

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for approval of) DOCKET NO. 940929-TL
tariff filing to reduce interest) ORDER NO. PSC-94-1240-FOF-TL
rates on customer deposits by) ISSUED: October 11, 1994
SOUTHLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY.)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
JOE GARCIA
JULIA L. JOHNSON
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, Southland Telephone Company (Southland) filed a tariff on August 23, 1994. Southland proposed 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 for all deposits it holds for a period exceeding six (6) months. Southland also proposed to lower the interest rate from nine percent (9%) to seven percent (7%) for nonresidential subscribers whose customer deposits it elects not to refund after twenty-three (23) months. In addition, Southland deleted the following language from its tariff: "The company shall pay nine percent per annum on deposits of nonresidential customers

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until the Commission sets a new interest rate in a subsequent rate proceeding of the company."

Upon consideration, we find that Southland'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 Southland Telephone Company to reduce interest rates on customer deposits be approved as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this tariff shall be effective October 22, 1994. It is further

ORDERED that if a timely protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 11th day of October, 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, 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on November 1, 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.