

PUBLIC COUNSEL

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400 904-488-9330

February 17, 1993

Steve Tribble, Director Division of Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 101 East Gaines Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 920260-TL

Dear Mr. Tribble:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket on behalf of the Citizens of the State of Florida are the original and 15 copies of the Citizens' Motion to Postpone Hearing.

Please indicate the time and date of receipt on the enclosed duplicate of this letter and return it to our office.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Beck

Deputy Public Counsel

Enclosure

RECEIVED & FILED

EPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Comprehensive Review of the Revenue Requirements and Rate Stabilization Plan of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company Docket No. 920260-TL

In re: Investigation into the Integrity of Southern Bell's Repair Service Activities and Reports

Docket No. 910163-TL

Show Cause Proceeding Against)
Southern Bell Telephone and)
Telegraph Company for Misbilling)
Customers)

Docket No. 900960-TL

Investigation into Southern Bell)
Telephone and Telegraph
Company's Compliance with Rule)
25-4.110(2), F.A.C.

Docket No. 910727-TL

Date filed: February 17, 1993

MOTION TO POSTPONE HEARINGS

To: Chairman Deason and Prehearing Officer Clark

The Citizens of Florida ("Citizens"), by and through Jack Shreve, Public Counsel, respectfully request the Chairman and Prehearing Officer to postpone the hearings presently set for March and April.

1. We request a delay in the hearings set for March and April because we are still awaiting receipt of discovery from

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Southern Bell. We will not be able to present our case, or cross examine Southern Bell's witnesses, until we have received this pending discovery and have had an opportunity to analyze and follow up on that discovery.

- 2. Twenty months ago we served interrogatories on Southern Bell requesting the company to identify each person known to Southern Bell having information about falsification of repair records and reports. Southern Bell refused to identify any persons knowledgeable about these areas if Southern Bell learned the identity of a person in the course of an investigation it claimed to be privileged. One order from prehearing officer and two from the full Commission rejected Southern Bell's claim. Southern Bell petitioned the Florida Supreme Court to review the last of those orders issued by the full Commission. On February 4, 1993, the Florida Supreme Court denied their petition by a vote of seven to zero. We expect it will be necessary to take depositions of scores of persons after Southern Bell answers these interrogatories.
- 3. The prehearing officer also recently ordered Southern Bell to produce certain internal audits conducted by Southern Bell, including an audit of the quality of service reports filed at the Commission by Southern Bell. That audit contained significant adverse findings, and we expect it will provide important

Southern Bell has said that it will attempt to provide its response by the end of this week.

information needed to prepare this case. In addition, there are numerous other pending discovery disputes, some pending for many months, that we expect rulings on soon. Southern Bell may seek review of those orders by the full Commission and the courts.

- 4. We request the Chairman and Prehearing Officer to postpone the hearings set for March and April until we have received the information requested of Southern Bell, have an opportunity to analyze and follow up on that information, and file testimony based on that information and analysis.
- Southern Bell had the right to request reconsideration and then judicial review of the Commission order directing Southern Bell to identify those persons known to have knowledge about falsification of repair records. Now that we have a final determination overruling their objections, we should not be prejudiced by the Commission forcing us to file testimony and present our case without that information. Nor should we be prejudiced by other continuing objections by Southern Bell to orders of this Commission by forcing us to present our case while Southern Bell refuses to produce information this Commission has ordered it to produce. The Commission would deny us due process if it requires us to present our case, or to cross-examine Southern Bell's witnesses, without this information. We believe this information goes to the core of Southern Bell's request for further relaxation of regulation from this Commission.

- 6. New hearing dates will have the beneficial effect of allowing staff auditors to conduct an audit of Southern Bell's affiliate transactions and present the results of that audit to the Commission in this case. Neither of the staff auditors presenting testimony in this case reviewed affiliate transactions; in fact, the scope of the audits they will present to the Commission is qualified because of that scope limitation. Southern Bell delayed staff requests for information about affiliate transactions for months, and their delays and objections were recently reviewed by this Commission. While Southern Bell has a right to make objections, they shouldn't benefit by the delays created by their objections.
- 7. No party has the important audit authority only this Commission possesses. The results of the affiliate transaction audit should be made a part of this case, and a delay in the hearing dates will allow this to happen.

WHEREFORE, the Citizens request the Chairman and Prehearing Officer to postpone the hearings presently set for March and April.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Shreve Public Counsel

charling Beck

Charles J. Beck Deputy Public Counsel

Janis Sue Richardson Associate Public Counsel

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Attorneys for the Citizens of the State of Florida

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE DOCKET NO. 920260-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail or hand-delivery to the following parties on this 17th day of February, 1993.

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