

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Joint petition for waiver of carrier selection requirement of Rule 25-4.118, F.A.C., to facilitate transfer of intraLATA service customers from BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. (holder of IXC Cert. No. 5241) to Broadwing Telecommunications Inc. (holder of IXC Cert. No. 3178).

DOCKET NO. 020540-TI
ORDER NO. PSC-02-1001-PAA-TI
ISSUED: July 25, 2002

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

LILA A. JABER, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
BRAULIO L. BAEZ
MICHAEL A. PALECKI
RUDOLPH "RUDY" BRADLEY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION
ORDER GRANTING WAIVER
OF RULE 25-4.118, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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.

CASE BACKGROUND

On June 19, 2002, we received a joint petition from BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. (Bell LD) and Broadwing Telecommunications Inc. (Broadwing) seeking a waiver of the carrier selection requirements in Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, for the transfer of certain long distance customers from Bell LD to Broadwing.

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The customers to be transferred are those 800 service subscribers who are served by Bell LD for intraLATA service and Broadwing for interLATA. Only the intraLATA service for these customers would be switched. Approximately 1,000 customers would be affected by this transfer. According to the petition, Broadwing will provide duplicate services at the same rates that are currently provided by Bell LD.

We are vested with jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Sections 364.337 and 364.603, Florida Statutes.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Rule 25-4.118(1), Florida Administrative Code, a customer's carrier cannot be changed without the customer's authorization. Rule 25-4.118(2), Florida Administrative Code, provides that a carrier 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.

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.

Rule 24-24.455(4), Florida Administrative Code, reads as follows:

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(4), Fla. Statutes;
- (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 may serve the purpose of this Part.

We find that in this instance it is in the public interest to waive the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. Broadwing has attested that it has provided for a seamless transition while ensuring that the affected customers understand available choices with the least amount of disruption to the customers. We have reviewed the notice that will be sent to the Bell LD customers. The customers will receive ample notification of the transfer, and should not experience any interruption of service, rate increase, or switching fees.

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, we find that the carrier selection requirements in Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, shall be waived in this instance.

Based on the foregoing, it is

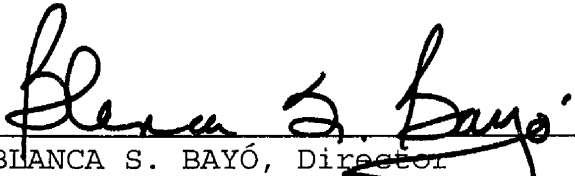
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the carrier selection requirements in Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, are waived in this instance. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036, 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

ORDER NO. PSC-02-1001-PAA-TI
DOCKET NO. 020540-TI
PAGE 4

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

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 25th day of July, 2002.



BIANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of the Commission Clerk
and Administrative Services

(S E A L)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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

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.

ORDER NO. PSC-02-1001-PAA-TI
DOCKET NO. 020540-TI
PAGE 5

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 the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on August 15, 2002.

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/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.