Talbott Vandiver

FLORIDA FUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Capital Circle Office Center • 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

November 6, 1997

NOV - 1997

10.05 FPSC - Records/Reporting

TO:

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)

FROM:

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BONNAM)

DIVISION OF CONSUMERATIONS (LEWIS)

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (MCHARGUE)

RE:

DOCKET NO. STATES - INITIATION OF SHOW CAUSE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE PHONE COMPANY (TEL-SAVE, INC. d/b/a methork services, INC. d/b/a the phone company) for VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.043, RESPONSE TO COMMISSION STAPF INQUIRIES; FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

AGENDA:

11-18-97 - AGENDA - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES:

MONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: 8:\PSC\CMU\WP\971218-TI.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

On January 13, 1997, staff notified The Phone Company (TPC) that it had been selected as one of the Inter-Exchange Companies (IXCs) to be evaluated as part of the Commission's normal service quality evaluation and that certain billing information must be provided (attachment 1). To expedite the evaluation, the information was requested by phone and fax on January 23rd (attachments 1 & 2). The Phone Company responded on January 23rd with the calling card and PIN number information requested. Staff then made test calls to review timing and billing, call completions and the transmission quality of service being provided by TPC. The 0+ (calling card) tests were performed on February 17th and the 1+ calls were made on February 5th.

After three months staff had not received the bills required from TPC. Staff attempted to notify the company on May 30, 1997, (attachment 3) that the billing records had not been received as of that date. However, the letter was returned due to an "insufficient address" on June 9th. TPC filed an address and liaison change on June 12, 1997. On June 20th staff faxed a letter DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

1-1-232 NOV-55

DOCKET NO.971218-TI DATE: November 6, 1997

(attachments 8 & 9) to Ms. Tina Tecce's office notifying the company concerning the lack of billing records and requesting them as soon as possible.

On July 17, 1997, when staff had not yet received the billing records, the request was repeated during a phone conversation between staff and Ms. Tecce. Staff requested the billing information for a third time on July 29th via certified letter (attachments 10 & 11). On August 5th, staff received by fax the 1+billing records. On August 6th, staff requested by phone that a written explanation be given as to why the 0+ billing records were not provided. The explanation (attachment 12) was received on August 7th via fax stating that TPC had no record of calls being placed over its network using the pin and access numbers provided to Commission staff. Staff notes that TPC was put on notice before the tests were conducted that staff would require the billing data.

On August 29, 1997 (attachment 13) staff informed TPC that it intended to file a show cause recommendation for apparent violation of Florida Administrative Code. Staff received the 0+ billing record (attachment 14) from Mr. Manny DeMaio (TPC) on October 3, 1997 after several inquiries from TPC to staff on how to stop the show cause proceedings.

The Division of Consumer Affairs staff received 124 complaints from January 1, 1995 through September 30, 1997. A total of 87 complaints were logged in 1995, 28 complaints were logged in 1996, and 9 complaints have been logged as of September 30, 1997. Of the 124 complaints received, 88 were closed as infractions against the company. Of the 88 complaints closed as infractions, 77 were slamming infractions.

Overall, since 1995, TPC has responded late to 28% of the Division of Consumer Affairs' inquiries (35 out of 124 responses). In 1995, 28 percent of the responses to Consumer Affairs were late (24 out of 87 responses). In 1996, 29 percent of the responses were late (8 out of 28), and to date in 1997, 44 percent of the responses have been received past the due date (4 responses out of 9). While the number of complaints received against the company has dropped over the past 33 months, the company continues to respond late to complaints filed by the Division of Consumer Affairs.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

<u>ISSUE 1:</u> Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, should The Phone Company be ordered to show cause why it should not be fined

DOCKET NO.971218-TI DATE: November 6. 1997

\$10,000 for violation of Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries?

PROCESSINATION: Yes. The Commission should require TPC to show cause in writing within 20 days of the issuance of the Commission's Order why it should not be fined \$10,000 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries. If TPC fails to respond to the show cause, the fine will be deemed assessed. If the fine is not paid after reasonable collection efforts by the Commission, it should be forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for collection. If the fine is paid, it will be remitted by the Commission to the Florida General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Scatutes. (Lewis, McHarque)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, states:

The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning service or the complaints received by the Commission shall be furnished within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry.

Staff believes a show cause is warranted in this case because The Phone Company failed to respond to Commission staff's request on three separate occasions. When contacted on June 20th, TPC did not produce the 1+ billing records for 45 days after two additional requests. On August 5th, partial information was received by staff, in which only the 1+ billing records were provided to the Commission. Staff has not received an explanation as to why it took forty five days to produce five month old 1+ billing records or why it took a notification of an impending show cause to produce the 0+ billing information. TPC has a history of responding late to complaints filed by the Division of Consumer Affairs and has been late in responding 4 out 9 times this year. Therefore, staff recommends that TPC be fined for failing to respond timely.

ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: This docket should remain open pending resolution of the show cause proceeding. If, however, The Phone Company fails to respond to the Commission's order and if the fines remain unpaid after reasonable collection efforts, the matter should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller and this docket closed administratively. (Bowman)

DOCKET NO.971218-TI DATE: November 6. 1997

STAFF ANALYSIS: If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, The Phone Company will have 20 days from the issuance of the Commission's order to respond in writing why it should not be fined in the amount proposed or have its certificate revoked. This docket, accordingly, should remain open pending resolution of the show cause proceeding.

If, however, The Phone Company fails to respond to the Commission's show cause order, the fines will be deemed assessed in the amounts proposed in Issue 1. Therefore, if the fines remain unpaid after reasonable collection efforts, the matter should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller and this docket closed administratively.

State of Florida



Attachment 1

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HAESELEER DIRECTOR (904) 413-6600

Bublic Service Commission

January 13, 1997

RECEIVED TAMPA DISTRICT

'JAN 3 1 1547

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Ms. Tina Schaefer
The Phone Company
1776 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, FL 33460-7007

Dear Ms. Schaefer:

Commissioners:

JOE GARCIA

SUSAN F. CLARK J. TERRY DEASON

DIANE K. KIESLING

JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

Staff from the Bureau of Service Evaluation are scheduled to evaluate your company in the following exchanges: (Tampa exchange). The central offices and numbers that are presubscribed to your company are shown on the enclosed attachment. This evaluation will be conducted during the period of (1-20-97 thru 2-14-97) pursuant to Chapter 25-21.26, to execute a comprehensive telephone service evaluation to assure the availability and provisioning of safe, efficient and sufficient communications throughout the state. Our evaluation program applies not only to local exchange companies but to interexchange companies as well.

A significant part of this evaluation will be the generation of test calls from selected central offices in the exchanges to be evaluated to all NXX codes throughout the State of Florida. The purpose of these calls is to determine the following:

- 1) The call completion rate.
- 2) Timing accuracy to determine if the call was properly timed.
- 3) Whether the call was billed according to the tariff.
- 4) The rating accuracy to determine if the proper amount was billed for the units generated.
- 5) Whether the transmission parameters were met.

Since we test both 1+ and 0+ billing, please provide a calling card and PIN number for the 0+ calls. Regular bills for our test calls should be sent to:

The Florida Public Service Commission Division of Communications 9950 Princess Palm Avenue Suite 310 Tampa, Florida 33619-8370 ATFN: Chat Wade Ms. Schaefer Page 2 January 13, 1997

The Florida Public Service Commission account should be established the same as your regular customers. Since this is a part of the Commission's normal surveillance activity, no reimbursement will be made for our test calls. Therefore, proper disposition should be made of these charges and the accounts closed within sixty (60) days or two (2) complete billing cycles after our review is completed.

Please respend with the tariff section(s) and paragraphs that you will use to bill our test calls.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chet Wade (813) 744-6636 or me at (904) 413-6570.

Sincerely,

Don McDonald

U.S./Comm. Engineer Supervisor Bureau of Service Evaluation

c: Alan Taylor Chet Wade

Page 3

Attachment to The Phone Company letter

Test number for central office PIC'd to The Phone Company
Pinecrest 813-737-3632

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STATE OF FLORIDA



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 9930 Princess Poin Avenue - Suite 310 1809A, FLORIDA 33619-6370

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COMPANY INFORMATION AS OF 01/07/1997

Attachment 3

The Phone Company (Te]-Save, Inc. d/b/a Network Services and d/b/a) (T1076)

Location address

The Phone Company 1776 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, FL 33460-7007

Company liaison(s)

Tina Schaefer, Regulatory Affairs Manager, (215) 862-1500 /862-1803

FAX number(s)

(215) 862-1511

Regulation date

07/29/1992

Certificate(s)

2985

Corporate type

Not Available

Services provided

MLD

342 5872 1-800-DIAL USA 123123123

FAX TO: -1117 GNATHA

COMPANY INFORMATION AS OF 09/02/1997

Attachment 4 Page 1

The Phone Company (Tel-Save, Inc. d/b/a Network Services and d/b/a) (T1076)

Location address

The Phone Company 6805 Route 202 New Hope, PA 18938

Company liaison(s)

Tina Tecce, Regulatory Affairs Manager, (215) 862-1500 /862-1803

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FAX number(s)

(215) 862-1085

Regulation date

07/29/1992

Certificate(s)

2985

Corporate type

Not Available

Services provided

MLD

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MAILING INFORMATION AS OF 09/02/1997

Attachment 4 Page 2

The Phone Company (Tel-Save, Inc. d/b/a Network Services and d/b/a) (T1076)

Mailing name

The Phone Company

Company code

T1076

Mailing address

The Phone Company 6805 Route 202 New Hope, PA 18938

Federal Employee Identification (FEID) Number

23-2582790

20147

Attachment 5

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STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HAESELEER DIRECTOR (904) 413-6600

Attachment 6

Bublic Service Commission

May 30, 1997 CERTIFIED

Ms. Tina Schaefer The Phone Company 1776 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, Florida 33460-7007

Re: Billing information for test calls

Dear Ms. Schaefer:

Commissioners:

SUSAN F. CLARK

J. TERRY DEASON

JOE GARCIA DIANE K. KIESLING

JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

Commission staff have not received billing information from the recent testing of the Phone Company. Our records indicate 1+ test calls were placed February 5, 1997 and 0+ test calls were placed February 17th. Both sets of calls were made from (813) 737-3632. The calling card number is 123 123 123. Please provide the required billing information no later than June 1, 1997.

Rule 25-4.043, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries states: " The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning service or other complaints received by the Commission shall be furnished in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry."

Should you have any question please contact me at (904) 413-6578 or Fax at (904) 413-6579.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lewis

Engineer II

Bureau of Service Evaluation

for fews

State of Florida

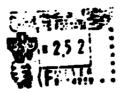
Hublic Service Commission

2540 Shamard Oak Bookevard

Tallahana:: Florida 32399-0050

P 263 573 013





STATE OF FLORIDA

Commissioners: JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHARMAN SURAN F. CLARK J. TERRY DEASON JOE GARCIA DEANE K. KREELING



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HAESELEER DIRECTOR (904) 413-6600

Public Service Commission

June 20, 1997

Ms. Tina Tecce Regulatory Affairs Manager The Phone Company 6805 Route 202 New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938

Re: Billing information for test calls

Dear Ms. Tecce:

Commission staff have not received billing information from the testing of The Phone Company. Our records indicate 1+ test calls were placed February 5, 1997 and 0+ test calls were placed February 17, 1997. Both sets of calls were made from (813) 737-3632. The calling card number is 123 123 123. Please provide the required billing information no later than July 5, 1997.

Rule 25-4.043, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries states: "The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning service or other complaints received by the Commission shall be furnished in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry."

Should you have any question please contact me at (904) 413-6578 or Fax at (904) 413-6579.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lewis Engineer II

Bureau of Service Evaluation

Ulisto Leus

Page 1

Date: 6/20/97

STATE OF FLORIDA



Ms. Ting Tecca
The Phone Company

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0850 FROM:

Clay Lewis

Fax: 904 4/3 6579

Voice: 904 4/3 6578

BF.

Billing into

Note:

Please respond by July 5, 1997 .

C. Lewis

STATE OF FLORIDA

Attachment 9
Page 2

Commissioners:
Julia L. Johnson, Chairman
Sutan F. Clark
J. Terry Deason
Joe Garcia
Diane K. Kiesling



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HAESELEER DIRECTOR (904) 413-6600

Public Service Commission

June 20, 1997

Ms. Tina Tecce Regulatory Affairs Manager The Phone Company 6805 Route 202 New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938

Re: Billing information for test calls

Dear Ms. Tecce:

Commission staff have not received billing information from the testing of The Phone Company. Our records indicate 1+ test calls were placed February 5, 1997 and 0+ test calls were placed February 17, 1997. Both sets of calls were made from (813) 737-3632. The calling card number is 123 123 123 123. Please provide the required billing information no later than July 5, 1997.

Rule 25-4.043, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries states: "The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning service or other complaints received by the Commission shall be furnished in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry."

Should you have any question please contact me at (904) 413-6578 or Fax at (904) 413-6579.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lewis

Engineer II

Bureau of Service Evaluation

STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HARSELEER DIRECTOR (904) 413-6600

Commissioners: JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHARMAN SUBAN F. CLARK J. TERRY DEASON JOE GARCIA DIANEK KEELING

Bublic Service Commission

May 30, 1997 CERTIFIED

Ms. Tina Schaefer The Phone Company 1776 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, Florida 33450-7007

Re: Billing information for test calls

Dear Ms. Schnefer:

Commission staff have not received billing information from the recent testing of the Phone Company. Our records indicate 1+ test calls were placed February 5, 1997 and 0+ test calls were placed February 17th. Both sets of calls were made from (813) 737-3632. The calling card number is 123 123 123. Please provide the required billing information no later than June 1, 1997.

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Should you have any question please contact me at (904) 413-6578 or Fax at (904) 413-6579.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lewis

Engineer II

Bureau of Service Evaluation

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Attachment 9 Page 4

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STATE OF FLORIDA

Attachment 10

Commissioners:
JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHARMAN
SURAN F. CLARK
J. TURRY DRASON
JOE GARCIA
DIANE K. KENLING



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS WALTER D'HAESELEER DIAECTOR (904) 413-6600

Bublic Service Commission

July 29, 1997 CERTIFIED

Ms. Tina Tecce Regulatory Affairs Manager The Phone Company 6805 Route 202 New Hope, Pennslyvania 18938

Re: July 17, 1997 Phone conversation concerning billing information

Dear Ms. Cross:

On May 30th, and June 20th staff requested billing information from our testing of The Phone Company's 1+ and O+ services. We have not received the requested information. Please provide the information by August 15th or provide a written response as to why The Phone Company has failed to provide the required billing information.

Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries states: "The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning service or other complaints received by the Commission shall be furnished in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry."

Should you have any question please feel free to contact Clayton Lewis at (904) 413-6578 or Fax at (904) 413-6579.

Day!

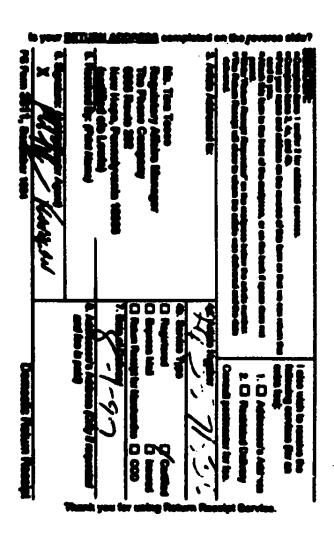
Don McDonald

U.S./Comm. Engineer Supervisor
Bureau of Service Evaluation

Encl

cc:

Clayton Lewis



August 7, 1997

Mr. Clayton Lowis State of Florida Public Service Commission Division of Communications Capital Circle Office Canter 2540 Shumard Caj: Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0050

Re: 0+ Test Calls for Tel-Save, Inc.

Door Mr. Lowis:

This letter is to inform you that we do not have any call records for 0+ calls made from the calling card number that was assigned to you. We use AT&T's network for these calls and they do not have any seconds of 0+ calls made from that calling card number.

We have never had any problems with 0+ cell records or billing in the past and we are not sure why the cells wouldn't show up in billing or cell records. We would be happy to easiet you in any way to regenerate the cells.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you will need additional information from us regarding these calls.

Sincerely,

Tine Toose

Regulatory Affairs Manager

Tel-Seve, Inc.

Their of Florid

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



Attachment 13
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
WALTER D'HARSELEER
DERECTOR
(904) 413-4600

Public Service Commission

August 29, 1997

Ms. Time Tocce
Regulatory Affairs Manager
The Phone Company
6805 Route 202
New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938

Dear Ms. Tecce:

The Florida Public Service Commission evaluated the quality of service from access lines presubscribed to your company during a comprehensive telephone service evaluation in GTE's Plant City exchange from January 21st thru February 17, 1997. In addition to measuring call completions, a series of test calls were generated to measure the timing of toll calls for billing purposes. Staff was unable to evaluate the 0+ calls generated over The Phone Company's network due to the lack of billing records.

On January 13, 1997 staffed notified The Phone Company of the evaluation and requested 0+ calling instruction. Staff contacted Ms. Time Scheefer by phone and fax requesting the calling instructions on January 23, 1997. Ms. Scheefer phoned and gave staff an access number, (1 800 DIAL USA), with a pin number, (123 123 123), to be used during the evaluation. Staff in the Tampa office received the original January 13th latter as returned mail due to an "insufficient address".

Staff evaluated The Phone Company's 1+ service on February 5th and the 0+ service on February 17th. After 3 months had passed and the bills had not been received, staff in the Talishasses office requested the billing records from Ms. Schaefer's office on May 30th. This letter was returned on June 9th to the Commission. The Phone Company filed new Linison information on June 12, 1997. On June 20th staff flowed a letter to your office requesting the billing records. On July 17th, staff again requested the billing information from you during a phone conversation. Staff requested the billing information for a third time on July 29th via certified letter. On August 5th, staff requested by fix the 1+ billing records. Through a phone conversation on August 5th, staff requested on explanation as to why the 0+ billing records were not available. The explanation was received on August 7th via fix stating that The Phone

Ms. Teccs August 29, 1997 Page 2

Company had no second of calls being placed over its network using the pin and access number provided to Commission staff. Staff finds this explanation unacceptable.

As a result, The Phone Company has failed to produce the billing records which appears to be a violation of Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, <u>Response to Commission Staff</u> <u>Inquiries</u>. The rule status: "The necessary replies to inquiries propounded by the Commission's staff concerning pervice or the complaints received by the Commission shall be firmished within filteen (15) days from the date of the Commission inquiry."

Furthermore, it also appears that The Phone Company is in violation of Rule 25-4.019, Florida Administrative Code, <u>Records and Beneris by General</u> which states: (1) Each utility shall furnish to the Commission at such times and in such form at the Commission may require, the results of any required tests and numerics of any required records. Therefore, staff will begin a proceeding before the Commission in which The Phone Company will be requested to Show Cause why it should not be fined.

Copies of the sequest letters are enclosed. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Clayton Lawis at (850) 413-6578 or FAX (850) 413-6579.

7 6

Don McDonald

U.S./Comm. Engineer Supervisor Bureau of Service Evaluation

Enclosures

ec: Alan Taylor

Clayton Lewis
Pile: OTE/DXC Busi-97



Page 1

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	•	Tel-Gove Heldings, I 6805 Route 202	.	•
		Nov Hope, PA 188	38	
	eral Telephone: Berlelow:	(215) 862-1500	Pec	Q19 602-1515
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MODERA DATE: 05/20/97

Attachment 14

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