

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff filing to )	DOCKET NO. 910534-TL
introduce Integrated Services Digital )	
Network (ISDN) - Basic Rate interface )	ORDER NO. 24722
offering by GTE FLORIDA, INCORPORATED )	
_____ )	ISSUED: 6/27/91

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman  
 J. TERRY DEASON  
 BETTY EASLEY  
 GERALD L. GUNTER  
 MICHAEL McK. WILSON

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS

BY THE COMMISSION:

On February 21, 1991, GTE Florida, Incorporated (GTEFL or the Company) filed tariff revisions to introduce its Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) - Basic Rate Interface offering. GTEFL is the first company in the state of Florida to tariff an ISDN offering. ISDN itself is not a service offering, but a different means of providing service. GTEFL has proposed a phase-in approach for implementing ISDN services.

ISDN can be thought of as a huge information pipe, based upon digital technology. ISDN will be capable of providing end-to-end digital communications and a full integration of technologies (circuit switching, private line, packet switching, etc.) and applications (voice, data, and image) over existing twisted-pair wiring. Services that today require multiple lines can be provided on a single line with ISDN. In North America, ISDN has two interfaces which are utilized for subscriber access to the integrated network: Basic Rate Interface and Primary Rate Interface.

The Basic Rate Interface (BRI) is also known as the 2B+D interface. The BRI is made up of three channels: two 64 kilobits per second (kbps) information channels (Bearer or "B" channels) and a third, one 16 kbps out-of-band signaling channel ("D" or Delta channel).

The Primary Rate Interface (PRI) is similar to currently available T1 carrier transmission facilities. The difference between a T1 and the PRI is the advantage of out-of-band signaling for PRI. Out-of-band signaling allows faster call setup and

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increases channel capacity. The PRI has a 23B+D format. As noted above, the "B" channels have a capacity of 64 kbps each and the "D" channel under PRI also has a 64 kbps capacity.

The difference between the BRI and PRI is capacity. The BRI with its three channels only has a capacity of 144 kbps, whereas the PRI has a capacity of 1.544 megabits per second (mbps). GTEFL has only proposed to offer a BRI with this filing; however, the Company indicated that a PRI offering may be filed in the fall of this year, pending adoption of industry standards.

GTEFL states that BRI is available now due to the recent adoption of industry BRI standards. These standards will enable end-to-end digital transmission and access integration, and establish standardization of points of interconnection over a single access line. The end-to-end digital connectivity eliminates the necessity for voice-band modems that utilize analog signal processing techniques. The Access integration refers to the fact that by utilizing a single ISDN - BRI link, a customer can access a wide variety of user information services such as voice, circuit switched data, and packet switched data over a single telephone line.

GTEFL highlights several key areas that will increase customer appeal for ISDN. These key attributes include accessibility, performance and cost effectiveness. In the area of accessibility, the ISDN wiring arrangement reduces wiring complexity since it makes use of existing twisted pair within the network and on the customer premises. For example, because ISDN eliminates the need for redundant wiring to the desk-top computer, a customer will be able to use one line for both voice and data transmission requirements. ISDN also reduces the need for coaxial cable which is more expensive to install and maintain. In addition, ISDN should simplify and reduce costs of moves and changes. ISDN lines also provide higher data speeds than analog telephone lines with modems. End-to-end digital connectivity offers better transmission quality with fewer errors.

The rate structure proposed by GTEFL for ISDN service consists of eight basic elements: ISDN - Basic Rate Interface Line (loop); ISDN Access; ISDN Multipoint Access; B-Voice Channel; B-Circuit Switched Data (B-CSD) Channel; B-Voice/CSD Channel; B-Packet Switched Data Channel; and D-Packet Switched Data Channel. These

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eight elements can be arranged in several configurations to best suit the customers' needs. There are both recurring and nonrecurring rates associated with the rate elements. Along with these rate elements, there are several feature packages available for ISDN service depending upon the desired channel configuration.

The rates developed for the ISDN rate elements were based on costs developed using Bellcore's Switching Cost Information System (SCIS). This is one of the industry's standard cost methodologies used to develop switching cost. The costs developed appear to be appropriate. The rates are priced above the SCIS costs and, therefore, appear to provide adequate levels of contribution.

ISDN services under this tariff will be offered where technologically available. GTEFL has indicated that the tariff will apply to customers requiring a minimum of 2 and maximum of 49 lines. Customers requiring over 49 lines will be handled on an individual case basis. A minimum service period of three months is also required by the tariff.

GTEFL's ISDN implementation will have a limited service area at first due to technical considerations. The current plan for office availability for ISDN services in GTEFL's territory is listed below:

1991

Tampa Main  
 Tampa University  
 Tampa Westside  
 Tampa Beach Park

1992

Tampa Ybor  
 St. Pete Main

1993

Sarasota Main  
 Clearwater - Largo  
 Tampa Sweetwater  
 Clearwater - Pinellas  
 St. Pete Bayou  
 Tampa East

GTEFL's ISDN filing has similar characteristics to tariffs filed for the same service in other jurisdictions. The rates for the services appear to cover their associated costs and provide some contribution. We have heard extensive testimony in the information services docket (Docket No. 880423-TL) that such a service is needed to insure the availability of information services in the future. Additionally, we have listened to the local exchange companies in other proceedings state that this type

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of network will allow them to compete more effectively and provide greater efficiency in the network. Accordingly, we shall approve GTEFL's tariff revisions with an effective date of June 18, 1991.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the tariff revisions (T-91-066) to introduce Integrated Services Digital Network - Basic Rate Interface filed by GTE Florida, Incorporated on February 21, 1991, are hereby approved as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed is no protest if filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 1991.

  
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STEVE TRIBBLE, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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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

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should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

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 July 18, 1991

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 sewer 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.