

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for approval of) DOCKET NO. 930895-TL
tariff filing to establish late) ORDER NO. PSC-93-1475-FOF-TL
payment charges by United) ISSUED: October 11, 1993
Telephone Company of Florida)
(T-93-436 filed 7/30/93).)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
JULIA L. JOHNSON
LUIS J. LAUREDO

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

BY THE COMMISSION:

On July 30, 1993 United Telephone of Florida (United) filed a tariff to establish a late payment charge of 1.5% per month (with a minimum charge of \$.50) on unpaid balances for all active non-government accounts. The amount of late payment charges applicable to governmental accounts is limited by statute to 1%, thus, United intends to bill governmental accounts at that rate where applicable. The filing is similar to tariffs already in place for several Florida LECs.

Currently, all United subscribers bear the additional expense which results from late payments. The Company maintains that the revenues from the late payment charges will be sufficient to cover the costs imposed by customers who do not pay their bills on time. The implementation of this charge will allow the additional costs relating to late payment charges to be directly imposed upon the cost causers, rather than the general body of ratepayers. United also hopes that the introduction of this charge will result in fewer delinquent customer accounts.

The Company will clearly state on its bill the delinquent date and the date by which a late payment charge can be avoided. Any late payment charges assessed will be shown on the customer's next bill. The late payment charges will have no effect on subscribers who pay their telephone bills on time.

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ORDER NO. PSC-93-1475-FOF-TL
DOCKET NO. 930895-TL
PAGE 2

Upon review, we shall approve the filing.

Therefore, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that United Telephone of Florida's tariff filing to establish a late payment charge is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that this tariff shall become effective on September 29, 1993. If a timely protest is filed this tariff shall remain in effect with any increase held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 11th day of November, 1993.

STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

CWM

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.

ORDER NO. PSC-93-1475-FOF-TL
DOCKET NO. 930895-TL
PAGE 3

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 November 1, 1993.

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.