

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Proposed tariff filing) DOCKET NO. 930193-TL
to introduce Signaling System 7) ORDER NO. PSC-93-0460-FOF-TL
interconnection by UNITED) ISSUED: 3/25/93
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF FLORIDA)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
THOMAS M. BEARD
SUSAN F. CLARK
JULIA L. JOHNSON
LUIS J. LAUREDO

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

BY THE COMMISSION:

United Telephone Company of Florida (United or the Company) filed proposed revisions to its Access Service tariff on December 30, 1992. The purpose of this filing is to introduce Signaling System 7 interconnection for interexchange carriers (IXCs) in United's territory, and to delete Billing Validation Service (BVS), encouraging United's BVS customers to migrate to the new validation standard, Line Information Data Base (LIDB).

Common Channel Signaling System 7 (SS7) is a call routing and management architecture that is becoming the standard backbone of the telecommunications industry. SS7 allows calls to be routed, verified, and processed through separate signal paths from the actual path, or bandwidth, of the call itself. This method is called out-of-band signaling. Out-of-band signaling allows the actual calling path to remain free until the complete path is verified as clear. Also, out-of-band signaling allows verification and processing of calls such as credit card calls or Caller ID-type functions through remote databases.

United proposes to allow SS7 interconnection with IXCs, so that customers can enjoy SS7 benefits on interLATA calls. It proposes access via 56 kilobit channels or 1.544 megabit channels. The charges for interconnection are identical to previously approved services requiring 56KB or 1.544MB channels.

United is proposing one new recurring charge and four new nonrecurring charges with this proposal. Its Port Charge is a \$485.00/port/month recurring element designed to recover costs associated with interconnecting IXCs to the Company's SS7 Signaling

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Transfer Points (STPs). United currently has two interconnected STPs in Florida, so an IXC could connect to either port to gain SS7 access to all of United's territory. The new nonrecurring charges are as follows:

1. **Trunk Conversion** - a \$50.52 per 24 channels nonrecurring charge for converting a carrier's trunks from multifrequency signaling to SS7 signaling or vice versa.
2. **End Office Rearrangement** - a \$63.15 per 24 channels nonrecurring charge for rearranging the termination of trunks from a non-SS7 office to an SS7-equipped office.
3. **Calling Party Number Parameter** - a \$21.05 nonrecurring charge applicable only when an IXC wishes to change its preference for this feature after initial service. A carrier may choose whether the calling party's number will be transmitted from the originating LEC or blocked by the LEC.
4. **Carrier Selection Parameter** - a \$21.05 nonrecurring charge also applicable only when an IXC wishes to change its preference for this feature after initial service. With this option a carrier can choose to know how the call was routed to it: whether the call was, for example, 1+, 0+, 10XXX, or not know how the call was routed.

United expects a minimal revenue impact from this filing. The Company regards this service as more of an infrastructure upgrade than a service, so it designed its rates to simply recover the incremental costs of providing the service. Traditionally, infrastructure upgrades were provided by local exchange companies without tariff or "direct" cost such as rate elements to customers. However, with the increasing levels of competition in current markets more companies are beginning to charge minimal rates for some infrastructure development. We have reviewed the cost summary provided by the Company, and we believe the rates will cover the incremental costs of provision.

United is the only LEC so far to put intrastate SS7 interconnection rates in its Access Tariff. GTE Florida Incorporated and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company also have SS7 interconnection, but so far they have chosen to provision it out of their interstate

tariffs. It is debatable which tariff is the proper place for this service. The major parts of most companies' networks, the databases and Signal Control Points, are located in other states. However, some companies such as United also have Signal Transfer Points in Florida. We believe it is correct for United to include charges for connection to its Florida-based facilities in its intrastate tariff.

United also proposes to delete its Billing Validation Service (BVS). BVS is a credit card verification service used to verify the billing of long distance calls. It was originally designed to be an interim service, ultimately to be replaced with Line Information Data Base (LIDB), an SS7-based service that essentially performs the same functions, as well as more advanced features and capabilities. United wishes to move its customers to LIDB, so it proposes to eliminate BVS altogether. The Company has reports that all present BVS customers are willing to migrate to LIDB. This tariff will allow SS7 to function end-to-end on calls from United's territory to another LEC's territory so equipped. It will also move existing BVS customers over to the newer and more advanced LIDB service.

We believe that United's tariff filing is appropriate. Both the introduction of SS7 and the deletion of BVS represent significant technological advances which will benefit users of the network. Additionally, it appears that the rates proposed by United for SS7 adequately recover the costs associated with providing the service. Accordingly, we hereby approve the tariff as filed.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the proposed tariff introducing Signaling System 7 interconnection to interexchange carriers and deleting Billing Validation Service by United Telephone Company of Florida is hereby approved, effective March 18, 1993. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

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

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 25th day of March, 1993.



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 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 April 15, 1993.

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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 wastewater 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.