

1 BEFORE THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP

TO

ALL PARTIES

AND

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 970157-TP

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF INTRASTATE DISCOUNTS FOR
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 254 (H)
OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

ISSUED: April 23, 1997

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Rule 25-22.001, Florida Administrative Code, that the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a workshop in the above-referenced docket at the following time and place:

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 14, 1997 *
Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

* **NOTE:** Any person who is unable to attend may participate via telephone. To participate by telephone, call the following number at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 14, 1997: Non-Suncom (904) 414-1711 or Suncom (904) 994-1711.

PURPOSE

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), 47 U.S.C. §254(a)(2), requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue an order by May 8, 1997, implementing the recommendations from the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. These recommendations are to address the universal service provisions of the Act, 47 U.S.C. §§214(e) and 254. A portion of the FCC's Order is expected to provide for discounts on telecommunications services purchased by certain qualified schools and libraries. See 47 U.S.C. §254(h). The Act also states that state commissions may adopt regulations to advance and preserve universal service, so long as the state regulations are consistent

DOCUMENT NO
04016 97
4 23 97

with those established by the FCC. See 47 U.S.C. §254(f). The Florida Public Service Commission has opened Docket No. 970157-TP to address these matters.

In order to allow sufficient time for the schools and libraries to apply for funds for the 1997-1998 school year, an abbreviated hearing schedule is necessary. The Florida Commission intends to address these matters, to the extent possible, through its proposed agency action procedure at the May 19, 1997, Agenda Conference.

Due to the abbreviated hearing schedule in this docket, parties must present any objections to the Florida Commission's proposed agency action immediately. No additional protest period is possible. Therefore, parties must file any protests on or before the May 19, 1997 Agenda Conference. If any protest is received, parties participating in the hearing must file testimony as scheduled on May 21, 1997. If no protest is received, the hearing scheduled for June 12, 1997, may be cancelled. Interested parties should follow the proceedings closely to remain apprised of events as they occur.

The purpose of this workshop is to begin the issue identification process. Each party should be prepared to present a list of issues deemed necessary for resolution in this proceeding. Staff will be prepared to discuss the possibility of disposing of any or all of the issues through its recommendation for the May 19, 1997, Agenda Conference.

Any person requiring some accommodation at this workshop because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (904) 413-6770, at least five calendar days prior to the workshop. Any person who is hearing or speech impaired should contact the Florida Public Service Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is vested in this Commission pursuant to Chapter 364, Florida Statutes.

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP
DOCKET NO. 970157-TP
PAGE NO. 3

By DIRECTION of the Florida Public Service Commission, this
23rd day of April, 1997.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

by: Kay Flynn
Chief, Bureau of Records

(S E A L)

WPC