

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Proposed Tariff Filing) DOCKET NO. 961502-TL
to Introduce Digital Centrex) ORDER NO. PSC-97-0052-FOF-TL
Service by Northeast Telephone) ISSUED: January 14, 1997
Company of Florida, Inc. (T-96-)
1043, filed 12/2/96))
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
J. TERRY DEASON
JOE GARCIA
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF MODIFICATION

BY THE COMMISSION:

On December 2, 1996, Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc. (the Company) filed a proposed tariff modification to introduce Digital Centrex Service. The Company's Centrex Service is a central office-based business communications service which provides capabilities similar to those offered by a private branch exchange (PBX). Unlike a PBX, however, Centrex does not require that switching equipment be located on the customer's premises.

The Centrex Service will integrate all of a business customer's lines into a single telecommunications system. The service offers a myriad of features which, in combination, perform the following functions: 1. Direct Inward Dialing (DID) and Direct Outward Dialing provide calling to and from stations without the assistance of an attendant; 2. Business Group Dialing Plan enables a Centrex group to have a unique dialing scheme which includes Intercom Dialing, access to an attendant, private network, and special facilities using 1 to 5 digit codes; 3. Distinctive Alerting/Call Waiting Indication allows a station user to determine the source of incoming calls by the Distinctive Ringing pattern or the Call Waiting tone; 4. Dial Access to Special CPE Circuits provides access to special customer-provided equipment, such as paging equipment, code calling equipment, dictation, and radio paging equipment by dialing an intercom or access code; 5. Network Access Registers (NARs) restrict the number of simultaneous calls between the Centrex group and the public network; and 6. Off-Premises Stations enable secondary or additional business locations to access the same Centrex features and services as the main business location.

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The company's proposed filing will be incorporated under Section A13 in its General Subscriber Service Tariff. This service offering will initially be available to subscribers served by the Macclenny and Blackwell host offices, as well as the Sanderson and Glen St. Mary remote offices. These offices have new digital switches that can support the Centrex Service.

Northeast's proposed Centrex rates are consistent with the rates that have been approved for other LECs with similar basic feature packages. The company contends that the proposed rates will not lead to unwarranted migration from its B1, Rotary, and PBX services. The company further asserts that the Centrex rates are designed to create an attractive alternative for customers whose service needs are best satisfied by Centrex. We, therefore, find that the proposed rates for the Centrex Service are appropriate.

Based on the foregoing, we approve Northeast's tariff modification introducing Centrex Service. The addition of this service will allow the company to provide a service at rates comparable those charged by other LECs for similar services.

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc.'s proposed tariff modification to introduce Digital Centrex Service is hereby approved, effective January 7, 1997. It is further

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

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

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 14th
day of January, 1997.

Blanca S. Bayó

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, 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, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on February 4, 1997.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

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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.