

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Tariff filing by SOUTHERN BELL)	DOCKET NO. 890095-TL
TELEPHONE for modification of Enhanced)	ORDER NO. 21071
Optional Extended Area Service plan)	ISSUED: 4-19-89
)	

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MICHAEL McK. WILSON, Chairman
 THOMAS M. BEARD
 BETTY EASLEY
 GERALD L. GUNTER
 JOHN T. HERNDON

ORDER APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO OEAS PLAN

BY THE COMMISSION:

I. BACKGROUND

In the extended area service (EAS) portion of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's Petition for Implementation and Other Relief, filed in Docket No. 880069-TL, Southern Bell sought the implementation of an optional extended area service (OEAS) plan with five options: Option 1 - current local rate, Option 2 - flat rate outward, Option 3 - discounted toll, Option 4 - drop-back and Option 5 - inward calling option. The Commission approved the plan for implementation on twenty-one intraEAEA routes and one interEAEA route that had five or more messages per main station per month (M/M/M). This includes six routes on which the company had previously been ordered to implement the OEAS plan.

The company has tariffed the OEAS plan as Enhanced Optional Extended Area Service (EOEAS). By Order No. 21055 in Docket No. 880069-TL, we approved modifications to OEAS Options 2, 3 and 5. The current tariff filing involves changes to Option 4, the drop-back option. Under the drop-back option, a customer may elect to reduce his unlimited local calling (EAS) area to his home exchange at a reduced flat rate. The reduced flat rate is determined by the appropriate rate group for the number of access lines in the home exchange. By selecting the drop-back option, a customer may pay long-distance charges for those calls which terminate outside his home exchange. Any such long distance calls will be charged to the subscriber at intraLATA toll rates.

Southern Bell proposes two Option 4 changes. First, the Company proposes to exclude Option 4 for PBX and ESSX customers. Second, the Company proposes a yearly recalculation of the lines and trunks in each exchange that has an OEAS offering to determine if the drop-back option monthly rates should be adjusted.

With respect to its first proposed change Southern Bell argues that its billing system is not currently capable of correctly processing local messages associated with PBX trunks or ESSX Network Access Registers (NARs) for the drop-back option. Furthermore, Southern Bell argues that it cannot technically provide the drop-back option to ESSX and PBX

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03933 APR 19 1989

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORDER NO. 21071
DOCKET NO. 890095-TL
PAGE 2

customers because each drop-back customer requires a unique class-of-service indication in central office switching equipment in each exchange. Because PBX and ESSX customers are currently connected to switches which have a finite number of class-of-service indicators, these switches do not have the capacity to provide the drop-back option. In addition, the company states that it has not received any requests for the drop-back option from PBX or ESSX customers on the routes where OEAS has been implemented (Flagler Beach to Daytona Beach, Palm Coast to Daytona Beach, and Bunnell to Daytona Beach implemented 9/88; Sanford to Orlando, and Geneva to Orlando implemented 1/89). According to the company, it would be impractical to provide the availability of this service to a group of subscribers with no foreseen market.

With respect to the second proposed change, the rates for the drop-back option are based on the number of lines in the exchange to which the option is being offered. The appropriate rate is the basic service rate for the rate group containing the number of access lines in the home exchange (without EAS).

At the time of traditional exchange regrouping, an Option 4 subscriber may or may not experience a rate increase because the calling scope of the drop-back subscriber is the home exchange. Likewise, when the access lines in the home exchange increase enough to "regroup" the home exchange, Option 4 subscribers would experience a regrouping-related rate increase which may or may not be concurrent with a traditional regrouping of the exchange with EAS.

Upon consideration, we find it appropriate to approve Southern Bell's proposed changes. In view of the technical limitations and the apparent lack of interest in Option 4 on the part of ESSX and PBX customers, limiting the availability is reasonable at this time. We agree that the OEAS plans should be reviewed annually on all routes where implemented, and that Option 4 rate adjustments should be made, where necessary, for regrouping of base exchanges. We also find it appropriate to require the company to send letters notifying affected subscribers of any rate changes to the drop-back option.

In exchanges where the drop-back option is not initially applicable, it may become available at the time of the annual review of OEAS exchange access lines. In exchanges where the drop-back option becomes available, the company shall send letters to all subscribers in the exchange who do not subscribe to any of the other EOEAS options informing them of the availability of the drop-back option.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's proposed changes to Option 4 of its Optional Extended Area Service Plan are approved as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further:

ORDER NO. 21071
DOCKET NO. 890095-TL
PAGE 3

ORDERED that this docket be and the same is hereby closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission,
this 19th day of APRIL, 1989.

STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

TH

by: Kay Flynn
Chief, Bureau of Records

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or sewer utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.