

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

In re: Proposed filing to make defini-)	DOCKET NO. 910965-TL
nitional changes to reflect the use of)	
technology by SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE)	ORDER NO. 25325
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY)	
<hr/>		ISSUED: 11/12/91

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman
 SUSAN F. CLARK
 J. TERRY DEASON
 BETTY EASLEY
 MICHAEL MCK. WILSON

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

BY THE COMMISSION:

Southern Bell proposes to make definitional changes to its Access, Private Line and General Subscriber Service Tariffs to bring the tariffs more in line with current technology. These revisions will change the current definitions of host office, remote switching modules/remote switching systems and to the term wire center.

Currently, a wire center is defined as a location within a specific geographical area in which customers within that area gain network access for local service. In the past, network access for a local exchange company has been provided by a switch. Therefore, wire centers have been considered to be switching locations. Southern Bell wants to include nonswitch based equipment in the wire center definition when a remote terminal is connected to a host switch, and the remote terminal has the presence of it's own NXX.

Wire centers are used as points of measurement for mileage sensitive rates in the private line and ESSX tariffs. An ESSX customer is billed mileage charges from the wire center to the customer premises. A private line customer is billed interoffice transport mileage between wire centers.

Advances in fiber optic transport technology and improved subscriber carrier equipment make it possible for a switch to be replaced with a remote terminal in certain applications. Under the current definition, that remote terminal location would no longer be considered a wire center, and therefore could have an impact on the customers' bills for services that are rated from a wire center. An example of this scenario might be in a rural area where the local switch is obsolete and a new switch is not economically justified. An option might be to install a less expensive remote

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terminal and feed off of a more sophisticated host switch already in place. With the proposed definitional change, the absence of a switch in that location would be transparent to the end user.

Initially, we had concerns with the concept of nonswitching equipment ever being considered a wire center. If the Company were to add a remote terminal between an existing wire center and a group of ESSX customers, we were concerned that this would lower the mileage charges and give Southern Bell a competitive advantage over a PBX customer. In the case of private line it could raise the customer's bill due to an increase in interoffice mileage. However, Southern Bell proposed language which provides that a remote terminal must possess its own NXX in order to be considered a wire center. Thus, the remote terminal can take the place of a switch at a current wire center and retain the NXX for that geographic area. If the NXX is not retained, but shared with a host office, then that location will not be considered a wire center.

The Company states that these changes are for anticipated growth, and that it has no plans to replace an existing wire center with nonswitch-based equipment or to create any new wire centers within Florida. This architecture would be used when it is the least cost alternative for providing service. Southern Bell adds that these tariff changes will not generate any new revenues for the Company.

We find that using the least-cost alternative as a replacement for switching will benefit both the end user and the Company. We also find that technological changes need to be reflected in the Company's tariff and that the proposed changes by Southern Bell are warranted.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Florida Public Service Commission grants Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's request to make definitional changes within its Access, Private Line and General Subscriber Service Tariffs. It is further

ORDERED that this tariff shall become effective on October 21, 1991. If a protest is filed within 20 days from the date of the order approving the tariff, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 12th
day of NOVEMBER, 1991.

STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

CWM

by: Kay Flynn
Chief, Bureau of Records

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 at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on 12/3/91.

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

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it

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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 sewer 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.