

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Determination of the cost of basic local telecommunications service, pursuant to Section 364.025, Florida Statutes.

DOCKET NO. 980696-TP  
ORDER NO. PSC-98-1406-CFO-TP  
ISSUED: October 21, 1998

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

In accordance with the new Chapter 98-277, General Laws of Florida, the Commission is required, among other things, to study and report to the Legislature, by February 15, 1999, its conclusions regarding the cost of basic local telecommunications service. In order to effectuate the timely completion of the required report, the Commission has established this matter as Docket No. 980696-TP, Determination of the cost of basic local telecommunications service, pursuant to section 364.025, Florida Statutes.

On August 3, 1998, Sprint-Florida, Incorporated (Sprint-Florida) filed a request for confidential classification of Document No. 08173-98, which contains information contained in the Exhibit to the testimony of Kent Dickerson filed in this matter. Sprint-Florida asserted that vendor pricing information of this type has previously been ordered kept confidential by the Commission. Sprint-Florida asserted that pricing information contains confidential information that should be exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes. Sprint-Florida asks, therefore, that this information be granted confidential treatment, in accordance with Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code.

Florida law presumes that documents submitted to governmental agencies shall be public records. The only exceptions to this presumption are the specific statutory exemptions provided in the law and exemptions granted by governmental agencies pursuant to the specific terms of a statutory provision. This presumption is based on the concept that government should operate in the "sunshine."

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSO-RECORDS/REPORTING

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Rule 25-22.006(4)(c), Florida Administrative Code, provides that it is the Company's burden to demonstrate that the documents fall into one of the statutory examples set out in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, or to demonstrate that the information is proprietary confidential information, the disclosure of which will cause the Company or its ratepayers harm.

Specifically, Sprint-Florida asserts that the information contained in this document includes four (4) vendor discount numbers. Sprint-Florida maintains that public disclosure of this information would hinder its ability to negotiate conditions favorable to Sprint.

Section 364.183(3), Florida Statutes, states that proprietary confidential business information is:

[O]wned or controlled by the person or company, is intended to be and is treated by the person or company as private in that the disclosure of the information would cause harm to the ratepayers or the person's or company's business operations, and has not been disclosed unless disclosed pursuant to a statutory provision, an order of a court or administrative body, or private agreement that provides that the information will not be released to the public.

Based on the definition of proprietary confidential business information in Section 364.183(3), Florida Statutes, it appears that the information for which Sprint-Florida seeks confidential classification is information that, if disclosed, would cause harm to the company or its ratepayers because disclosure would violate Section 364.24, Florida Statutes. Thus, this information qualifies as proprietary business information under Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code. It shall, therefore, be granted confidential treatment in accordance with those provisions.

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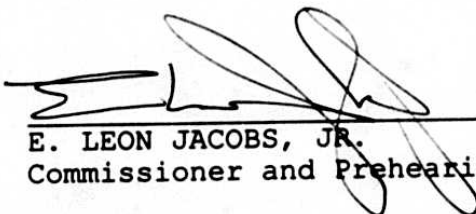
It is therefore

ORDERED by Commissioner E. Leon Jacobs, Jr., that Sprint-Florida, Incorporated's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 08173-98 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED that pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, any confidentiality granted to the material specified herein shall expire eighteen (18) months from the date of the issuance of this Order in the absence of a renewed request for confidentiality pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes. It is further

ORDERED that this Order will be the only notification by the Commission to the parties concerning the expiration of the confidentiality time period.

By ORDER of Commissioner E. Leon Jacobs, Jr., as Prehearing Officer, this 21st day of October, 1998.

  
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E. LEON JACOBS, JR.  
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

( S E A L )

CBW

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.038(2), Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.