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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

M E M O R A N D U M

October 23, 1997

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9:45  
FPSC - Records/Reporting

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (BIEGALSKI) KB  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION (LAKE) AD  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BOWMAN) MB

RE: DOCKET NO. 971279-TC - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE NO. 3905 ISSUED TO MARK D. RIDLEY FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES.

AGENDA: 11/04/97 REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:PSC/CMU/WP/971279TC.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- Mark D. Ridley (Mark) obtained Florida Public Service Commission Pay Telephone certificate number 3905 on December 18, 1994.
- On June 3, 1997, the Division of Administration mailed a certified letter to the address listed in the Master Commission Directory informing Mark that he was delinquent on his regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996. The letter was returned by the United States Post Office stamped "unclaimed" (Attachment A, Page 4).
- As of October 13, 1997, the delinquent regulatory assessment fees for 1996, along with statutory penalties and interest charges, have not been submitted by Mark.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

10892 OCT 28 1997

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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**DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

**ISSUE 1:** Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel Mark's Pay Telephone Certificate No. 3905 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel his certificate if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received by the Commission within 5 business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received, certificate number 3905 should be canceled. **(Biegalski)**

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, requires the payment of regulatory assessment fees by January 30 of the subsequent year for telecommunications companies, and provides for penalties and interest as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

On October 13, 1997, staff learned that Mark had not submitted the regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996, along with statutory penalties and interest charges. Therefore, he has failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with Commission rules or cancel certificate number 3905 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, along with statutory penalties and interest, are not paid within the specified time.

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**ISSUE 2:** Should the Commission order all certificated local exchange companies (LECs) to discontinue providing service to Mark if certificate number 3905 is canceled?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. The Commission should order all certificated local exchange companies to discontinue providing service to Mark if Mark's certificate is canceled at the conclusion of the protest period for failure to submit the delinquent regulatory assessment fees, and pay the fines as required in Issue 1. The Order should state that any LEC providing service to Mark must contact the Commission at the conclusion of the protest period as set forth in the Order to determine whether the certificate has been canceled.  
**(Biegalski)**

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** If Mark's certificate is canceled, any service offered by Mark would be in violation of Rule 25-24.510, Florida Administrative Code. Since the Commission cannot readily identify which LEC provides service to Mark, the Commission should order all certificated LECs to discontinue service to Mark if Mark fails to comply with the terms of the Commission's order resulting from these recommendations. The Order should state that any LEC providing service to Mark must contact the Commission at the conclusion of the protest period as set forth in the Order to determine whether the certificate has been canceled.

**ISSUE 3:** Should this docket be closed?

**RECOMMENDATION:** If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a protest within 21 days of the issuance date of the Order, the Order will become final. Upon payment of the fines and fees, or cancellation of the certificate, this docket should be closed. **(Bowman)**

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** If the Commission adopts staff's recommendation in Issue 1, then Mark will have 21 days from the issuance date of the Order to file a timely protest to the Commission's Proposed Agency Action. If no protest is filed, the docket should be closed upon payment of the fines and fees, or upon cancellation of the certificate.

