

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for approval of ) DOCKET NO. 940747-TL  
tariff filing to reduce interest ) ORDER NO. PSC-94-0996-FOF-TL  
rates on customer deposits by ) ISSUED: August 18, 1994  
ST. JOSEPH TELEPHONE and )  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING  
TO REDUCE INTEREST RATES ON CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

BY THE COMMISSION:

In Docket No. 930385-PU, Order No. PSC-94-0394-FOF-PU issued April 7, 1994, the Commission amended section 25-4.109(5), Florida Administrative Code. Section 25-4.109(5)(a) states in pertinent part:

"Each telephone company which requires deposits to be made by its customers shall pay a minimum interest on such deposits of 6 percent per annum. The company shall pay an interest rate of 7 percent per annum on deposits of nonresidential customers qualifying under subsection (4) when the utility elects not to refund such deposit after 23 months."

In response to the Commission's Order, St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Company of Florida (St. Joseph) filed a tariff on July 5, 1994, to reduce the interest rate for customer deposits from eight percent (8%) to six percent (6%) for all subscribers from the date the deposit is received through the first twenty-three (23) months the deposits are retained. St. Joseph also proposed to lower the interest rate from nine percent (9%) to seven percent (7%) for nonresidential subscribers whose customer deposits St. Joseph elects not to refund after twenty-three (23) months. In addition, St. Joseph deleted the following language from its tariff: "The company will pay 9 percent per annum on deposits of nonresidential customers with satisfactory payment history until the Commission sets a new interest rate in a subsequent rate proceeding of the Company."

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Upon consideration, we find that St. Joseph's tariff filing to reduce interest rates on customer deposits should be approved. The reduction in interest rates is consistent with our decision in Order No. PSC-94-0394-FOF-PU.

It is therefore,

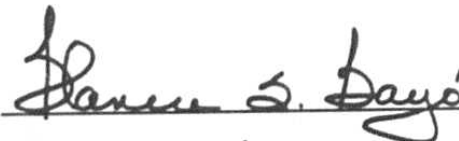
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the tariff filing by St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Company of Florida (St. Joseph) to reduce interest rates on customer deposits be approved as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the tariff shall be effective September 3, 1994. It is further

ORDERED that, unless a person whose interests are substantially affected by the tariff approved herein files a petition in the form and by the date specified in the Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review, this Order shall become final and this docket shall be closed on the following date. It is further

ORDERED that, if a protest is filed on or before the date set forth in the Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review, this tariff shall remain in effect, with any increase held subject to refund pending the resolution of the protest.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 18th day of August, 1994.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

MMB

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 September 8, 1994.

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.