

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Modified Minimum Filing) DOCKET NO. 910927-TL
Requirements Report of ST.) ORDER NO. PSC-92-1054-PCO-TL
JOSEPH TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH) ISSUED: 09/23/92
COMPANY.)
_____)

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE

Section 364.035(3), Florida Statutes, requires that each local exchange company (LEC) file Modified Minimum Filing Requirements (MMFRs) within 18 months after October 1, 1990. By Order No. 23452, issued September 7, 1990, we established a schedule for each of the LECs to file MMFRs.

St. Joseph Telephone & Telegraph Company (St. Joe or the Company) filed its MMFRs on September 30, 1991, using a test year ended June 30, 1991. In Docket No. 910462-TL, we ordered a cash refund of \$731,340 plus interest for 1990, along with proposed acceptance of the Company's offer to cap its 1991 earnings at its 13.9% return on equity (ROE) ceiling. The overearnings for 1991 are to be trued up after receipt of the 1991 Cost Study. In addition, we directed our staff to bring a recommendation to our January 7, 1992, Agenda Conference to address overearnings for 1992. Those decisions are reflected in Order No. 25630, issued January 22, 1992.

By Order No. 25686, issued February 4, 1992, the Company was directed to place \$445,935 subject to refund with interest for 1992, in accordance with Section 364.055, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.114, Florida Administrative Code. An expedited hearing was then held on February 27, 1992, to determine whether additional revenue should be placed subject to refund for 1992, based upon an adjustment of St. Joe's equity ratio to 45.0%. At the hearing, we accepted the Company's offer to place a total of \$700,00 subject to refund, and made no finding regarding an appropriate equity ratio for the Company. These actions are reflected in Order No. PSC-92-0149-FOF-TL, issued April 2, 1992.

Then, by Order No. PSC-92-0284-FOF-TL, issued May 5, 1992, we set this docket for hearing and directed the Company to file Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs) by updating its MMFRs and filing certain other schedules.

The scope of this proceeding shall be based upon the issues raised by the parties and Commission staff (staff) up to and during the prehearing conference, unless modified by the Commission. The

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hearing will be conducted according to the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and the rules of this Commission.

Discovery

a. When discovery requests are served and the respondent intends to object to or ask for clarification of the discovery request, the objection or request for clarification shall be made within ten days of service of the discovery request. This procedure is intended to reduce delay in resolving discovery disputes.

b. The hearing in this docket is set for November 20, 1992. Unless authorized by the Prehearing Officer for good cause shown, all discovery shall be completed by November 13, 1992. All interrogatories, requests for admissions, and requests for production of documents shall be numbered sequentially in order to facilitate their identification. The discovery requests will be numbered sequentially within a set and any subsequent discovery requests will continue the sequential numbering system. Unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply: interrogatories, including all subparts, shall be limited to 300, and requests for production of documents, including all subparts, shall be limited to 175.

c. Any information provided pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential business information status is requested shall be treated by the Commission and the parties as confidential. The information shall be exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, pending a formal ruling on such request by the Commission, or upon the return of the information to the person providing the information. If no determination of confidentiality has been made and the information has not been made a part of the evidentiary record in the proceeding, it shall be returned expeditiously to the person providing the information. If a determination of confidentiality has been made and the information was not entered into the record of the proceeding, it shall be returned to the person providing the information within the time period set forth in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes.

Diskette Filings

See Rule 25-22.028(1), Florida Administrative Code, for the requirements of filing on diskette for certain utilities.

Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits

Pursuant to Rule 25-22.048, Florida Administrative Code, each party shall prefile, in writing, all testimony that it intends to sponsor. Such testimony shall be typed on 8 1/2 inch x 11 inch transcript-quality paper, double spaced, with 25 numbered lines, on consecutively numbered pages, with left margins sufficient to allow for binding (1.25 inches).

Each exhibit intended to support a witness' prefiled testimony shall be attached to that witness' testimony when filed, identified by his or her initials, and consecutively numbered beginning with 1. All other known exhibits shall be marked for identification at the prehearing conference. After an opportunity for opposing parties to object to introduction of the exhibits and to cross-examine the witness sponsoring them, exhibits may be offered into evidence at the hearing. Exhibits accepted into evidence at the hearing shall be numbered sequentially. The pages of each exhibit shall also be numbered sequentially prior to filing with the Commission.

An original and 15 copies of all testimony and exhibits shall be prefiled with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting by the close of business, which is 4:45 p.m., on the date due. A copy of all prefiled testimony and exhibits shall be served by mail or hand delivery to all other parties and staff no later than the date filed with the Commission. Failure of a party to timely prefile exhibits and testimony from any witness in accordance with the foregoing requirements may bar admission of such exhibits and testimony.

Prehearing Statement

Pursuant to Rule 25-22.038(3), Florida Administrative Code, a prehearing statement shall be required of all parties in this docket. Staff will also file a prehearing statement. The original and 15 copies of each prehearing statement shall be prefiled with the Director of the Division of Records and Reporting by the close

of business, which is 4:45 p.m., on the date due. A copy of the prehearing statement shall be served on all other parties and staff no later than the date it is filed with the Commission. Failure of a party to timely file a prehearing statement shall be a waiver of any issue not raised by other parties or by the Commission. In addition, such failure shall preclude the party from presenting testimony in support of its position. Such prehearing statements shall set forth the following information in the sequence listed below.

- (a) the name of all known witnesses that may be called by the party, and the subject matter of their testimony;
- (b) a description of all known exhibits that may be used by the party, whether they may be identified on a composite basis, and the witness sponsoring each;
- (c) a statement of basic position in the proceeding;
- (d) a statement of each question of fact the party considers at issue, the party's position on each such issue, and which of the party's witnesses will address the issue;
- (e) a statement of each question of law the party considers at issue and the party's position on each such issue;
- (f) a statement of each policy question the party considers at issue, the party's position on each such issue, and which of the party's witnesses will address the issue;
- (g) a statement of issues that have been stipulated to by the parties;
- (h) a statement of all pending motions or other matters the party seeks action upon; and
- (i) a statement as to any requirement set forth in this order that cannot be complied with, and the reasons therefore.

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held in this docket at the Fletcher Building, 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida. The conditions of Rule 25-22.038(5)(b), Florida Administrative Code, shall be observed. Any party who fails to attend the prehearing conference, unless excused by the Prehearing Officer, will have waived all issues and positions raised in that party's prehearing statement.

Prehearing Procedure: Waiver of Issues

Any issue not raised by a party prior to the issuance of the prehearing order shall be waived by that party, except for good cause shown. A party seeking to raise a new issue after the issuance of the prehearing order shall demonstrate that: it was unable to identify the issue because of the complexity of the matter; discovery or other prehearing procedures were not adequate to fully develop the issue; due diligence was exercised to obtain facts touching on the issue; information obtained subsequent to the issuance of the prehearing order was not previously available to enable the party to identify the issue; and introduction of the issue could not be to the prejudice or surprise of any party. Specific reference shall be made to the information received, and how it enabled the party to identify the issue.

Unless a matter is not at issue for that party, each party shall diligently endeavor in good faith to take a position on each issue prior to issuance of the prehearing order. When a party is unable to take a position on an issue, it shall bring that fact to the attention of the Prehearing Officer. If the Prehearing Officer finds that the party has acted diligently and in good faith to take a position, and further finds that the party's failure to take a position will not prejudice other parties or confuse the proceeding, the party may maintain "no position at this time" prior to hearing and thereafter identify its position in a post-hearing statement of issues. In the absence of such a finding by the Prehearing Officer, the party shall have waived the entire issue. When an issue and position have been properly identified, any party may adopt that issue and position in its post-hearing statement.

Document Identification

To facilitate the management of documents in this docket, exhibits will be numbered at the Prehearing Conference. Each exhibit submitted shall have the following in the upper right-hand corner: the docket number, the witness's name, the word "Exhibit" followed by a blank line for the exhibit number and the title of the exhibit.

An example of the typical exhibit identification format is as follows:

Docket No. 12345-TL
J. Doe Exhibit No. _____
Cost Studies for Minutes of Use by Time of Day

Tentative Issues

Attached to this order as Appendix "A" is a tentative list of the issues which have been identified in this proceeding. Prefiled testimony and prehearing statements shall address the issues set forth in Appendix "A".

Controlling Dates

The following dates have been established to govern the key activities of this case.

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1) | Utility's direct testimony
and exhibits | September 21, 1992 |
| 2) | Intervenors' direct testimony
and exhibits | October 1, 1992 |
| 3) | Staff's direct testimony
and exhibits, if any | October 8, 1992 |
| 4) | Prehearing Statements | October 12, 1992 |
| 5) | Rebuttal testimony
and exhibits | October 19, 1992 |

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|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6) | Prehearing Conference | November 2, 1992 |
| 7) | Hearing | November 20, 1992 |
| 8) | Briefs | December 18, 1992 |

Use of Confidential Information At Hearing

It is the policy of this Commission that all Commission hearings be open to the public at all times. The Commission also recognizes its obligation pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, to protect proprietary confidential business information from disclosure outside the proceeding. Any party wishing to use any proprietary confidential business information, as that term is defined in Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, shall notify the Prehearing Officer and all parties of record by the time of the Prehearing Conference, or if not known at that time, no later than seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the hearing. The notice shall include a procedure to assure that the confidential nature of the information is preserved as required by statute. Failure of any party to comply with the seven day requirement described above shall be grounds to deny the party the opportunity to present evidence which is proprietary confidential business information.

When confidential information is used in the hearing, parties must have copies for the Commissioners, necessary staff, and the Court Reporter, in envelopes clearly marked with the nature of the contents. Any party wishing to examine the confidential material that is not subject to an order granting confidentiality shall be provided a copy in the same fashion as provided to the Commissioners, subject to execution of any appropriate protective agreement with the owner of the material. Counsel and witnesses are cautioned to avoid verbalizing confidential information in such a way that would compromise the confidential information. Therefore, confidential information should be presented by written exhibit when reasonably possible to do so. At the conclusion of that portion of the hearing that involves confidential information, all copies of confidential exhibits shall be returned to the proffering party. If a confidential exhibit has been admitted into evidence, the copy provided to the Court Reporter shall be retained in the Division of Records and Reporting's confidential files.

Post-hearing Procedures

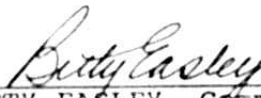
Rule 25-22.056(3)(a), Florida Administrative Code, requires each party to file a post-hearing statement of issues and positions. You must include in that statement, a summary of each position of no more than 50 words, marked with an asterisk. In the absence of the summary statement, the prehearing position on that issue will be used in the staff recommendation. The rule also provides that any issue or position not included in the post-hearing statement is considered waived. If a party's position has not changed since the prehearing order was issued, the post-hearing statement can simply restate the prehearing position.

All post-hearing memoranda, including findings of fact, conclusions of law, statement of issues and positions, and briefs, shall total no more than 50 pages, and shall be filed simultaneously. Arguments in briefs must be identified by issue number. Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law are not required. However, if proposed findings of fact are submitted, each one must cite to the record, identifying transcript page and line. All proposed findings of fact which relate to a particular issue shall be grouped together and shall identify the issue number to which they relate. Each proposed finding of fact shall be separately and consecutively numbered. Any written statement which is not clearly designated as a proposed finding of fact shall be considered to be legal argument rather than a proposed finding of fact.

Based upon the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Betty Easley, as Prehearing Officer, that the provisions of this Order shall govern this proceeding unless modified by the Commission.

By ORDER of Commissioner Betty Easley, as Prehearing Officer, this 23rd day of September, 1992.



BETTY EASLEY, Commissioner
and Prehearing Officer

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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.

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.

APPENDIX "A"

LIST OF ISSUES

QUALITY OF SERVICE

ISSUE 1: Is the quality of service adequate?

RATE BASE

ISSUE 2: What is the appropriate amount of rate base for the test year?

ISSUE 2a: Should adjustments be made to adjust rate base and expenses for the final 1991 cost study?

COST OF CAPITAL

ISSUE 3: What is the appropriate cost of common equity?

ISSUE 4: Is the Company's proposed equity ratio prudent and reasonable? If not, how should this be treated?

ISSUE 5: What is the weighted average cost of capital including the proper components, amounts, and cost rates associated with the capital structure?

NET OPERATING INCOME

ISSUE 6: What is the appropriate amount of operating revenue for the test year?

ISSUE 6a: What adjustments, if any, should be made to operating revenue for audit findings?

ISSUE 7: What is the appropriate amount of O&M expense for the test year?

ISSUE 7a: What adjustments, if any, should be made to O&M expense for audit findings?

- ISSUE 8:** What is the appropriate amount of depreciation and amortization expense for the test year?
- ISSUE 9:** What is the appropriate amount of taxes other than income tax for the test year?
- ISSUE 10:** What is the appropriate amount of income tax expense for the test year?
- ISSUE 11:** What is the achieved test year net operating income?

REVENUE REQUIREMENT

- ISSUE 12:** What is the appropriate amount of the revenue increase/decrease for the test year?
- ISSUE 13:** Should the Modified Minimum Filing Requirement (MMFR) proceeding be treated as the most recent rate case for all future purposes?

RATES

- ISSUE 14:** Should the thirteen exchanges be placed into a rate grouping plan and how should the plan be designed?
- ISSUE 15:** Should basic local exchange rates be restructured? If so, how and at what level?
- ISSUE 16:** Should the EAS additive charged the Chattahoochee subscribers be eliminated?
- ISSUE 17:** Should the monthly charges for touch-tel (touchtone) be reduced or eliminated?
- ISSUE 18:** Should the intraLATA MTS and WATS rates be changed? If so, how?
- ISSUE 19:** Should access charges be reduced?
- ISSUE 20:** Should any other EAS routes be added? If so, what routes and at what rates?
- ISSUE 21:** Should any other rates be changed?

ORDER NO. PSC-92-1054-PCO-TL
DOCKET NO. 910927-TL
PAGE 12

ISSUE 22: Should the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) be unbundled and billed as a separate line item on customer bills as permitted by Section 203.01(5), Florida Statutes?

ISSUE 23: What should be contained in the bill stuffer to St. Joe customers announcing any rate changes resulting from this proceeding?

ISSUE 24: What should be the effective date of any rate changes?