

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for approval of) DOCKET NO. 950882-TL
tariff filing to eliminate) ORDER NO. PSC-95-1139-FOF-TL
secondary service charge for) ISSUED: September 12, 1995
existing customers who request)
addition of Lifeline Assistance)
Program credits to their account)
by BellSouth Telecommunications,)
Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell)
Telephone and Telegraph Company.)
(T-95-423 filed 7/10/95))

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
JOE GARCIA
JULIA L. JOHNSON
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Lifeline Assistance Plan (Lifeline) began as a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiative in 1984. The purpose of the plan is to make telephone service more accessible to customers who might otherwise not be able to afford service. Qualified residential subscribers receive a credit on their monthly phone bills consisting of a credit equal to the federal interstate subscriber line charge (SLC) and a matching company-provided credit.

By Order No. PSC-94-0242-FOF-TC, issued on March 4, 1994, in Docket No. 930693-TL, the Commission approved the tariff to provide a Lifeline Assistance Plan by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell or the Company). On July 10, 1995, Southern Bell filed a tariff to eliminate the secondary service charge for existing customers who request the addition of Lifeline Assistance Program credits to their accounts.

A secondary service charge is the fee applied for all service additions to existing accounts unless otherwise specified in the company tariff. Currently, secondary service charges are applied

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to accounts adding Lifeline. The proposed tariff will eliminate the secondary service charge for existing customers adding the Lifeline credits.

The Company anticipates an annual negative revenue impact of \$180,000 by eliminating the secondary service charge for qualified existing customers who add Lifeline service.

We find that Southern Bell's proposed tariff to eliminate the secondary service charge for existing customers who request the addition of Lifeline Assistance Program credits to their accounts is appropriate. As stated in Order PSC-94-0242-FOF-TL, issued March 4, 1994, "Lifeline is specifically targeted to the group most economically in need." By eliminating the secondary service charge, qualified residential subscribers can add Lifeline without incurring a fee. Therefore, we find that the proposed tariff filing be approved with an effective date of September 8, 1995.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the tariff to eliminate the secondary service charge for existing customers who request the addition of Lifeline Assistance Program credits to their accounts by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company is hereby approved with an effective date of September 8, 1995. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 12th day of September, 1995.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, 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, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on October 2, 1995.

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 wastewater 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.