

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff filing to)	DOCKET NO. 910640-TL
obsolete Watch Alert service by UNITED)	ORDER NO. 24848
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF FLORIDA.)	ISSUED: 7/25/91
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The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman
 J. TERRY DEASON
 BETTY EASLEY
 MICHAEL MCK. WILSON

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 7, United Telephone Company of Florida (United or the Company) filed revisions to its General Subscriber Services Tariff to obsolete WatchAlert service. WatchAlert allows alarm and security companies to offer low cost alarm or security services to residential and business subscribers.

Beginning in 1988, United was able to sign up only 79 customers. In 1989, the company was able to increase its customer base to 128 and in 1990 to 141.

At this time, there is no reliable evidence that United is losing contribution by providing the service. However, it appears to be appropriate to obsolete the service since the Company has adequately proven after strong marketing efforts to increase demand for WatchAlert, the service continues to suffer from poor acceptance in the marketplace.

We agree that due to poor acceptance, it is in the best interest to obsolete WatchAlert. Current customers will be able to continue to subscribe to the service, but no new customers will be able to subscribe. Customers who continue to request alarm services may turn to such entities as Sonitrol or some other private company alarm source.

United plans to continue and support WatchAlert for the next two years, during which time no new systems will be installed. Existing customers will be advised that the service is being discontinued via a bill stuffer in order to provide time for them to find another suitable service. Alarm companies will also be

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advised that the service will no longer be available. At the end of the two year time period, the service offering will be deleted and any remaining customers will be required to discontinue the service.

United presently provides the message switch capabilities for Southern Bell in the surrounding Orlando area, for which United received a termination fee. United provides this capability to Southern Bell customers because it is more economical for Southern Bell to lease these facilities from United than to build new ones. United intends to continue to provide this service to Southern Bell, even after the end of the two year "grandfather" period. Keeping the equipment in place is both economical and beneficial. Selling the switch equipment to Southern Bell would necessitate disruption of existing customers, plus relocation of the switch and rerouting of the circuits. United has informed Southern Bell of its intention to exit the WatchAlert market, however, the message switch capabilities will continue to be provided.

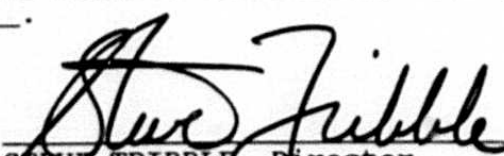
Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the tariff filing by United Telephone Company of Florida proposing to obsolete the service known as WatchAlert is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that any protest of this Order must be filed pursuant to the requirements below.

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed at the conclusion of the protest period.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 25th day of JULY, 1991.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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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.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on 8/15/91

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by 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 of the date this Order becomes final, 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.