

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Tariff proposal to introduce) DOCKET NO. 910535-TL
ESSX Integrated Services Digital Network)
(ISDN) service by SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE) ORDER NO. 25167
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY)
ISSUED: 10/08/91

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
J. TERRY DEASON
MICHAEL MCK. WILSON

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS

BY THE COMMISSION:

On March 28, 1991, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell or the Company) filed tariff revisions to introduce its ESSX Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) - Basic Rate Interface offering. Southern Bell is the second company in the state of Florida to tariff an ISDN offering. Recently, we approved a similar offering by GTE Florida, Inc. in Docket No. 910534-TL. ISDN itself is not a service offering, but a different means of providing service. Southern Bell 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 increases channel capacity. The PRI has a 23B+D format. As noted

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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). Southern Bell has only proposed to offer ESSX 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.

Southern Bell states that ESSX 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.

Southern Bell 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 seven basic elements: Digital ESSX Service Common Equipment; Basic Rate Digital Subscriber Line (DSL); ISDN Loop; ISDN Bearer (B Channel) Alternative Services; Usage Charges; Features; and Network Access Registers (NARS). These seven 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.

Southern Bell sees ESSX ISDN as an addition to a customer's current Digital ESSX system instead of a replacement. The service will allow customers who may be currently subscribing to additional data services (i.e. AccuPulse and PulseLink) to use these services in conjunction with their Digital ESSX service. ESSX ISDN is not a replacement for Digital ESSX; rather, it is a more efficient use of the network that integrates data and voice traffic. The proposed tariff provides for the normal regulations and restrictions of Digital ESSX service.

ISDN services under this tariff will be offered where technologically available. Southern Bell will require subscribers with mixed or flat rate Digital ESSX service to choose circuit switched B-channels designated for use with mixed or flat rate systems. The B-channels will include a usage surcharge in lieu of the usage charges normally assessed. ESSX ISDN service subscribers with measured Digital ESSX service must choose circuit switched B-channels designated for use with all measured systems. Usage charges are applicable for circuit switched data and packet switched data for transmissions outside of the subscribers business group and outlined in the tariff sections A3 for circuit switched data and A29 for packet switched data.

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

1991

Gainesville Main	Lake Mary
Gainesville Northwest	Boca Raton Boca Teeca
Jacksonville - Beachwood	Boca Raton Main
Jacksonville - Clay Street	Ft. Lauderdale - Main Relief
Jacksonville - Southpoint	Ft. Lauderdale - Oakland
Jacksonville - Wesconnett	Ft. Lauderdale - Sawgrass
Mandarin Avenues	Ft. Lauderdale - Weston
Mandarin - Loretto	West Palm Bch. Haverhill
Miani - Airport	

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1991
Miami - Flagler
Miami - Grande
Miami - Palmetto
Miami - Red Road
Orlando - Azalea Park
Orlando - Magnolia
Orlando - Pinecastle

1992
Miami - Canal
Miami - Hialeah
Miami - Northside
Boca Raton - Sandalfoot

Southern Bell'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 heard local exchange companies in other proceedings state that this type of network will allow them to compete more effectively and provide greater efficiency in the network. Accordingly, we shall approve Southern Bell's tariff revisions with an effective date of October 1, 1991.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the tariff revisions (T-91-153) to introduce ESSX Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) service filed by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company on March 28, 1991, are hereby approved as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

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

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 8th
day of OCTOBER, 1991.


STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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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 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 10/29/91.

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.

M E M O R A N D U M

October 3, 1991

TO: DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING
FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (GREEN)
RE: DOCKET NO. 910535-TL

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AS

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Attached is an ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS in the above-referenced docket, which is ready to be issued.

ABG/mgf
Attachment
cc: Division of Communications

910535a.mgf

protest
due 10/29/91

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