

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Complaint of Northeast Florida Telephone Company d/b/a NEFCOM against Southeastern Services, Inc. for alleged failure to pay intrastate access charges pursuant to NEFCOM's tariffs, and for alleged violation of Section 364.16(3)(a), F.S.

DOCKET NO. 060083-TP

In re: Referral by the Circuit Court of Baker County, Florida to determine whether or not Southeastern Services, Inc. is legally responsible for payment to Northeast Florida Telephone for originating intrastate access charges under Northeast Florida Telephone's Public Service Commission approved tariff for the long distance calls provided by Southeastern Services, Inc. as alleged in the Amended Complaint.

DOCKET NO. 060296-TP

ORDER NO. PSC-06-0606-PCO-TP

ISSUED: July 12, 2006

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE

I. Case Background

On September 4, 2003, Northeast Florida Telephone Company (NEFCOM) filed a civil suit against Southeastern Services, Inc. (SSI) in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit for Baker County, Florida, pursuant to the parties' dispute resolution agreement.¹ The suit involves a dispute over the payment of access charges for alleged Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) traffic provided by SSI to its customers.

On January 30, 2006, NEFCOM filed with this Commission its Complaint against SSI alleging (1) failure to pay intrastate access charges pursuant to NEFCOM's tariffs and (2) violation of Section 364.16(3)(a), Florida Statutes. Docket No. 060083-TP was established to address the complaint.

On February 28, 2006, the Baker County Circuit Court entered an Order referring to this Commission the question: "Whether or not Southeastern Services, Inc. is legally responsible for payment to Northeast Florida Telephone Company for originating intrastate access charges under Northeast Florida's Public Service Commission approved tariff for the long distance calls provided by Southeastern Services, Inc. as alleged in the Amended Complaint." Docket No. 060296-TP was opened in light of this referral from the Circuit Court of Baker County.

¹Northeast Florida Telephone Company v. Southeastern Services, Inc., Case No. 02-2003-CA-0141

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

On March 27, 2006, NEFCOM filed its Amended Complaint that withdrew the portions of its original complaint alleging violations of Section 364.16(3), F.S., and requesting assessment of penalties against SSI. On June 14, 2006, this Commission issued Order No. PSC-06-0506-PCO-TP consolidating Docket Nos. 060083-TP and 060296-TP.

This Order is issued pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 28-106.211, Florida Administrative Code, which provides that the presiding officer before whom a case is pending may issue any orders necessary to effectuate discovery, prevent delay, and promote the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of all aspects of the case.

II. General Filing Procedures

In accordance with Rule 25-22.028, Florida Administrative Code, parties filing documents in this proceeding shall submit the original document and the appropriate number of copies to the Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services for filing in the Commission's docket file. Filings may be made by mail, hand delivery, courier service, or in some instances electronically. Please refer to the rule for the requirements of filing on diskette for certain utilities. To the extent possible, all filings made electronically or on diskette shall be provided in Microsoft Word format. Filings pertaining to this docket should identify the assigned docket number and should be addressed to:

Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

III. Tentative List of Issues

A list of the issues identified thus far in this proceeding is attached hereto as Attachment A. The scope of this proceeding will be based upon these issues as well as other issues raised by the parties up to and during the Prehearing Conference, unless modified by the Commission.

IV. Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

Each party shall file, in writing, all testimony and exhibits that it intends to sponsor, pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section IX of this Order. An original and 15 copies of all testimony and exhibits shall be filed with the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, by 5:00 p.m. on the date due. A copy of all prefiled testimony and exhibits shall be served by regular mail, overnight mail, hand delivery, or electronically to all other parties and staff no later than the date filed with the Commission. Failure of a party to timely prefile exhibits and testimony from any witness in accordance with the foregoing requirements may bar admission of such exhibits and testimony.

Testimony shall be typed on 8 ½ inch x 11 inch transcript-quality paper, double spaced, with 25 numbered lines, on consecutively numbered pages, with left margins sufficient to allow for binding (1.25 inches).

Each exhibit sponsored by a witness in support of his or her prefiled testimony shall be:

- (1) Attached to that witness' testimony when filed;
- (2) Sequentially numbered beginning with 1 (any exhibits attached to subsequently filed testimony of the same witness shall continue the sequential numbering system);
- (3) Identified in the upper right-hand corner of each page by the docket number, a brief title, and the witness' initials followed by the exhibit's number; and
- (4) Paginated by showing in the upper right-hand corner of each page the page number followed by the total number of pages in the exhibit.

An example of the information to appear in the upper right-hand corner of the exhibit is as follows:

Docket No. 012345-EI
Foreign Coal Shipments to Port of Tampa
Exhibit BLW-1, Page 1 of 2

After an opportunity for opposing parties to object to introduction of the exhibits and to cross-examine the witness sponsoring them, exhibits may be offered into evidence at the hearing.

V. Discovery Procedures

A. General Requirements

Discovery shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and the relevant provisions of Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, Rules 25-22, 25-40, and 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure (as applicable), as modified herein or as may be subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer.

Unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply:

- (1) Discovery shall be completed by December 1, 2006.
- (2) Discovery requests shall be served by e-mail, with a hard copy to follow by hand-delivery, U.S. Mail, or overnight mail on the day that the request is served electronically.
- (3) Sets of interrogatories, requests for admissions, requests for production of documents, or other forms of discovery shall be numbered sequentially in order to facilitate their identification

- (4) Within each set, discovery requests shall be numbered sequentially, and any discovery requests in subsequent sets shall continue the sequential numbering system.
- (5) Discovery responses shall be served within 25 calendar days (inclusive of mailing) of receipt of the discovery request. If responses are served electronically, a hard copy of the responses shall be served by hand-delivery, U.S. Mail, or overnight mail on the day that responses are served electronically. Responses to interrogatories, and to the extent possible, requests for documents shall be served by e-mail with a hard copy to follow by U.S. Mail or hand delivery.
- (6) Each page of every document produced pursuant to requests for production of documents shall be identified individually through the use of a Bates Stamp or other equivalent method of sequential identification. Parties should number their produced documents in an unbroken sequence through the final hearing.
- (7) Copies of discovery requests and responses shall be served on parties other than the party from whom discovery is sought to the extent required by the applicable provisions of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. In addition, copies of all responses to requests for production of documents shall be provided to the Commission staff at its Tallahassee office unless otherwise agreed.
- (8) Discovery requests and responses shall be served on staff.

Unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply:

- (1) Interrogatories, including all subparts, shall be limited to 300.
- (2) Requests for production of documents, including all subparts, shall be limited to 150.
- (3) Requests for admissions, including all subparts, shall be limited to 75.

When a discovery request is served and the respondent intends to seek clarification of any portion of the discovery request, the respondent shall request such clarification within 5 days of service of the discovery request. Further, any specific objections to a discovery request shall be made within 5 days of service of the discovery request. These procedures are intended to reduce delay in resolving discovery disputes.

B. Confidential Information Provided Pursuant to Discovery

Any information provided to the Commission staff pursuant to a discovery request by the staff or any other person and for which proprietary confidential business information status is requested pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, shall be treated by the Commission as confidential. The information shall be exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, pending a formal ruling on such request by the Commission or pending return of the information to the person providing the information. If no determination of confidentiality has been made and the information has not been made a part of the evidentiary record in this proceeding, it shall be returned to the person providing the information. If a determination of confidentiality has been made and the information was not

entered into the record of this proceeding, it shall be returned to the person providing the information within the time period set forth in Section 364.183(4), Florida Statutes. The Commission may determine that continued possession of the information is necessary for the Commission to conduct its business.

When a party or person other than the Commission staff or Office of Public Counsel requests information through discovery that the respondent maintains as proprietary confidential business information, or when such a party would otherwise be entitled to copies of such information requested by other parties through discovery (e.g., interrogatory responses), that party and respondent shall endeavor in good faith to reach agreement that will allow for the exchange of such information on reasonable terms, as set forth in Rule 25-22.006(7)(b), Florida Administrative Code.

VI. Prehearing Procedures

A. Prehearing Statements

All parties in this docket and the Commission staff shall file a prehearing statement pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section IX of this Order. The original and 15 copies of each prehearing statement shall be filed with the Director of the Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services by 5:00 p.m. on the date due. A copy of the prehearing statement shall be served on all other parties and staff no later than the date it is filed with the Commission.

Each party's prehearing statement shall set forth the following information in the sequence listed below:

- (1) The name of all known witnesses whose testimony has been prefiled or who may be called by the party, along with subject matter of each such witness' testimony;
- (2) A description of all prefiled exhibits and other exhibits that may be used by the party in presenting its direct case (including individual components of a composite exhibit) and the witness sponsoring each;
- (3) A statement of the party's basic position in the proceeding;
- (4) A statement of each question of fact, question of law, and policy question that the party considers at issue, along with the party's position on each issue, and, where applicable, the names of the party's witness(es) who will address each issue. Parties who wish to maintain "no position at this time" on any particular issue or issues should refer to the requirements of subsection C, below;
- (5) A statement of issues to which the parties have stipulated;
- (6) A statement of all pending motions or other matters the party seeks action upon;
- (7) A statement identifying the party's pending requests or claims for confidentiality;

- (8) Any objections to a witness' qualifications as an expert. Failure to identify such objection will result in restriction of a party's ability to conduct voir dire absent a showing of good cause at the time the witness is offered for cross-examination at hearing;
- (9) A statement as to any requirement set forth in this order that cannot be complied with, and the reasons therefore; and
- (10) A citation identifying any decision of the FCC or any court that may impact the Commission's ability to resolve any of the issues presented or the relief requested in this matter.

Failure of a party to timely file a prehearing statement shall be a waiver of any issue not raised by other parties or by the Commission. In addition, such failure shall preclude the party from presenting testimony in support of its position on each such issue.

B. Attendance at Prehearing Conference

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.209, Florida Administrative Code, a prehearing conference will be held November 20, 2006, at the Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida. Unless excused by the Prehearing Officer for good cause shown, each party (or designated representative) shall personally appear at the prehearing conference. Failure of a party (or that party's representative) to appear shall constitute waiver of that party's issues and positions, and that party may be dismissed from the proceeding.

C. Waiver of Issues

Any issue not raised by a party either before or during the Prehearing Conference shall be waived by that party, except for good cause shown. A party seeking to raise a new issue after the Prehearing Conference shall demonstrate each of the following:

- (1) The party was unable to identify the issue because of the complexity of the matter.
- (2) Discovery or other prehearing procedures were not adequate to fully develop the issue.
- (3) Due diligence was exercised to obtain facts touching on the issue.
- (4) Information obtained subsequent to the Prehearing Conference was not previously available to enable the party to identify the issue.
- (5) Introduction of the issue would not be to the prejudice or surprise of any party.

Specific reference shall be made to the information received and how it enabled the party to identify the issue.

Unless a matter is not at issue for that party, each party shall take a position on each issue by the time of the Prehearing Conference or by such later time as may be permitted by the Prehearing Officer. If a party is unable through diligence and good faith efforts to take a position on a matter at issue for that party, it shall explicitly state in its Prehearing Statement why it

cannot take a position. If the Prehearing Officer finds that the party has acted diligently and in good faith to take a position, and further finds that the party's failure to take a position will not prejudice other parties or confuse the proceeding, the party may maintain "no position at this time" prior to hearing and thereafter identify its position in a post-hearing statement of issues. In the absence of such a finding by the Prehearing Officer, the party shall have waived the entire issue, and the party's position shall be shown as "no position" in the Prehearing Order. When an issue and position have been properly identified, any party may adopt that issue and position in its post-hearing statement. Commission staff may take "no position at this time" or a similar position on any issue without having to make the showing described above.

D. Motions to Strike Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

Motions to strike any portion of the prefiled testimony and related portions of exhibits of any witness shall be made in writing no later than the Prehearing Conference. Motions to strike any portion of prefiled testimony and related portions of exhibits at hearing shall be considered untimely, absent good cause shown.

E. Demonstrative Exhibits

If a party wishes to use a demonstrative exhibit or other demonstrative tools at hearing, such materials must be identified by the time of the Prehearing Conference.

F. Official Recognition

Parties seeking official recognition of materials pursuant to Section 120.569(2)(i), Florida Statutes, shall notify all other parties and staff in writing no later than two business days prior to the first scheduled hearing date. Such notification shall identify all materials for which the party seeks official recognition and, to the extent such materials may not be readily available to all parties, such materials shall be provided along with the notification.

VII. Hearing Procedures

A. Attendance at Hearing

Unless excused by the Presiding Officer for good cause shown, each party (or designated representative) shall personally appear at the hearing. Failure of a party, or that party's representative, to appear shall constitute waiver of that party's issues, and that party may be dismissed from the proceeding.

Likewise, all witnesses are expected to be present at the hearing unless excused by the Presiding Officer upon the staff attorney's confirmation prior to the hearing date of the following:

- (1) All parties agree that the witness will not be needed for cross examination.
- (2) All Commissioners assigned to the panel do not have questions for the witness.

In the event a witness is excused in this manner, his or her testimony may be entered into the record as though read following the Commission's approval of the proposed stipulation of that witness' testimony.

B. Use of Confidential Information at Hearing

It is the policy of this Commission that all Commission hearings be open to the public at all times. The Commission also recognizes its obligation pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, to protect proprietary confidential business information from disclosure outside the proceeding. Therefore, any party wishing to use any proprietary confidential business information, as that term is defined in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, at the hearing shall adhere to the following:

- (1) When confidential information is used in the hearing, parties must have copies for the Commissioners, necessary staff, and the court reporter, in red envelopes clearly marked with the nature of the contents. Any party wishing to examine the confidential material that is not subject to an order granting confidentiality shall be provided a copy in the same fashion as provided to the Commissioners, subject to execution of any appropriate protective agreement with the owner of the material.
- (2) Counsel and witnesses are cautioned to avoid verbalizing confidential information in such a way that would compromise confidentiality. Therefore, confidential information should be presented by written exhibit when reasonably possible.
- (3) Any party wishing to use proprietary confidential business information shall notify the Prehearing Officer and all parties of record by the time of the prehearing conference, or if not known at that time, no later than seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the hearing. Such notice shall include a procedure to assure that the confidential nature of the information is preserved as required by statute and rule. Failure of any party to comply with the seven day requirement described above, shall be grounds to deny the party the opportunity to present evidence that is proprietary confidential business information.

At the conclusion of that portion of the hearing that involves confidential information, all copies of confidential exhibits shall be returned to the proffering party. If a confidential exhibit has been admitted into evidence, the copy provided to the court reporter shall be retained in the Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services' confidential files. If such information is admitted into the evidentiary record at hearing and is not otherwise subject to a request for confidentiality filed with the Commission, the source of the information must file a request for confidential classification of the information within 21 days of the conclusion of the hearing, as set forth in Rule 25-22.006(8)(b), Florida Administrative Code, if continued confidentiality of the information is to be maintained.

C. Hearing Identification of Exhibits and Testimony

For the purposes of this proceeding, it is the intent that all discovery responses and deposition transcripts with related late-filed exhibits be entered as hearing exhibits. Each party's prehearing statement shall include an identification and list of all responding discovery responses served to parties and staff. Additionally, each party shall identify and list the transcript and related late-filed exhibits of each deposition called by that party.

Each party is required to provide copies of its identified exhibits for the hearing absent good cause shown. The number of copies required of each hearing exhibit will be determined no later than the prehearing conference.

In order to facilitate the introduction at hearing of discovery exhibits, as well as prefiled testimony and exhibits, a sequentially-numbered, comprehensive list of exhibits identified by the parties in the prehearing statements shall be compiled and disseminated to the parties by Commission staff no later than November 28, 2006. Any objections to items on that list, along with a brief statement of the basis for such objection, shall be submitted to the Commission by the close of business on December 4, 2006. Objections, if any, will be addressed at the Hearing. At the beginning of the Hearing in this matter, all exhibits listed on the comprehensive list approved at the Prehearing will be moved into the record. In addition, the prefiled testimony of the parties will be moved into the record as though read. This will be done on a company-by-company basis, with the sponsoring party and the names of the witnesses who have offered testimony being clearly identified.

VIII. Post-Hearing Procedures

If the Commission (or assigned panel) does not render a bench decision at the hearing, it may allow each party to file a post-hearing statement of issues and positions pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section IX of this Order. In such event, a summary of each position of no more than 100 words, set off with asterisks, shall be included in that statement. If a party's position has not changed since the issuance of the prehearing order, the post-hearing statement may simply restate the prehearing position. However, the position must be reduced to no more than 100 words. If a post-hearing statement is required and a party fails to file in conformance with the rule, that party shall have waived all issues and may be dismissed from the proceeding.

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.215, Florida Administrative Code, a party's proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, if any, statement of issues and positions, and brief, shall together total no more than 50 pages and shall be filed at the same time, unless modified by the Presiding Officer.

IX. Controlling Dates

The following dates have been established to govern the key activities of this case:

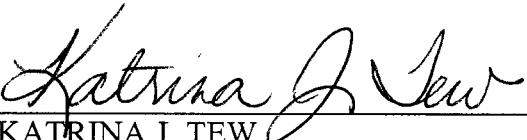
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| (1) Direct testimony and exhibits (all) | September 7, 2006 |
| (2) Rebuttal testimony and exhibits (all) | October 5, 2006 |
| (3) Prehearing Statements | November 6, 2006 |
| (4) Prehearing Conference | November 27, 2006 |
| (5) Discovery deadline | December 1, 2006 |
| (6) Hearing | December 11 & 12, 2006 |
| (7) Briefs | January 11, 2007 |

In addition, all parties should be on notice that the Prehearing Officer may exercise the discretion to schedule additional prehearing conferences or meetings of the parties as deemed appropriate. Such meetings will be properly noticed to afford the parties an opportunity to attend.

Based upon the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Katrina J. Tew, as Prehearing Officer, that the provisions of this Order shall govern this proceeding unless modified by the Commission.

By ORDER of Commissioner Katrina J. Tew, as Prehearing Officer, this 12th day of July, 2006.


KATRINA J. TEW
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(S E A L)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, 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 wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

ISSUES

1. What types of Commission-approved certificates, if any, do NEFCOM and SSI hold?
2. Are SSI and NEFCOM parties to a Resale Agreement dated September 22, 1999, setting forth the rates, terms, and conditions by which SSI would purchase telecommunications services from NEFCOM for resale by SSI to SSI's end users?
3.
 - a. What services did SSI order from NEFCOM pursuant to its Resale Agreement?
 - b. When were such services provided by NEFCOM to SSI?
 - c. What services did SSI provide to its end user customers using each of the ADS-PRI lines ordered by SSI from NEFCOM under the Resale Agreement?
 - d. How did SSI provide the service at issue to its end user customers using each of the ADS-PRI lines ordered by SSI from NEFCOM under the Resale Agreement and to what type of end users were such services provided?
4.
 - a. Did SSI provide a flat rate long distance calling service to end users in Florida which enabled such end users to make long distance calls throughout the fifty states and Canada?
 - b. If so, over what period of time did SSI provide its flat rate long distance calling service?
 - c. If so, did SSI advertise or otherwise market the flat rate long distance calling service, when was such advertising or marketing conducted, and what was the content of such advertising or marketing?
 - d. If so, were customers who subscribed to SSI's flat rate long distance service required to purchase any other services from SSI and, if so, what additional services were these customers required to purchase?
5. How did a typical SSI customer as described in Issue 4 originate a call using SSI's service at issue in this proceeding?

6. With respect to SSI's service at issue in this proceeding:
 - a. What facilities were involved in the origination, transmission and termination of the calls provided through SSI's service?
 - b. Was the manner in which SSI provided the service using NEFCOM's facilities ordered pursuant to the Resale Agreement actually the same or functionally the same as Feature Group A access?
 - c. What retail service was purchased by SSI's customers in connection with the service at issue?
 - d. What type of customer premises equipment did an SSI customer require to originate a call?
 - e. Did SSI's service originate and terminate on the public switched telephone network?
 - f. Did SSI's service undergo any net protocol conversion or provide any enhanced functionality or change in content to SSI's end users?
7. In providing the service at issue in this proceeding, was SSI acting as a CLEC, IXC, or end user ESP?
8. Is SSI's service at issue in this proceeding a "telecommunications service" or an "information service" as defined by federal law?
9. Did any of NEFCOM's state or federal tariffs in place in the pertinent time frame address SSI's service at issue in this proceeding? If so, what precise provisions were applicable to SSI's service at issue in this proceeding?
10. What, if any, of NEFCOM claims against SSI are time-barred?
11. To what type of telecommunications traffic do NEFCOM's access tariffs apply?
12. Did SSI breach NEFCOM's approved intrastate access tariff by failing to pay NEFCOM originating intrastate access charges for the use of NEFCOM's network in connection with SSI's service at issue in this proceeding?
13. Is SSI liable for intrastate originating access charges to NEFCOM for any of the traffic at issue? If so, what is the amount of intrastate originating access charges, if any, due NEFCOM and when should SSI be required to pay NEFCOM?
14. Is SSI legally responsible for payment to NEFCOM for originating intrastate access charges under NEFCOM's FPSC-approved tariff for the long distance calls provided by SSI?