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**BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In re: Proposed tariff filing )  
by GTE Florida Incorporated to )  
transfer a portion of the Sarasota )  
exchange into the Bradenton )  
exchange )

Docket No. 970990-TL  
Filed: December 24, 1997

**GTE FLORIDA INCORPORATED'S REQUEST  
FOR EXTENSION TO FILE DIRECT TESTIMONY**

GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL) asks the Commission to grant it an extension to file its direct testimony in this case until February 2, 1998. There are two principal reasons justifying the extension.

First, the Commission's existing procedural order in this docket, issued November 6, 1997 (Order no. PSC-97-1398-PCO-TL) sets December 30, 1997, as the date for filing GTEFL's testimony. However, GTEFL understands that an updated procedural schedule is to be issued, including the list of issues officially designated for resolution in this docket. Since testimony must be structured around the designated issues, parties are customarily not required to file testimony until the official issues list has been released. In a practical sense, GTEFL is reluctant to submit testimony, only to have to revise it later if it doesn't adequately address the issues identified. GTEFL thus believes it is more efficient, and more in keeping with Commission procedure, to submit testimony within a reasonable time after issuance of the procedural order setting the issues to be resolved.

Second, GTEFL believes there is a strong likelihood that this case will settle without the need for hearing and without the need for prefiled testimony. GTEFL has contacted Dr. McGinty, the protestant in this case, with a proposed settlement. Dr. McGinty is

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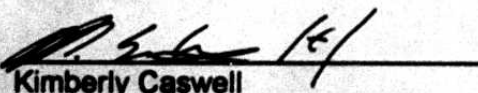
considering that settlement, but, GTEFL understands, cannot agree to it without consulting with his partner. Dr. McGinty has yet been unable to do so and, particularly considering the intervening Christmas holiday, it is not likely that GTEFL will receive a definitive answer on settlement before the testimony filing date. In the interest of avoiding unnecessary expenditure of Company and Commission resources, GTEFL believes the testimony filing date should be extended to accommodate continued settlement discussions.

GTEFL has proposed February 2 as the new testimony filing date because that is the date currently scheduled for submission of intervenors' direct testimony. Since the February 2 filing is direct, rather than rebuttal, testimony, there is no need for intervenors to receive it before they file their own testimony. Thus, it is reasonable for all parties to file testimony on February 2, if there remains any need for such testimony. This new date will have no effect on the currently scheduled hearing or other dates, and will allow parties to most efficiently and productively direct their resources to settlement of this matter.

For all the foregoing reasons, GTEFL asks the Commission to grant it an extension until February 2, 1998 to file direct testimony in this case.

Respectfully submitted on December 24, 1997,

By:



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Attorneys for GTE Florida Incorporated



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of GTE Florida Incorporated's Request for Extension to File Direct Testimony in Docket No. 970990-TL were sent via U.S. mail on December 24, 1997, to the parties listed below.

Mary Beth Keating, Staff Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Johnnie Copeland  
Sarasota Equine Association  
8325 Whiskey Pond Lane  
Sarasota, FL 34240



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**GTE SERVICE CORPORATION**

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December 24, 1997

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director  
Division of Records & Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 970990-TL  
Proposed tariff filing by GTE Florida Incorporated to transfer a portion  
of the Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton exchange

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed for filing an original and fifteen copies of GTE Florida Incorporated's Request for Extension to File Direct Testimony in the above matter. Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (813) 483-2617.

Very truly yours,

  
Kimberly Caswell

KC:tas  
Enclosures

A part of GTE Corporation

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Leg-1  
Sec-1  
Met-#2