

State of Florida



Public Service Commission  
CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

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COMMISSION  
CLERK

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**DATE:** OCTOBER 25, 2001

**TO:** DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION CLERK &  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (BAYÓ)

**FROM:** DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES (ISLER) *Dji*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA; B. KEATING) *MP*

**RE:** DOCKET NO. 010716-TI - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION OF INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CERTIFICATE NO. 2994 ISSUED TO NETWORK PLUS, INC. D/B/A  
HALE AND FATHER, INC. FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161,  
F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES.

**AGENDA:** 11/06/01 - REGULAR AGENDA - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY  
PARTICIPATE

**CRITICAL DATES:** NONE

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** NONE

**FILE NAME AND LOCATION:** S:\PSC\CMP\WP\010716.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- **08/23/92** - This company obtained Florida Public Service Commission Certificate No. 2994.
- **08/23/00** - In a separate proceeding, Docket No. 001209-TI was established for nonpayment of the 1999 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF). The company subsequently paid the past due fee, including penalty and interest, and proposed a settlement. On February 8, 2001, Order No. PSC-01-0356-AS-TI was issued, which accepted the company's \$100 settlement. In addition, the company proposed to pay future RAFs on a timely basis. The company paid the \$100 contribution and the docket was closed.

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- **12/12/00** - The Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services mailed the 2000 RAF notice. The due date was January 30, 2001.
- **02/21/01** - The Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services mailed a delinquent notice.
- **08/10/01** - Staff wrote the company and explained that a docket had been established and to contact staff if it was interested in resolving the docket.
- **08/14/01** - Mr. Garrett McGurrin called staff and requested the 2000 RAF return notice and the company's options to resolve this case. On the same date, staff wrote the company and faxed the 2000 RAF return notice.
- **08/27/01** - The Commission received the company's payment for the 2000 RAF. However, the company did not pay the statutory penalty and interest charges. The company reported revenues in the amount of \$5,650,212 for the period ended December 31, 2000.
- **08/29/01** - The Commission received the company's proposed settlement. The company requested that staff compute the penalty and interest and notify the company of the amount due.
- **09/11/01** - Staff faxed the company the penalty and interest amount past due.
- **09/21/01** - The Commission received the past due amount in full.

The Commission is vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.285, and 364.337, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

**DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

**ISSUE 1:** Should the Commission accept the settlement offer proposed by Network Plus, Inc. d/b/a Hale and Father, Inc. to resolve the apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. The Commission should accept the company's settlement proposal. Any contribution should be received by the Commission within ten business days from the date of the Commission Order and should identify the docket number and company name. The Commission should forward the contribution to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the company fails to pay in accordance with the terms of the Commission Order, Certificate No. 2994 should be canceled administratively. (Isler)

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, which implements Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, requires the payment of regulatory assessment fees by January 30 of the subsequent year for telecommunications companies, and provides for penalties and interest as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

After this docket was opened, but prior to staff filing a recommendation, the Commission received the company's payment for the outstanding regulatory assessment fee, including statutory penalty and interest charges, and a letter from the company which offered to pay a \$500 contribution and proposed to pay future RAFs on a timely basis. In addition, the company's settlement proposal included a waiver of objection to the administrative cancellation of the company's certificate in the event the settlement proposal is accepted and the company ultimately fails to comply with the terms of its offer.

This is the second docket established for the same rule violation. In the prior docket, No. 001209-TI, the company paid the past due amount and proposed a \$100 settlement. In addition, the company proposed to pay future RAFs on a timely basis. On February 8, 2001, Order No. PSC-01-0356-AS-TI was issued, which accepted the settlement. The company paid the \$100 contribution and the docket was closed. The recommended settlement amount in

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this docket is consistent with amounts the Commission has accepted for recent, similar violations.

Accordingly, staff believes the terms of the settlement agreement as summarized in this recommendation should be accepted. Any contribution should be received by the Commission within ten business days from the date of the Commission Order and should identify the docket number and company name. The Commission should forward the contribution to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the company fails to pay in accordance with the terms of the Commission Order, Certificate No. 2994 should be canceled administratively.

**ISSUE 2:** Should this docket be closed?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes, if the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this docket should be closed upon receipt of the \$500 contribution or cancellation of the certificate. (K. Peña; B. Keating)

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this docket should be closed upon receipt of the \$500 contribution or cancellation of the certificate.