

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request by St. Johns) DOCKET NO. 920667-TL
County Board of Commissioners) ORDER NO. PSC-93-0997-FOF-TL
for extended area service) ISSUED: 7/7/93
between the Green Cove Springs,)
Julington, and St. Augustine)
exchanges.)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
JULIA L. JOHNSON

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION
ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR EXTENDED
AREA SERVICE, REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF
HYBRID \$.25 PLAN, AND WITHDRAWING CONFIDENTIAL
TREATMENT OF DOCUMENTS NOS. 12500-92 AND 2128-93

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are adversely affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

BACKGROUND

This docket was initiated pursuant to Resolution No. 92-72, filed with this Commission by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners. The Resolution requested that we consider requiring implementation of extended area service (EAS) between the St. Augustine exchange and the Julington and Green Cove Springs exchanges. These exchanges are served by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell or the Company) and are all located within the Jacksonville LATA (local access transport area). The Julington and St. Augustine exchanges are located in St. Johns County, while the Green Cove Springs exchange is located primarily in Clay County, with approximately 509 access lines in St. Johns County.

DOCUMENT NO.
07191-93
7-7-93

By Order No. PSC-92-0871-PCO-TL, issued August 25, 1992, we directed Southern Bell to conduct traffic studies on these routes to determine whether a sufficient community of interest exists, pursuant to Rule 25-4.060, Florida Administrative Code.

By Order No. PSC-92-1461-CFO-TL, issued December 16, 1992, and amended December 23, 1992, we granted the Company's request for confidential treatment of its intraLATA traffic study. By Order No. PSC-93-0457-CFO-TL, issued March 25, 1993, we granted Southern Bell's request for confidential treatment of the remainder of the traffic studies.

Each of the involved exchanges currently has the following calling scope:

<u>EXCHANGE</u>	<u>ACCESS LINES</u>	<u>EAS LINES</u>	<u>EAS CALLING SCOPE</u>
Green Cove Springs	6,581	6,581	Orange Park ¹ , Julington ¹ , Jacksonville ¹ , Maxville ¹
Julington	2,871	381,568	Jacksonville, Orange Park
St. Augustine	20,568	25,750	Hastings, Jacksonville ² , Jacksonville Beach ² , Julington ² , Ponte Vedra ³

- ¹ Local Exception Area - Optional
Local Measured Service (Tier Calling)
- ² Enhanced Optional Extended Area Service (EOEAS)
- ³ \$.25 Plan

Current basic local service rates for the involved exchanges are shown below:

<u>Green Cove Springs</u>	
R-1	\$ 7.70
B-1	20.80
PBX	46.97

Julington

R-1	\$ 9.80
B-1	26.60
PBX	59.73

St. Augustine

R-1	\$ 8.40
B-1	22.90
PBX	51.59

Rule 25-4.060(2) requires a calling rate of at least three messages per access line per month (M/A/Ms) in cases where the petitioning exchange contains less than half the number of access lines as the exchange to which EAS is desired. This Rule further requires that at least 50% of the subscribers in the petitioning exchange make two or more calls per month to the larger exchange to qualify for traditional EAS. None of the routes met these requirements. Therefore, we find it appropriate to deny any further consideration of nonoptional, flat rate, two-way EAS along these routes at this time.

The calling rates on the Green Cove Springs to St. Augustine and the Julington to St. Augustine routes exhibit one-way calling volumes which are consistent with calling volumes seen in other EAS requests from rural communities for calling to the county seat. Accordingly, we find it appropriate to require implementation of the \$.25 hybrid plan between the Green Cove Springs and St. Augustine exchanges and the Julington and St. Augustine exchanges. This action is consistent our decisions in other recent EAS dockets with rural areas that had similar calling rates. Examples include Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Holmes, Okaloosa, Walton, Volusia, and Highlands counties.

The hybrid \$.25 plan has gained favor for several reasons. Among these are its simplicity, its message rate for residential customers, and the fact that it can be implemented as a local calling plan. In addition, the measured rates are preferred by business subscribers since business calls, on average, tend to be of short duration.

Southern Bell shall be required to implement the message rate plan of \$.25 per call for residential customers (regardless of call duration) on these routes. Calls by business customers shall be rated at \$.10 for the initial minute and \$.06 for each additional minute. These calls shall be furnished on a local, seven-digit

ORDER NO. PSC-93-0997-FOF-TL
DOCKET NO. 920667-TL
PAGE 4

dialed basis and be available in both directions. NonLEC pay telephone providers shall charge end users \$.25 per call, the same as any local call, and shall pay the standard measured usage rate to the LEC. Southern Bell shall implement this calling plan on these routes within six months of the date this Order becomes final.

Following implementation, Southern Bell shall file quarterly reports with our staff, broken down on a monthly basis, for a period of one year. These reports shall include a detailed analysis of the distribution of usage among subscribers, over each route, segregated between business and residential users, showing the number of customers making zero calls, one call, et cetera, through 25 calls, and in ten call increments thereafter, to 95 calls, and 96 or more calls. For each calling rate category, separately for residence and business, the report shall also include the associated total messages, minutes, revenue, and lines. Finally, Southern Bell shall provide a sum across all calling rate categories, separately for residence and business, of the total messages, minutes, revenue, lines, and customers. These reports shall also include a record of any customer contact regarding the \$.25 hybrid plan, along with the reason for such contact.

Finally, once the \$.25 hybrid plan is implemented on these routes, the routes become local and no longer subject to competition. Accordingly, it will be unnecessary to maintain the confidentiality of these routes once the \$.25 plan is implemented.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Resolution No. 92-72 filed by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is hereby denied to the extent outlined herein. It is further

ORDERED that if no proper protest is filed within the time frame set forth below, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company shall, within six months of the date this Order becomes final, implement a calling plan that complies with the terms and conditions set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the effective date of our actions described herein is the first working day following the date specified below,

ORDER NO. PSC-93-0997-FOF-TL
DOCKET NO. 920667-TL
PAGE 5

if no proper protest to this proposed agency action is filed within the time frame set out below. It is further

ORDERED that the traffic study data contained in Commission Documents Nos. 12500-92 and 2128-93 shall no longer be considered confidential when this Order becomes final. It is further

ORDERED that BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company shall file certain reports as detailed herein. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed at the conclusion of the protest period if no protest has been filed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 7th day of July, 1993.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

ABG

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 action proposed herein is preliminary in nature and will not become effective or final, except as provided by Rule

ORDER NO. PSC-93-0997-FOF-TL
DOCKET NO. 920667-TL
PAGE 6

25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.029(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a) and (f), 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 28, 1993.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become effective on the day subsequent to the above date as provided by Rule 25-22.029(6), Florida Administrative Code.

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 and effective 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 effective date of this order, 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.