



Public Service Commission

FILE COPY

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: April 24, 1997

TO: CHAIRMAN JOHNSON  
 COMMISSIONER CLARK  
 COMMISSIONER DEASON  
 COMMISSIONER GARCIA  
 COMMISSIONER KIESLING

FROM: ALAN TAYLOR, DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS *AT*

RE: DN 950814-TL, PROVISION OF LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TO DOG ISLAND

At Agenda, October 29, 1996, the Commission deferred action on staff's recommendation to require St. Joseph Telephone Company to extend wireline telephone facilities to more than 100 subscribers on Dog Island to replace the cellular technology currently used. Instead the Commission directed staff to work with the company to determine the best way to serve subscribers.

St. Joseph has employed the services of Engineering Associates. We expected the company to make its decision in March 1997 of how best to proceed. However, the company has now indicated it will be late June 1997 before it makes its decision (attachments). Under the circumstances, we will plan to file our recommendation July 24, 1997, for the August 5th Agenda.

Meanwhile, please let me know if you have any questions.

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_ Attachments
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ c: Bill Talbott
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Mary Bane
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ John Vaughan
- \_\_\_\_\_ St Joseph Telecommunications
- \_\_\_\_\_ P. O. Box 220
- \_\_\_\_\_ Port St. Joe, Florida 32456-0220
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walter D'Haeseleer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elton Howell
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Records & Reporting, Docket file 950814-TL

DOCUMENT NO.  
 04218-97  
 4-25-97



**St. Joe  
Communications, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1007 • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • (904)227-7272

February 10, 1997

Mr. Walter D'Haeseleer  
Director  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Division of Communications  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Mr. D'Haeseleer:

In keeping with the Commission's request, St. Joseph Telephone & Telegraph Company is trying to determine the best alternative for providing telephone service to Dog Island. We have secured the services of Engineering Associates, Inc. located in Atlanta, Georgia to perform a comprehensive study for this purpose. The study is already underway. The following schedule is provided as requested in your letter dated January 22, 1997.

Secured services of Engineering Associates, Inc	12/2/96
Site Visit to Dog Island	1/7/97
First preliminary draft due	2/7/97
Complete review of preliminary	2/14/97
Revised preliminary draft due	2/21/97
Complete review revised preliminary draft	2/28/97
Study results due	3/14/97
Complete review of study and choose future direction	3/21/97

At the present time the study is proceeding on schedule. Additional plans will be made based on the study results.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

John H. Vaughan  
Vice President

JHV:ADL:cke





**ST. JOSEPH**  
Telecommunications

**ST. JOSEPH TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

P.O. Box 220 • 502 Fifth Street • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

•Established 1924•

April 23, 1997

Mr. Walter D'Haeseleer  
State of Florida  
Public Service Commission  
Capital Circle Office Center  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Mr. D'Haeseleer:

In my letter to you dated February 10, 1997, we provided a schedule for the comprehensive study to determine the best alternative for providing service to Dog Island. The schedule indicated the study would be completed on March 21, 1997. We reviewed the study at that time with Engineering Associates, Inc. the firm conducting the study for us. They identified additional options for providing service to the island that were not available previously. Upon their advice, we asked them to explore the new options. They have provided the following revised schedule.

Interim Report and Recommendation	April 25, 1997
Second Interim Report	May 30, 1997
Final Report and Recommendation	June 27, 1997

Upon receipt of the final report and recommendation we will review the results and determine our course of action.

If you have any questions, please contact Dewayne Lanier at (904) 229-7326.

Very truly yours,

John H. Vaughan  
Vice President

JHV:cke

State of Florida



Commissioners:  
JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
J. TERRY DEASON  
JOE GARCIA  
DIANE K. KIESLING

*DN# 950814*  
*Record Reporting*  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS  
WALTER D'HAESELEER  
DIRECTOR  
(904) 413-6600

## Public Service Commission

RECEIVED  
JAN 31 1997

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

January 30, 1997

Dr. Ivan A. Backerman, M.D., Director  
North Florida Women's Research Institute  
100 Gulfshore Drive  
Box 5006 Dog Island  
Carrabelle, Florida 32322

Dear Dr. Backerman:

This will acknowledge your letter to Bev DeMello which included a Petition from residents of Dog Island concerning their telephone service. As the matter of telephone service to Dog Island is my area of responsibility, I want to thank you for the petition and explain what we are doing.

First, the St. Joseph Telephone Company has arranged for a feasibility study of the various options to serve Dog Island by an outside engineering firm. In this regard, we have requested that St. Joseph provide a report by February 10, 1997, of specific milestones, especially the date upon which they expect to provide the Commission staff with a full report of the options considered. When the study information is available, staff will review it and prepare an appropriate recommendation for a Commission decision. While I cannot, at this time, give you a timeline, please be assured that staff will follow through to ensure that adequate service is ultimately provided within the earliest possible timeframe.

Meanwhile, the Petition you provided will be placed in the correspondence side of the Commission's Docket File. Commissioners will have an opportunity to review it and have it before them when they vote in this case the next time.



**NORTH FLORIDA WOMEN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**IVAN A. BACKERMAN, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**  
Director

January 12, 1997

Bev DeMello  
Director, Division of Consumer Affairs  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0867



RE: Fiberoptic Telephone  
service for Dog Island

Dear Ms. DeMello,

It was with great pleasure that we met you at the PSC hearing concerning the staff's proposal to give the residents of Dog Island fiberoptic phone service.

I have worked with Chief Boatenreiter (Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department) in my capacity as medical advisor to the Dog Island First Responders.

We tried to explain to the PSC what our problems were; and I am not sure that anyone fully understood except the Staff.

Besides having poor quality and intermittent telephone reception and transmission, it is almost impossible to try to have data transfer via computer. The most important point being the inability to transfer Electrocardiographic information from our Automatic External Defibrillator after saving someone's life, to Tallahassee Regional Medical Center.

Other first responder units take the "smart" data cartridge out of the machine and place it in a transmitting modem, to transfer the data to the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, we can not be assured that the transfer will be complete. Our transmission data with our present service is poor; and we must have Chief Boatenreiter go to the mainland by boat and "swap out" cartridges with a paramedic from Appalachicola who then runs it in their transmitter when they get to Emerald Coast Hospital.

We cannot use computers via the modems for telephone service because of the "shielding" on transmitting towers. Even nano-second interruptions cause loss of data and the signal cannot be reduced to a slow enough baud to receive meaningful information.

Our Fax capability is erratic and frequently people are told that the number they are calling is out of service and even disconnected. There have been days

State of Florida

DN # 930814  
Record Reporting

Commissioners:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
J. TERRY DEASON  
JOE GARCIA  
DIANE K. KIESLING



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS  
WALTER D'HAESELEER  
DIRECTOR  
(904) 413-6600

Public Service Commission

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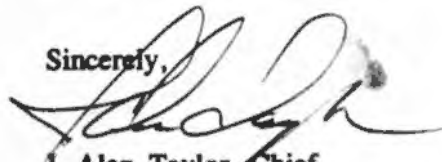
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Dr. Ivan A. Backerman, M.D.  
January 30, 1997  
Page 2

Again, thank you for the petition. Please feel free to contact if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



J. Alan Taylor, Chief  
Bureau of Service Evaluation

c: Bev DeMello  
Docket File 950814: w/Petition  
tms2650  
Elton Howell



**NORTH FLORIDA WOMEN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**IVAN A. BACKERMAN, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**  
Director

January 12, 1997

Bev DeMello  
Director, Division of Consumer Affairs  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
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Besides having poor quality and intermittent telephone reception and transmission, it is almost impossible to try to have data transfer via computer. The most important point being the inability to transfer Electrocardiographic information from our Automatic External Defibrillator after saving someone's life, to Tallahassee Regional Medical Center.

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We cannot use computers via the modems for telephone service because of the "shielding" on transmitting towers. Even nano-second interruptions cause loss of data and the signal cannot be reduced to a slow enough baud to receive meaningful information.

Our Fax capability is erratic and frequently people are told that the number they are calling is out of service and even disconnected. There have been days



when some or all of the telephones would not function.

We do not wish to cause the St. Joseph Telephone Company a great hardship. We do agree with the PSC's proposal to lay a fiberoptic cable to Dog Island and this this 'expensive' endeavor will reduce the annual loss of monies paid to Sprint for such poor service. In the long run, the St. Joseph Telephone Company will be saving money annually, and providing the residents with service that is equal to the service already provided to the consumers in Carrabelle on the mainland who use the 697 exchange. Lynda Borderllon told us that fiberoptic lines are already in place in Carrabelle.


We have enclosed a petition of signatures from many of the home-owners, property owners and people who share phone service with other Dog Islanders when they are here (part owners, relatives of owners, frequent guests,etc).

I know that last week the Engineers for the St. Joseph Telephone Company were on the island checking signal strength at various points on the island.

Unless the shielding is removed entirely, there will never be a time when we will have a reliable signal or even a useable signal all day, every day and even then, the signal return may be too slow for two way computer operation.

We hope that we can, as consumers, get fiberoptic service and therefore have equal service as the consumer in Carrabelle has.

Cordially,



Ivan A. Backerman, M.D.,F.A.C.O.G.

IAB/esb

Enc.

TO: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DOG ISLAND RESIDENTS

DUE TO THE POOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE TO DOG ISLAND, I SUPPORT THE INSTALLATION OF FIBEROPTIC CABLE TO DOG ISLAND. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE MINIMAL AND THAT THIS TYPE OF SERVICE WOULD ALLOW TRANSMISSION OF THE INFORMATION FROM THE DEFIBRILATOR TO THE EMT UNIT ON SHORE.

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
Nina Hill Dog Island Boy 52/4	H-C. 63 32322	697-4782
David Hill 1163 Dog Island, P.O. 9744	Carrabelle, FL 32322	697-4782
Maurice Hill	Box 5032 D.I. Carrabelle FL.	
Thomas Mason		697-4757 1-2-98
Michael McLean		770-853-2426
Sheryl Ransom	Alb. Ga	697-4774
Leslie Ransom	Alb. Ga	697-4774
Jeanette Ransom	Albany, Ga	697-4774
Cheryl Ransom		
Barbara Stowell	1109 Rosewood Dr Tallahassee	
Charles Stowell	324 W. 8th Ave Tallahassee, FL 32303	
Jack Nichols	D.I. Box 5021	1-4-97
Mrs. Riley D. Akers	Drawer N	697-3770
Gregory King	25001 ...	697-
Michael King	810 ... Tallahassee	3292
Robert King	3200 ... Tallahassee	32303
Clifton V. Lewis	3117 ... Tallahassee	32303
Arthur P. Madrin	1123 Alachua Av Tall Fla	32308 1/5/97
Dylan Madonia	1123 Alachua Av. Tall Fla	32308 1/5/97
John Farnsworth	THL	
C LEE FARNSWORTH	THL	
TOM ASBURY	THL	697 4772

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Leri Beckman	P.O. Box 5006 Dog Island 32922	12/24/96
Steve Beckman	4023 Army St. San Francisco 94131 (495)	12/30/96
Leri Small Beckman	4023 Army St. San Francisco 94131 (495)	12/30/96
Mudman	P.O. Box 5006 Dog Island	12/20/96
Hecker Boatman	Box 5000 Dog Island FLH	12-30-96
Margaret Boatman	6974 701 FIRE CHIEF DOG ISLAND 6974778	
Jim Satom	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32922	
John Granger	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
Dick Granger	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
Sheri Granger	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32722	
John Granger	P.O. Box 5005 Dog Island	
Harold Bell	P.O. Box 5047 Dog Island	
Ed Robinson	Box 5047 Dog Island 32922	
Ed Weigel	118 Parshley Live Oak, FL 32060	
Judy Weigel	" " " " "	
Walter Weigel	2035 NW 36 Ave Gainesville FL 32605	
Jason Weigel	2035 NW 36 Ave Gainesville 32605	
Debbie Weigel	Watercrest Dr Danbury CT 06811	
Chris Howell	8 Oakwood Ave #27 Worcester, MA 01650	
Scott Hill	409 Talafu St Tallahassee FL 32304	

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NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
<i>[Signature]</i>		
<i>[Signature]</i>	715 E. W. ... Tall. FL	
<i>[Signature]</i>		
<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 5036 Carabelle, FL 32322	
<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 5036 Carabelle, FL 32322	
<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 389 ...	
<i>[Signature]</i>	" 5010 "	
<i>[Signature]</i>	" 5010 "	
<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 765 Benson FL 32221	
<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 5036 Dog Island ... FL	
<i>[Signature]</i>	4213 Cornell Crossing Kennesaw, GA 30144	
<i>[Signature]</i>	865 ARLINGTON DR TUCKER GA 30084	
<i>[Signature]</i>	868 ARLINGTON DR TUCKER GA 30084	
<i>[Signature]</i>	175 Hwy 78 ... GA 30081	
<i>[Signature]</i>	175 Hwy 78 ... GA 30081	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Box 5024 Dog Island	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Box 5024 Dog Island	
<i>[Signature]</i>	1238 Cahellie DR Tallahassee 32301	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Box 5010 Dog Island Fla 32322	
<i>[Signature]</i>	10053 Collinsdale Rd 668-3894 32312	
<i>[Signature]</i>	" " " "	
<i>[Signature]</i>	(Richard M. Powell) 1506 Kessel Dr Tall 697-4755	
46 <i>[Signature]</i>	1506 Kessel Dr Tall 697-4755	

