State of Florida

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



DIVISION OF APPEALS DAVID E SMITH DIRECTOR (904) 413-6245

Public Service Commission

August 15, 1996

Mr. Carroll Webb Joint Administrative Procedures Committee 120 Holland Building Tallahassee, Florida 32399

> Docket No. 960715-TL, Proposed Amendment of Rule 25-4.0174, Uniform Re: System & Classification of Accounts-Depreciation and Rule 25-4.0175. Depreciation and Repeal of Rule 25-4.0176, Recovery Schedules

Dear Mr. Webb:

The Commission has approved the amendment of Rules 25-4.0174 and 25-4.0175 and repeal of Rule 25-4.0176 without changes.

The rule does not have an impact on small business.

Sincerely.

Diana W. Caldwell

Associate General Counsel

Diana W. Caldwell

ADTDEPRE MED Enclosure

Division of Records & Reporting

25-4.0174 Uniform System and Classification of Accounts
Depreciation.

- (1) Depreciation rates are to be designed in accordance with the Uniform System and Classification of Accounts (USOA) and this rule. The primary accounts listed below are identical to those prescribed in the USOA. New accounts and subaccounts, as listed below, are established under these accounts. They are intended to group together items which are relatively homogeneous in their expected life and salvage characteristics, and are for the purpose of establishing uniformity among the companies in depreciation studies.
- (2) A company may further develop depreciation subaccounts within a listed account as appropriate for its plant. No company shall, however, establish a new subaccount that would represent less than ten percent 10% of the original primary account.
- (3) Notwithstanding <u>Subsection</u> <u>subsection</u> (2), a new subaccount must be established for the introduction of a new technology, or for the treatment of an obsolescent component of a current viable technology.
- (4) Depreciation reserve, plant activity data, salvage cost, and costs of removal, respectively, shall be maintained for each depreciation category for which a depreciation rate is to be developed. This shall be done on the books of the company.
- (5) The following accounts and subaccounts, where applicable, shall be used in the design of depreciation rates.

(a) Support <u>assets.Assets</u>, Account 2110. The following accounts shall be used:

 Motor <u>vehicles</u> <u>Vehicles</u>, Account 2112. The following subaccounts shall be used,

a. Passenger cars and light trucks. This account shall include passenger cars and trucks of one ton in capacity or less.

b. Light trucks. This subaccount shall include trucks of one ton in capacity or less.

be. Heavy trucks and special purpose vehicles. This subaccount shall include trucks of greater than one ton capacity.

cd. Tractors and trailers.

- 2. Special Purpose Vehicles, Account 2114.
- 23. Garage work equipment Work Equipment, Account 2115. This account shall include tools and equipment used to maintain vehicles. It shall be used for depreciation studies only if the expected life for this equipment is substantially different from that expected for tools and equipment in Account 2116, Other Work Equipment.
- 34. Other work equipment Work Equipment, Account 2116. This account shall include power operated equipment, general purpose tools, and other such work equipment items.
- 45. Buildings, Account 2121. Buildings are to be assigned to subaccounts in accordance with their potential life patterns in the use of the specific company. Suggested subaccount groupings are as follows:

a. Headquarters buildings which include primary switching 1 center building, and multipurpose buildings such as buildings 2 housing combinations of switching, office, and warehouse space. 3 b. Plant buildings which include work centers, garages, 4 shops, training centers, warehouses, pole yards, pre fab buildings 5 housing remote switchers, sheds, repeater huts, and leased 6 quarters. 7 8 56. Furniture, Account 2122. Office equipment Equipment, Account 2123. The following 9 subaccounts shall be used: 10 Office support equipment Support Equipment. This a. 11 subaccount shall include office devices such as typewriters, cash 12 registers, check writers, calculating, reproducing, addressing, 13 billing, blueprinting, and other office machines. 14 Communications Company communications equipment b. 15 This subaccount shall include CPE and PBX equipment Equipment. 16 installed for official company use. 17 78. General purpose computers Purpose Computers, Account 18 2124. 19 Central office switching Office Switching, Account 2211. 20 The following accounts shall be used: 21 Analog electronic switching Electronic Switching, Account 22 1. This account shall be established for analog switching 23 equipment and peripheral gear. It shall include equipment serving 24 analog switchers that is used solely for recording calling 25 CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in

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traffic dial tandem switchboards and special service swi_chboards used in conjunction with private line service. It shall not include switchboards, and integral equipment thereof, which perform an operator assistance function.

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- Digital electronic switching Electronic Switching, 2. This account includes investments in digital Account 2212. switches. Individual subaccounts shall be established for host, remote and digital switches, respectively. This switching account shall include equipment serving digital electronic switchers that is used solely for the recording of calling telephone numbers in connection with customer dialed charged traffic dial tandem switchboards and special service switchboards used in conjunction with private line service. It shall not include switchboards, and integral equipment thereof, which perform an operator assistance function. Major components such as hardware, processors, and line cards that are expected to live substantially different from the remaining switch investment should be considered as subcomponents in developing shall either be placed in additional individual separate subaccounts or shall be included as a subcomponent used to develop the rate for the that account or subaccount.
- 3. Electromechanical <u>switching</u> <u>Switching</u>, Account 2215. This switching account includes investments in <u>step-by-step</u> step by or crossbar switchers. It does not include digital compatible equipment that is expected to live beyond the calculated life of

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- 4 -

electromechanical switching. Such investment shall be in a separate subaccount or included as a subcomponent used to develop the rate for the account or subaccount. This account also does not include switchboards which perform an operator assistance function and equipment which is an integral part thereof. It shall include, however, equipment serving electromechanical switchers that is used solely for the recording of calling telephone numbers in connection with customer dialed charged traffic dial tandem switchboards and special service switchboards used in onjunction with private line service.

- (c) Operator systems Systems, Account 2220. This account shall include such charges as directory assistance, call intercept, and other operator assisted call completion activities. The following subaccounts shall be used:
 - 1. Analog, and

- 2. Digital or digital compatible.
- (d) Central office transmission Office Transmission, Account 2230. The following accounts shall be used:
- 1. Radio <u>systems</u> Systems, Account 2231. The following subaccounts shall be used.
 - a. Microwave Radio, and
 - b. Mobile Radio.
- 2. Circuit <u>equipment</u> <u>Equipment</u>, Account 2232. This investment shall be subcategorized in accord with the planning of the company, to be separated between the following:

a. <u>Analog</u> That portion planned for retirement;

b. <u>Digital</u> That portion considered viable within the existing network; and

- c. That portion associated with optic technology.
- (e) Information organization or termination Organization/
 Termination, Account 2310. The following accounts shall be used:
- 1. Private Line Equipment. This account shall include enhanced network transmission for a private channel.
- 2. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf Hearing Impaired.

 This account shall include equipment required for communications by or with hearing or speech impaired subscribers.
- 3. Network Carrier Equipment Customer Premises. This account shall include network carrier equipment physically located on the customer premises.
- 14. Public telephone equipment Telephone Equipment. This account shall include coinless, coin-operated (including public and semi-public), credit card, and pay telephones.
- 25. Other regulated station equipment Regulated Station Equipment. This account shall include private line other miscellaneous equipment, telecommunication devices for the deaf, E-911 equipment, and network carrier equipment physically located on the customer's premises associated with regulated service not included in (1) through (4) above.
- (f) Cable and wire facilities Wire Facilities, Account 2410.
 The following accounts shall be used:

Poles, Account 2411. 1. 1 Aerial cable Cable, Account 2421. The following 2 subaccounts shall be used: 3 further investment shall be This a. Metallic. 4 subcategorized in accord with company planning; and 5 b. Fiber. 6 Underground cable Cable, Account 2422. The following 7 3. subaccounts shall be used: 8 investment shall be further This Metallic. 9 subcategorized in accord with company planning; and 10 Fiber. 11 b. Buried cable Cable, Account 2423. The following 12 subaccounts shall be used: 13 This subaccount shall further be Metallic. a. 14 subcategorized in accord with company planning; and subaccounted as 15 follows: 16 (i) Nonfilled core, 17 (ii) Filled core, and 18 (iii) Further subcategorization shall be made in accord 19 with company planning; 20 Fiber. b. 21 Submarine cable Cable, Account 2424. The following 22 subaccount shall be used: 23 be further investment shall This Metallic. 24 subcategorized in accord with company planning. 25 CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in

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Fiber. 1 b. Intrabuilding network cable Network Cable, Account 2426. 2 The following subaccounts shall be used: 3 shall be further Metallic. This investment a. 4 subcategorized in accord with company planning; and 5 Fiber 6 b. Aerial wire Wire, Account 2431. 7 7. Conduit systems Systems, Account 2441. 8 8. Depreciation rates used afte: July 1, 1996, January 1, 9 1988 shall be based on the account classifications in the USOA and 10 this rule. In implementing these rates the following procedures 11 shall be followed: 12 Reserve activity data, plant activity data, salvage 13 costs, and costs of removal are to be recorded to the new accounts 14 for activity subsequent to July I, 1996 January 1, 1988. 15 (b) The separation of investments and reserves under prior 16 accounts into balances relating to new accounts and subaccounts 17 under this rule may require estimation. Where vintaged 18 distributions are maintained, separation into accounts and 19 subaccounts may require synthesization.

If an existing account, in the opinion of the Commission, is essentially compatible with an account listed in this rule, that account shall be deemed to be in compliance with this rule.

Specific Authority 350.127(2) FS. 24

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Law Implemented 350.115, 364.17 FS. 25

1 | History--New 4-25-88<u>, Amended</u>.

25-4.0175 Depreciation.

- (1) For the purposes of <u>Part II this part</u>, the following definitions shall apply to small local exchange companies remaining under rate of return regulation:
- (a) Category or Category of Depreciable Plant A grouping of plant for which a depreciation rate is prescribed. At a minimum it should include each plant account prescribed in Rule 25-4.017, F.A.C.
- (b) Average Service Life The period of time that the given type of equipment, on average, can be expected to prudently and economically serve the public.
- (c) (b) Embedded Vintage A vintage of plant in service as of the date of study or implementation of proposed rates.
- (e) Equal Life Group Method The method of calculating a depreciation rate based on the life expectations of the units constituting a vintage group. The vintage group is divided into sub-groups, each of which is expected to live an equal life. The required capital recovery for the vintage is then the summation of the requirements for each equal life group. As an example: A vintage consists of three \$100 units, A, B, and C, expected to live 2, 4, and 5 years. To recover each during its own service life will require annual accruals of \$50, \$25, and \$20 respectively in the following manner:

1 Accruals in Years
2 1 2 3 4 5
3 A 650 \$50
4 B 25 25 \$25 \$25
5 C 20 20 20 20 \$20
6 Vintage
7 Totals \$95 \$95 \$45 \$45 \$20

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- (d) Mortality Data Historical data by study category showing plant balances, additions, adjustments and retirements, used in analyses for life indications or for calculations of realized life. Preferably, this is aged data in accord with the following:
- The number of plant items or equivalent units (usually expressed in dollars) added each calendar year.
- The number of plant items retired (usually expressed in dollars) each year and the distribution by years of placing of such retirements.
- 3. The net increase or decrease resulting from purchases, sales, or adjustments, and the distribution by years of placing of such amounts.
- 4. The number that remains in service (usually expressed in dollars) at the end of each year and the distribution by years of placing of such amounts.
- (e) Remaining Life Method The method of calculating a depreciation rate based on the unrecovered plant balance, less

average future net salvage and the average remaining life. The formula for calculating a Remaining Life Rate (RLR) is:

RLR Remaining = 100% - Reserve % - Average Future Net Salvage %

Life Rate Average Remaining Life in Years

- (f) Reserve Data Historical data by study category showing reserve balances, debits and credits such as booked depreciation expense, salvage and cost of removal, and adjustments to the reserve utilized in monitoring reserve activity and position.
- (g) Reserve Deficiency An imadequacy in the reserve of a category as evidenced by a comparison of that reserve indicated as necessary under current projections of life and salvage with that reserve historically accrued. The latter figure may be available from the company's records or may require retrospective calculation.
- (h) Reserve Surplus An excess in the reserve of a category as evidenced by a comparison of that reserve indicated as necessary under current projections of life and salvage with that reserve historically accrued. The latter figure may be available from the company's records or may require retrospective calculation.
- (i) Salvage Data Historical data by study category showing bookings of retirements, gross salvage and cost of removal used in analysis of trends in gross salvage and cost of removal, or for calculations of realized salvage.
- (j) Theoretical Reserve or Prospective Theoretical Reserve A calculated reserve based on components of the proposed rate,

1	using the formula:
2	Theoretical Reserve = Book Investment - Future Accruals -
3	Future Net Salvage
4	(k) Vintage - The year of placement of a group of plant items
5	or investment under study.
6	(1) Whole Life Method - The method of calculating a
7	depreciation rate based on the Whole Life (Average Service Life)
8	and the Average Net Salvage. Both life and salvage components are
9	the estimated or calculated composite of realized experience and
10	expected activity. The formula is:
11	Whole Life Rate = 100% - Average Net Salvage %
12	Average Service Life in Years
13	(2)(a) Ranges for basic life and salvage values.
14	established by the Commission, may be used by small LECs regardless
15	of the depreciation methodology utilized. The ranges for basic
16	life and salvage values for small LECs are as follows: No utility
17	may change any existing depreciation rate or initiate any new
18	depreciation rate without prior Commission approval.
19	Ranges of Basic Life and Salvage Values for
20	Small Local Exchange Companies
21	AVERAGE SERVICE LIFE NET SALVAGE
22	ACCOUNT (Years) (Percent)
23	GENERAL SUPPORT ASSETS
24	Motor vehicles
25	Passenger cars & light trucks 6 - 8 10 - 20

1	Heavy trucks & special			
2	purpose vehicles		8 - 11	5 - 10
3	Buildings		32 - 36	0 - 5
4	Other work equipment		7 yr. Amortizatio	on
5	Furniture		10 yr. Amortizat	ion
6	Office machines		7 yr. Amortizatio	on
7	Office equipment (official use)		5 yr. Amortizatio	on
8	Computer equipment		5 yr. Amortizatio	on
9	CENTRAL OFFICE ASSETS			
10	Digital switching		13 - 16	0 - 5
11	Operator systems		8 - 10	0 - 5
12	Radio		10 - 12	(5) - 0
13	Circuit			
14	Analog		8 - 10	(5) - 0
15	Digital	•	10 - 12	0 - 5
16	Fiber electronics (optics)		8 - 10	0 - 5
17	INFORMATION/ORIGINATION ASSETS			
18	Public telephone equipment		8 - 10	0 - 5
19	Other		8 - 10	0 - 5
20	CABLE/WIRE FACILITIES			
21	Poles		20 - 22	(60) - (40)
22	Aerial cable			
23	Metallic		18 - 20	(30) - (20)
24	Fiber		20 - 22	(30) - (20)
25	Underground cable			

1	Metallic .	19 - 21	(10) - (5)	
2	Fiber	20 - 22	(10) - (5)	
3	Buried cable			
4	Metallic	17 - 19	(5) - 0	
5	Fiber	20 - 22	(5) - 0	
6	Submarine cable			
7	Metallic	20 - 25	(5) - 0	
8	Fiber	20 - 22	(5) - 0	
9	Underground conduit	<u> 50 - 52 </u>	(5) - 0	
10	Aerial wire - Expense all fut	ture additions and	amortize embedded	
11	portion over 3 years.			
12	(b) A company shall not	petition the Commis	ssion to change any	
13	existing depreciation rate more than once a year No utility may			
14	reallocate accumulated depreciation reserves among any primary			
15	accounts and sub accounts without prior Commission approval.			
16	(c) A company may not	reallocate accumu	lated depreciation	
17	reserves among any primary ac	counts and subacco	unts without prior	
18	Commission approval.			
19	(3)(a) Each company	stility shall mair	tain depreciation	
20	rates and accumulated depr	eciation reserves	in accounts or	
21	subaccounts as prescribed by	Rule 25-4.0174, F	.A.C., and as set	
22	forth in Paragraph (2)(a) of	this rule. Compar	<u>ies</u> Utilities may	
23	maintain further sub-categori	zation.	*	
24	(b) Upon establishing	a new account	or subaccount	
25	classification, each company	utility shall r	equest Commission	

approval of a depreciation rate for the new plant category.

(c) A company's current average service life is that which has been approved by the Commission and in effect as of the effective date of this rule. To determine if a company's current average service life is within an established range, current average service lives not reflected as a whole number shall be rounded using traditional rounding methodology. (For example, 1.1 - 1.4 rounds to 1.0; 1.5 - 1.9 rounds to 2.0.)

(4) If the company's proposed and current average service lives for a given account are within the ranges established in Paragraph (2)(a), no additional support for those values shall be required. If the company's proposed and current net salvage values for a given account are within the ranges established in Paragraph (2)(a), no additional support for those values shall be required. The company shall submit to the Division of Records and Reporting the original, five hard copies, and a diskette of the information required by Subsection (8) of this rule.

outside of the ranges established in Paragraph (2) (a) of this rule utility filing a depreciation study, regardless if a change in rates is being requested or not, shall submit to the Division of Records and Reporting Commission Clerk's Office the original and five hard copies, and a diskette fifteen copies of the information required by Subsection (10) paragraphs (6) (a) through (6) (h) of this rule and at least three copies of the information required by

paragraph (6)(i).

- (6)(5) After filing a petition for a change in depreciation rates. Upon commission approval by order establishing an effective date, the company utility may reflect on its books and records the preliminary implementation of the proposed rates as of the proposed effective date. These rates are subject to Commission approval adjustment when final depreciation rates are approved.
- (7) Any party protesting a Commission approved depreciation life or salvage value, shall carry the burden of proof in demonstrating that each protested value is unsupported by the operations and planning of each company.
 - (8) (6) A depreciation filing study shall include:
- (a) A comparison of current and proposed depreciation rates and components for each category of depreciable plant. Current rates shall be identified as to the effective date and proposed rates as to the proposed effective date.
- (b) A comparison of annual depreciation expense, as of the proposed effective date, resulting from current rates with the expense produced by the proposed rates for each category of depreciable plant. The plant balances may involve estimates. Submitted data including plant and reserve balances or company planning involving estimates shall be brought to the effective date of the proposed rates.
- (e) A comparison of annual depreciation expense resulting from current rates with the expense produced by the proposed rates

allocated to interstate toll, intrastate toll and other, based on the 12 month average plant balance coinciding with the accounting period in which proposed depreciation rates are to become offeetive. (c) (d) Each recovery and amortization schedule currently in effect should be included with any new filing showing total amount amortized, effective date, length of schedule, annual amount amortized, and reason for the schedule. (c) A comparison of the acet sulated book reserve to the prospective theoretical reserve based on proposed rates and components for each category of depreciable plant to which depreciation rates are to be applied. (d) (f) A general narrative describing the service environment of the applicant company and the factors, e.g., growth, technology, and physical conditions necessitating a revision in rates. (9) If a company's current average service life or salvage value for any given category of depreciable plant is not within the established range, the company must file the information in Subsection (10) to justify its move into the range. For each account that the Company proposed life or (10) salvage value is not within the established range, the depreciation filing shall include the information in Subsection (8) as well as

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the following:

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An explanation and justification for each study

category of depreciable plant defining the specific factors that justify the life or and salvage components and rates being proposed. Each explanation and justification shall include substantiating factors utilized by the company in the design of the depreciation rates for the specific category, e.g., company planning, growth, technology, physical conditions, and trends. The explanation and justification shall discuss any proposed transfers of reserve between categories or accounts intended to correct deficient or surplus reserve balances. It should also state any statistical or mathematical methods of analysis or calculation used in the design of the category rate.

(b) (h) The mortality and salvage data used by the company in the depreciation rate design must agree with activity booked by the utility. Unusual transactions not included in life or salvage studies, e.g., sales or extraordinary retirements, must be specifically enumerated and explained.

(c)(i) The filing shall contain all calculations, analysis and numerical basic data used in the design of the depreciation rate for each category of depreciable plant. Numerical data shall include plant activity (gross additions, adjustments retirements and plant balance at end of year) as well as reserve activity (retirements, accruals for depreciation expense, salvage, cost of removal, adjustments or transfers and reclassifications, and reserve balance at end of year) for each year of activity from the date of the last submitted study to the date of the present study.

To the degree possible, data involving retirements should be aged.

(11)(7)(a) Companies Utilities shall provide calculations of depreciation rates using either both the whole life method or and the remaining life method. The use of one of these methods is required for all depreciable categories. Companies may submit additional studies or methods for consideration by the Commission.

- (b) Companies shall file an election to remain with the remaining life methodology or move to whole life methodology within 90 days of the effective late of this rule. Failure to file an election shall result in the company's use of remaining life methodology. Only one election regarding depreciation methodology will be permitted.
- (12) When a company elects whole life methodology, no recovery of reserve imbalances will be considered for depreciation purposes. This methodology is not reserve sensitive.
- (13) When a company elects remaining life methodology, the following apply:
- (a) A company requiring the Commission staff's assistance in determining a remaining life based on its average service life selection, shall notify the Director of the Division of Auditing and Financial Analysis, by letter, three months prior to the company's filing date.
- (b) The possibility of corrective reserve transfers shall be investigated by the Commission prior to changing depreciation rates.

(8) (a) Each company shall file a study for each category of depreciable property for Commission review at least once every three years from the submission date of the previous study unless otherwise required by the Commission.

(c) It shall be a rebuttable presumption that in determining the average remaining life, the mortality curve shapes shall be those used by the Commission the last time it prescribed rates.

(14) (a) (b) A company utility proposing an effective date of the beginning of its fiscal year shall submit its petition for a change in depreciation rates depreciation study no later than the mid-point of that fiscal year.

(b)(e) A company utility proposing an effective date coinciding with the expected date of additional revenues initiated through a rate case proceeding shall submit its petition for a change in depreciation rates depreciation study no later than the filing date of its Minimum Filing Requirements.

(15)(9) Included as part of the annual report filed pursuant to Rule 25-4.135 25 4.018, F.A.C., each company shall provide Schedule B-3 B-5a, Analysis of Plant In Service, and Schedule B-4 B-5b, Analysis of Accumulated Depreciation. Schedule B-3 B-5a shall include booked plant activity (plant balance at the beginning of the year, additions, adjustments, transfers, reclassifications, retirements, and plant balance at year end). Schedule B-4 B-5b shall include reserve activity (reserve balance at the beginning of the year, retirements, accruals, salvage, cost of removal,

adjustments, transfers, reclassifications, and reserve balance at year end) for each category of investment for which a depreciation rate, amortization schedule, or capital recovery schedule has been approved. These schedules shall indicate for each category that (a) there has been no change of plans or utility experience requiring a revision of rates, amortization, or capital recovery schedules or (b) there has been a change requiring a revision of the rates, amortization, or capital recovery schedules. For each category where current conditions indicate a need for revision of depreciation rates, amortization, or capital recovery schedules and no revision is sought, the report shall explain why no revision is requested.

(16)(a) Prior to the date of retirement, the Commission may approve capital recovery schedules to correct calculated deficiencies where a utility demonstrates that replacement of an installation or group of installations is prudent, and the associated investment will not be recovered by the time of retirement through the existing depreciation rate.

(b) The Commission may approve a special capital recovery schedule when an installation is designed for a specific purpose or for a limited duration.

(c) Associated plant and reserve activity, balances, and the annual capital recovery schedule expense must be maintained as subsidiary records.

Specific Authority 350.127(2) FS.

1	Law Implemented 350.115, 364.03 FS.
2	HistoryNew 9-8-81, Amended 4-28-83, 1-6-85, Formerly 25-4.175,
3	Amended 4-27-88, 12-12-91,
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5	25-4.0176 Recovery Schedules to Promote an Economical and Efficient
6	Telecommunications Network. The Commission encourages an efficient
7	and economical telecommunications network. To foster this goal the
8	following-policies apply:
9	(1) Prior to the date(s) of retirement, the Commission may
10	approve capital recovery schedules to correct calculated
11	deficiencies where a utility demonstrates that (a) replacement of
12	an installation or group of installations is prudent, and (b) the
13	associated investment will not be recovered by the time of
14	retirement through the normal depreciation process.
15	(2) The Commission may approve a special capital recovery
16	schedule when an installation is designed for a specific purpose or
17	for a limited duration.
18	(3) Associated plant and reserve activity, balances, and the
19	annual capital recovery schedule expense(s) must be maintained as
20	subsidiary records.
21	Specific Authority 350.127(2) FS.
22	Law Implemented 350.115, 364.03 FS.
23	HistoryNew 9-8-81, Formerly 25-4.176, Repealed
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