

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by TTI National, Inc. for waiver of Rule 25-4.118, F.A.C., Interexchange Carrier Selection, for purchase of customer base of Minimum Rate Pricing, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 000825-TI
ORDER NO. PSC-00-2198-PAA-TI
ISSUED: November 21, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER
APPROVING WAIVER OF INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIER SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

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 substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

On July 7, 2000, we received from TTI National, Inc. (TTI) a Petition seeking a waiver of the interexchange carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. TTI is a certificated interexchange carrier (IXC) operating in Florida. The company informed us that it had agreed to purchase the wireline customers of Minimum Rate Pricing, Inc. (MRP).

TTI has informed us that upon our approval of this petition, TTI and MRP will send out a joint letter to all MRP's wireline customers notifying them of the upcoming transfer to TTI at

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comparable or lower rates, with no switching fees and no interruption of service. The customers will also be notified that they are free to change carriers if they are not satisfied. TTI has also stated that prior to the transfer a "Welcome" letter will be sent to remind customers that there will be no interruption of service, rates will not increase, and that no transfer or switching fees will apply. The "Welcome" letter will also provide the former MRP customers with an 800 number to assist them if they have any questions regarding the transfer of their service.

The basis for seeking a waiver is set forth in Rule 25-24.455(4), Florida Administrative Code. This Commission may consider whether the petition is in the public interest, whether market forces obviate the need for the provision in a particular instance, and whether reasonable alternative regulatory methods may serve the same purpose. Rule 25-24.490, Florida Administrative Code, makes this waiver provision applicable by incorporating Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, under Section 25-24, Florida Administrative Code.

Pursuant to Rule 25-4.118(1), Florida Administrative Code, the provider of a customer shall not be changed without the customer's authorization. Rule 25-4.118(2), Florida Administrative Code, provides that an IXC shall submit a change request only if one of the following has occurred:

- (a) The provider has a letter of agency from the customer requesting the change;
- (b) The provider has received a customer-initiated call for service;
- (c) A third party firm has verified the customer's requested change.

Rule 25-24.455(4), Florida Administrative Code, states:

An interexchange company may petition for a waiver of any provision of this Part. The Commission may grant a waiver to the extent that it determines that it is consistent with the public interest to do so. The Commission may grant the petition in whole or part, may limit the waiver to certain geographic areas and/or may impose reasonable alternative regulatory requirements on

the petitioning company. In disposing of a petition, the Commission may consider:

- (a) The factors enumerated in Section 364.337(2), Fla. Statutes; [Now found in Section 364.337(4), F.S., 1999.]
- (b) The extent to which competitive forces may serve the same function as, or obviate the necessity for, the provision sought to be waived; and
- (c) Alternative regulatory requirements for the company which may serve the purposes of this Part.

Pursuant to Rule 25-24.490, Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is incorporated into Chapter 25-24, and applies to IXCs.

We believe that in this instance it is in the public interest to waive the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. The companies have provided for a seamless transition while ensuring that the affected customers understand available choices with the least amount of disruption to the customers. The customers will receive ample notification of the transfer and have the opportunity not to participate. If prior authorization is required in this event, customers may fail to respond to a request for authorization, neglect to select another carrier, and lose their long distance service. Furthermore, we believe that granting this waiver will avoid unnecessary slamming complaints during this transition. Accordingly, the interexchange carrier selection requirements in Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, are hereby waived for the TTI purchase of MRP customer accounts.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Petition by TTI National, Inc. seeking a waiver of the interexchange carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code for the purchase of the customer base of Minimum Rate Pricing, Inc. is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form

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provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this Docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 21st day of November, 2000.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

By: Kay Flynn
Kay Flynn, Chief
Bureau of Records

(S E A L)

CLF

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 that is available under Section 120.57, 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 will be granted or result in the relief sought.

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Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, 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 December 12, 2000.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a consummating order.

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.