714-1330

E-mail: <u>charles@helein.com</u>

E-mail: <u>jmarashlian@helein.com</u>

of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, international services from all points in the 14-state U S WEST region: the states authority, by assignment from the Qwest Subs, to provide interstate and North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. <u>a</u> At the time of the transfer of control, TeleDistance will receive

subsidiaries. Touch America has pending with the FCC its application for Section ment A contains a list of the Section 214 authorizations held by Qwest and its both on a facilities basis and on a resale basis to all international points. Attachinternational basic switched, private line, data, television, and business services 214 authorization Qwest and its subsidiaries have previously received authority to provide

- transfer control of a common carrier holding international Section 214 authority. Pursuant to Section 63.18(e)(3), Touch America seeks authority to
- (f), (g) No response required
- businesses of the carrier being transferred and any person or entity that will transaction. There will be no interlocking directorates with any foreign carrier. directly or indirectly own at least ten percent of its equity following the proposed The following are the names, addresses, citizenship, and principal

The carrier being transferred is TeleDistance, Inc.:

TeleDistance, Inc.

555 Seventeenth Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone: (303) 992-1400

Fax: (303) 992-1044

Toll-free customer service: (888) 524-0011

Citizenship: Delaware corporation

Principal business: international and domestic long-distance

telecommunications

equity of TeleDistance Inc.: The following company currently holds, and will continue to hold, 100 percent of the

TeleDistance Holdings, Inc

555 Seventeenth Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Fax: (303) 992-1044 Phone: (303) 992-1400

Citizenship: Delaware corporation

Principal business: holding company

Application seeks authority, own 100 percent of TD Holdings Inc.: The following company will, after consummation of the transaction for which this

Touch America, Inc.

130 E. Main St.

Butte, Montana 59701

Phone: (406) 496-5100

Fax: (406) 496-5330

Citizenship: Montana corporation

Principal business: telecommunications

The following holding company owns 100 percent of Touch America Inc.:

Entech, Inc

16 E. Granite

Butte, Montana 59701

Phone: (406) 723-5421

Citizenship: Montana corporation

Principal business: holding company

subsidiary of the following company: The foregoing holding company, Entech, Inc., is a 100 percent, wholly-owned

The Montana Power Company

40 E. Broadway

Butte, Montana 59701

Phone: (406) 723-5421 Citizenship: Montana corporation

Principal business: energy and telecommunications

institution owns 10% or more of its shares. the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MTP. No single individual or The Montana Power Company is a widely held corporation with its shares traded on

- 63.09(e) of the Commission's rules, with any foreign carrier. become affiliated with any foreign carrier as a result of the proposed transfer of Touch America certifies that it is not affiliated, as defined in Section TeleDistance will not
- service to any country described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of Section 63.18(j). The Applicants certify that this application does not seek to provide
- (k) Not applicable
- (l) Not applicable.
- (m) Not applicable.
- end of the route and will not enter into such agreements in the future international route where the foreign carrier possesses market power on the foreign concessions directly or indirectly from any foreign carrier with respect to any U.S Ξ Touch America certifies that it has not agreed to accept special
- federal benefits pursuant to section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 the Commission's rules that no party to the application is subject to a denial of Touch America certifies pursuant to Sections 1.2001 through 1.2003 of
- fourteen days after the date of public notice listing this Application as accepted for Section 63.12. This Application qualifies for streamlined processing pursuant to It should therefore be granted, according to Section 63.12(a),

to any of the exceptions listed in Section 63.12(c): 3/ This Application qualifies for streamlined processing because it is not subject

- 1 destination market that it proposes to serve Touch America is not affiliated with any foreign carrier in a
- 2 services Touch America (or TeleDistance) seeks authority to resell. Touch America is not affiliated with any dominant U.S. carrier whose
- (3) services over private lines. switched basic services over private lines to a country for which the Commission has not previously authorized the provision of switched Neither Touch America nor TeleDistance seeks authority to provide

III. PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

identified in the Commission order approving that merger. merges with US WEST and will advance the public interest benefits already of control will ensure compliance with Section 271 of the Act at the time Qwest serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity. First, the requested transfer S WEST, FCC 00-91. Second, existing customers will be protected, because The Applicants submit that the proposed transfer of control would Merger of Qwest and

streamlining policy a nullity, since virtually all applicants provide domestic, as well streamlined processing. Indeed, such a conclusion would render the Commission's authorized international services should not render this application ineligible for as international, service. There is no reason to make an exception in this case the "blanket" Section 214 authorization codified in Section 63.01) in addition to its streamlined processing. Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. of control of Section 214 authorizations would be eligible for streamlined processing fact that TeleDistance provides domestic telecommunications service (pursuant to Carrier Regulations, Report and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 4909, 4919 ¶ 22 (1999). The ¶ 322 (1997); 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review — Review of International Common Telecommunications Market, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 23,891, 24,032-33, where an initial Section 214 application filed by the transferee would be eligible for its 1998 biennial regulatory review, that applications for assignments and transfers Organization telecommunications liberalization agreement, and reaffirmed during The Commission decided in its 1997 order implementing the World Trade

service offerings, thus increasing the reach of that growing competitive carrier. from Qwest. Third, the transfer of control will expand the reach of Touch America's TeleDistance will continue providing them the same services that they receive today

interstate and international services.

This would benefit consumers by promoting competition in the markets for

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that this

Application be granted expeditiously and on a streamlined basis.

Respectfully submitted

TOUCH AMERICA, INC.

QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC. AND TELEDISTANCE, INC.

By: Wary Late

By:

Perry J. Cole
Vice President of Corporate
Business Development
Touch America, Inc.
40 E. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
Phone: (406) 496-5100
Fax: (406) 496-5330

Charles H. Helein Jonathan S. Marashlian The Helein Law Group, P.C. 8180 Greensboro Drive Suite 700

McLean, VA 22102-3823 Phone: (703) 714-1300

Fax: (703) 714-1330

E-mail: <u>charles@helein.com</u>
E-mail: <u>imarashlian@helein.com</u>

Counsel for Touch America, Inc.

Drake S. Tempest R. Steven Davis Qwest Communications International Inc.

555 Seventeenth Street Denver, CO 80202 Phone: (303) 992-4200 Fax: (303) 992-1044

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555 Thirteenth, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 637-5600
Fax: (202) 637-5910
E-mail: parohrbach@hhlaw.com

Counsel for Qwest Communications
International Inc. and TeleDistance, Inc.

Dated: March 17, 2000

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that

this Application be granted expeditiously and on a streamlined basis.

TOUCH AMERICA, INC.

By:

Fax: (406) 496-5330 Phone: (406) 496-5100 40 E. Broadway Butte, MT 59701 Touch America, Inc. Vice President of Corporate Perry J. Cole Business Development

Suite 700 8180 Greensboro Drive The Helein Law Group, P.C. Jonathan S. Marashlian Charles H. Helein

Fax: (703) 714-1330 McLean, VA 22102-3823 Phone: (703) 714-1300

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Counsel for Touch America,

Respectfully submitted,

AND TELEDISTANCE, INC QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC.

Denver, CO 80202 Phone: (303) 992-4200 Fax: (303) 992-1044 555 Seventeenth Street **Qwest Communications** R. Steven Davis Drake S. Tempest International Inc.

E-mail: parohrbach@hhlaw.com Fax: (202) 637-5910 Phone: (202) 637-5600 Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. 555 Thirteenth, N.W. Washington, DC Ronnie London David L. Sieradzki Peter A. Rohrbach 20004

Counsel for Qwest Communications International Inc. and TeleDistance,

Dated: March 17, 2000

ATTACHMENT A

by Qwest Communications International Inc. and Its Subsidiaries List of Section 214 Authorizations Held

QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC. INTERNATIONAL SECTION 214 AUTHORIZATIONS

SECTION 214 AUTHORIZATIONS

Qwest Communications Corporation

- carriers to provide international switched voice services. I-T-C-91-084, 6 FCC Rcd 2957 (1991) - Grants authority to resell the services of other
- and reseller ITC-97-667 (December 1997) - Grants authority to operate as a global facilities based carrier

LCI International Telecom Corp.

- switched voice services between the U.S. and Canada and points listed in AT&T's tariffs FCC Nos. 1 and 2. I-T-C-86-154 (September 25, 1986) - Grants authority to provide resale international
- of switched and private line services between the U.S. and Canada. Netherlands, and United Kingdom, and to resell international private lines for the provision Singapore, France, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Ireland, Belgium, of international private line services between the U.S. and Japan, Australia, Germany, international private lines not interconnected to the public switched network for the provision I-T-C-90-028 (April 12, 1993) - Grants authority to resell and operate facilities to provide
- authorizations of Litel Telecommunications Corporation, Afford-a-Call Corp., and Charter Network Company. I-T-C-92-184 (July 27, 1992) - Grants authority to transfer control of the Section 214
- Company's Section 214 authorization to Litel as part of the merger of the two companies. I-T-C-93-001 (February 10, 1993) - Grants authority to transfer control of Charter Network
- services by reselling the international switched services of other carriers. I-T-C-93-336 (November 13, 1993) - Grants authority to provide international switched
- South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, United Kingdom). Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, the U.S. and other countries (Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guam, international communications services, including switched and private line services, between I-T-C-94-380 (July 1, 1994) - Grants authority to acquire and operate facilities to provide
- via private lines interconnected to the public switched networks in the U.S. and the United to provide international message telephone service and data, facsimile and operator services I-T-C-94-527 (January 3, 1995) - Grants authority to resell services of other common carriers

- the two companies. Inc.'s Section 214 authorizations to LCI International Telecom Corp. as part of the merger of I-T-C-95-343 (May 31, 1995) - Grants authority to transfer control of LCI Telecom South,
- the provision of international switched basic services unless authorized by the FCC (extensive list of authorized countries in Appendices). countries provided that the private lines are not connected to the public switched network for service to various overseas points and to provide private lines between the U.S. and other I-T-C-95-590 (February 28, 1996) - Grants authority to acquire and operate facilities for
- I-T-C-96-512 (October 29, 1996) Grants authority to operate as a global facilities-based
- of the merger of the two companies. and global resale carrier in accordance with FCC rules. I-T-C-97-608 (November 24, 1997) – Grants authority to transfer control of USLD Communications Corporation's Section 214 authorizations to LCI International, Inc. as part
- authorizations of LCIT and USLD from LCI International, Inc. to Qwest. ITC-98-271-TC (April 15, 1998) - Grants authority to transfer control of Section 214

USLD Communications, Inc.

overseas points. services to provide international switched voice service between the U.S. and various I-T-C-89-092 (June 2, 1989) - Grants authority to international switched message telephone

ATTACHMENT B Certifications

Development for Touch America and on behalf of Touch America, certify that all the companies are true and correct: statements in the foregoing application with respect to Touch America and affiliated I, Perry J. Cole, in my capacity as Vice President of Corporate Business

Touch America certifies that it is not affiliated with any foreign carrier

described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of Section 63.18(j). Touch America certifies that it does not seek to provide service to any country

route and will not enter into such agreements in the future. route where the foreign carrier possesses market power on the foreign end of the directly or indirectly from any foreign carrier with respect to any U.S. international Touch America certifies that it has not agreed to accept special concessions

benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. Commission's rules that no party to the application is subject to a denial of federal Touch America certifies pursuant to sections 1.2001 through 1.2003 of the

By:

Perry Cole

Touch America, Inc.

40 £. Broadway

Butte, Montana 59701 Phone: (406) 496-5100

Fax: (406) 496-5330