

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
FLETCHER BUILDING  
101 EAST GAINES STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

MEMORANDUM

OCTOBER 3, 1991

TO : DIRECTOR OF RECORDS AND REPORTING

FROM : DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS [CIMERMAN, WIDELL] *RJC*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES [GREEN] *HP* *SAS*

RE : DOCKET NO. 900913-FL-EAS - PETITION BY 597 PREFIX  
SUBSCRIBERS FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE FROM INDIANTOWN  
EXCHANGE TO STUART EXCHANGE.

AGENDA: OCTOBER 15, 1991 - CONTROVERSIAL - PARTIES MAY  
PARTICIPATE

PANEL: FULL COMMISSION

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

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CASE BACKGROUND

This docket was initiated pursuant to a petition filed with this Commission by Ann E. Peterson on behalf of 154 Indiantown Telephone System subscribers. The petition was filed November 8, 1990. The petition requested implementation of EAS service between the Indiantown exchange and the Stuart exchange. The Indiantown exchange is served by Indiantown Telephone System, Inc. and the Stuart exchange is served by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. Both of the exchanges are located in the Southeast LATA. Attachment A is a map of the involved exchanges. Order No. 23878, issued December 13, 1990 required the companies to conduct traffic studies on these routes. The Indiantown/Stuart route had sufficient traffic volume to order a survey for flat rate, two-way, nonoptional EAS. Order No. 24607 issued June 3, 1991 required Indiantown Telephone to survey their subscribers on the 25/25 plan. The purpose of this recommendation is to report the survey results. Attachment B is a copy of the survey letter and ballot.

The Indiantown exchange is composed mainly of a sparsely populated rural area dealing mainly in agricultural pursuits. Indiantown is on the threshold of more growth than the past decades have seen. Several industrial concerns, such as Bay State Milling Company, Eterna Roof Tiles, Inc. and Tampa Farm Service, Inc. have recently moved to Indiantown. In addition Caulkins Grove operates a large plant, which produces orange juice concentrate, and Florida

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Power and Light operates two fossil fuel plants on the outskirts of the exchange.

Stuart is the county seat of Martin County and offers medical facilities, professional services, retail establishments, and educational and entertainment opportunities which are unavailable in Indiantown. Indiantown residents conduct most of their commercial activities in Stuart since Indiantown has not yet reached sufficient population to support many retail and service outlets. Students living in Indiantown attend the South Fork schools once they progress beyond the eighth grade. The school complex is located in the Stuart exchange. County governmental offices are also located in the Stuart exchange.

INTEREXCHANGE DAYTIME TOLL RATES			
TO/FROM	MILEAGE	INITIAL MINUTE	ADDITIONAL MINUTE
Indiantown - Stuart	18	\$.28	\$.16
Stuart - Indiantown	18	\$.18	\$.12

**DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

**ISSUE 1:** Based on the results of the survey, should the Commission order Indiantown Telephone System, Inc. and Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to implement flat-rate, two-way, nonoptional EAS for toll free calling between the Indiantown exchange and the Stuart exchange?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. Since the survey passed, the Commission should order Indiantown Telephone System, Inc. and Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to implement flat-rate, two-way, nonoptional EAS for toll free calling between the Indiantown exchange and the Stuart exchange at the rates shown in the staff analysis. This service should be implemented as soon as possible but no later than six (6) months from the date of the Commission's final order.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

The results of the survey are as follows:

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Ballots Mailed	2532	100.00%
Ballots Returned	1805	71.29%
Ballots Not Returned	727	28.71%
For EAS	1163	45.93%
Against EAS	626	24.73%
Invalid	16	.63%

The rules governing EAS proceedings outline two methods by which an EAS survey may pass. The first method is contained in Rule 25-4.063 (5)(a), F.A.C. which requires a majority of all eligible voters to vote favorably in order for the survey to pass. A second method by which a survey may pass is described in rule 25-4.063 (5)(b), F.A.C. This rule states that a survey will pass if "[s]ixty (60%) percent of the respondents in each exchange vote favorably and at least seventy (70%) percent of all subscribers in each exchange required to be surveyed respond." Under this rule, 1773 ballots would have been required to be returned with 1064 of those ballots voting favorably in order for the survey to pass. Since 1805 subscribers responded to the survey and 1163 of those respondents voted favorably, the survey passed under Rule 25-4.063 (5)(b), F.A.C.

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The Indiantown subscribers were surveyed at the following rates under the 25/25 plan with regrouping:

R-1 \$9.00                      B-1 \$21.13                      PBX \$42.25

Therefore, Indiantown Telephone should be ordered to implement flat-rate, nonoptional EAS for toll free calling from the Indiantown exchange to the Stuart exchange at these rates. Southern Bell should be ordered to implement flat-rate, nonoptional EAS for toll free calling from the Stuart exchange to the Indiantown exchange with no increase in rates for Stuart subscribers. This service should be implemented as soon as possible but no later than six (6) months from the date of the Commission's final order.

**ISSUE 2:** Should this docket be closed?

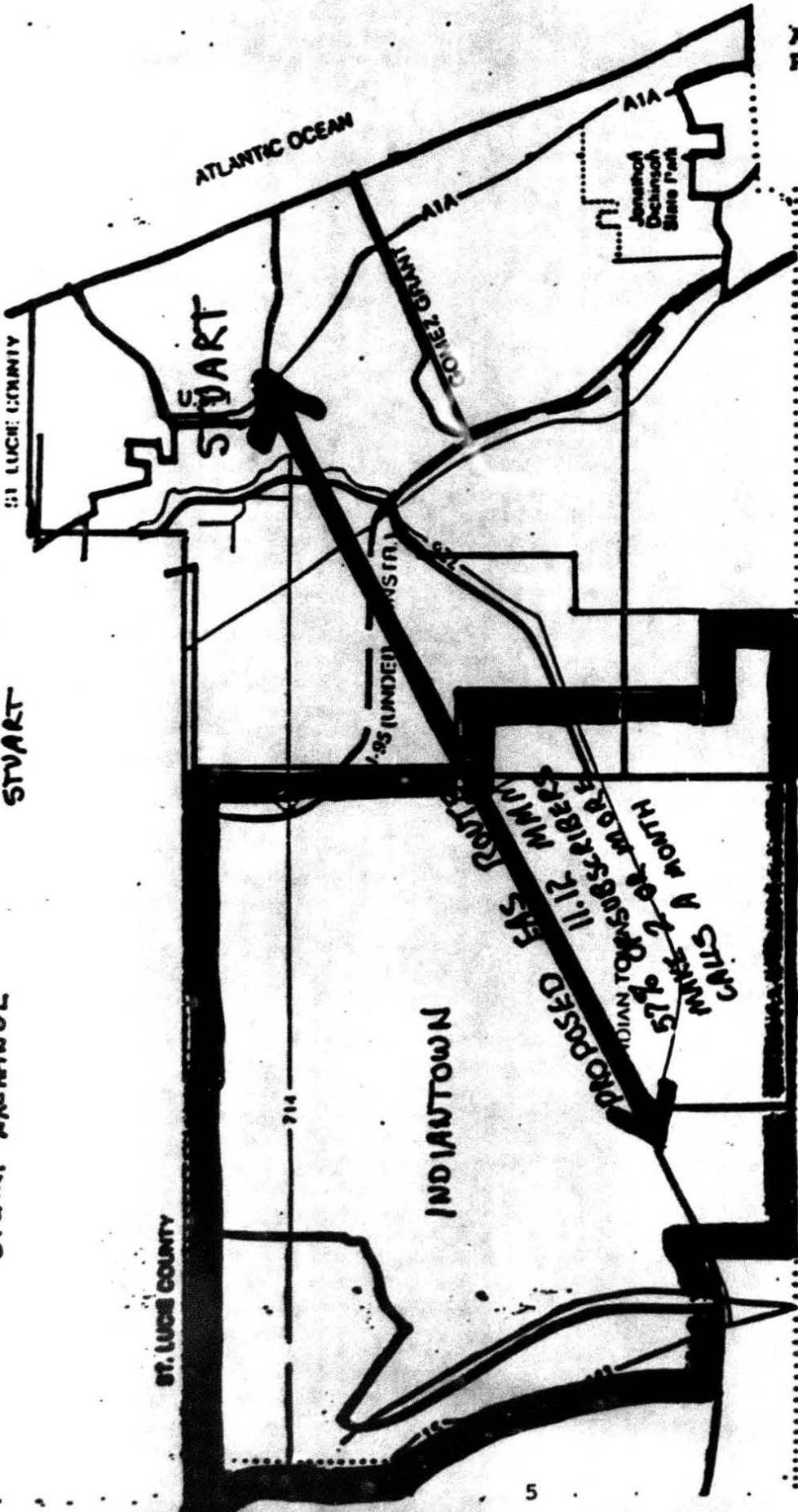
**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. This docket should be closed after the expiration of the protest period if no protest is filed in a timely manner.

MARTIN COUNTY

Docket No 900913-TL  
597 SUBSCRIBERS PETITION FOR  
FAS BETWEEN INDIANTOWN AND  
STUART

INDIANTOWN EXCHANGE

STUART EXCHANGE



**Letter to Indiantown Telephone System, Inc. Subscribers**

(date)

**Dear Customer:**

Several of our customers have petitioned the Florida Public Service Commission to eliminate the long-distance charges on calls between Indiantown (exchange 597) and Stuart (exchanges 220, 221, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 and 590). The elimination of these long-distance charges will increase your basic monthly rates as shown below:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Residence	\$ 5.05	\$ 9.00
Business	11.49	21.13
Rotary Lines	19.24	29.28
PBX trunks	30.00	42.25

The Florida Public Service Commission has requested that you vote for or against this change. If 50% or more of our total customers vote FOR the change, we will:

1. Eliminate the long-distance charges between Indiantown and Stuart.
2. Increase the basic monthly rates.

If 50% or more of our total customers do NOT vote FOR the change, we will:

1. Continue the long-distance charges between Indiantown and Stuart
2. Not increase the basic monthly rates at this time.

As you can see, your vote is very important. Please complete, sign and mail the enclosed ballot directly to the Florida Public Service Commission prior to (insert date).

Sincerely,

Indiantown Telephone System Inc.

(Véase el dorso para la versión española.)

**BALLOT**  
(date)

To: Florida Public Service Commission

I have read the letter dated (insert date) from Indiantown Telephone System, Inc., relating to the provision of calling without incurring a long distance charge between the Indiantown and Stuart exchanges. I understand that if toll charges are eliminated my local service rate will increase as shown in the letter. I am the person responsible for the telephone account below.

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on the account) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Only signed ballots with complete information below will be counted. (Comments are optional.)

**CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE BELOW**

- ( ) FOR increasing the local calling area.
- ( ) AGAINST increasing the local calling area.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballots must be returned by (insert date) to be counted.

(Véase el dorso para la versión española.)

**Carta Dirigida a los Clientes de Indiantown Telephone System, Inc.**

**(fecha)**

**Estimado cliente:**

Varios clientes nuestros han solicitado a la Florida Public Service Commission que eliminara los cobros de larga distancia entre Indiantown y los teléfonos en Stuart que comienzan con los números 220, 221, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 ó 590. El resultado de la eliminación de estos cobros de larga distancia será que la tarifa básica por mes se aumente como a continuación:

	<b>Presente</b>	<b>Propuesto</b>
Residencia	\$ 5.05	\$ 9.00
Negocios	11.49	21.13
Rotary Lines	19.24	29.28
PBX trunks	30.00	42.25

La Florida Public Service Commission ha solicitado que Ud. votara a favor de o en contra de este cambio propuesto.

- Si el 50% o más de todos nuestros clientes votan **A FAVOR** del cambio,
1. Eliminaremos el cobro de larga distancia entre Indiantown y Stuart.
  2. Aumentaremos las tarifas básicas mensuales.

- Si el 50% o más de todos nuestros clientes votan **EN CONTRA** del cambio,
1. Continuaremos los cobros de larga distancia para llamadas entre Indiantown y Stuart.
  2. No aumentaremos las tarifas básicas mensuales en este momento.

Como puede apreciar, su voto es sumamente importante. Favor de llenar, firmar y enviar la balota adjunta directamente a la Florida Public Service Commission antes del (insert date)

**Atentamente,**

**Indiantown Telephone System, Inc.**

**(See other side for English version.)**



**BALOTA**  
**(fecha)**

**A: Florida Public Service Commission**

Yo he leído la carta adjunta (fecha) del Indiantown Telephone System, Inc., relacionada a abastecer llamadas telefónicas entre Indiantown y Stuart sin incurrir en cargos de larga distancia. Yo entiendo que si se eliminará estos cobros de larga distancia, mi tarifa de servicio local incrementará como indicado en la carta adjunta. Yo soy la persona responsable por la cuenta telefónica que sigue:

Número telefónico \_\_\_\_\_ Firma \_\_\_\_\_

Apellido (tal como aparece en la cuenta) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTA: Solo serán consideradas las balotas firmadas con toda la información solicitada.**  
**(Sus comentarios son opcionales.)**

**INDIQUE SU PREFERENCIA ABAJO:**

- EN FAVOR de incrementar el área local de llamadas.
- EN CONTRA de incrementar el área local de llamadas.

Comentarios: \_\_\_\_\_

**Se deben devolver las balotas antes del (fecha) para contarlas.**

**(See other side for English version.)**

**BALOTA**  
(fecha)

**A: Florida Public Service Commission**

Yo he leído la carta adjunta (fecha) del Indiantown Telephone System, Inc., relacionada a abastecer llamadas telefónicas entre Indiantown y Stuart sin incurrir en cargos de larga distancia. Yo entiendo que si se eliminará estos cobros de larga distancia, mi tarifa de servicio local incrementará como indicado en la carta adjunta. Yo soy la persona responsable por la cuenta telefónica que sigue:

Número telefónico \_\_\_\_\_ Firma \_\_\_\_\_

Apellido (tal como aparece en la cuenta) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTA: Solo serán consideradas las balotas firmadas con toda la información solicitada.  
(Sus comentarios son opcionales.)**

**INDIQUE SU PREFERENCIA ABAJO:**

- ( ) EN FAVOR de incrementar el área local de llamadas.
- ( ) EN CONTRA de incrementar el área local de llamadas.

Comentarios: \_\_\_\_\_

**Se deben devolver las balotas antes del (fecha) para contarlas.**

**(See other side for English version.)**