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Handwritten initials and signature

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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M E M O R A N D U M

October 23, 1997

RECEIVED

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FPSC - Records/Reporting

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

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (BIEGALSKI) KB
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION (LAKE) J
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA) VP MS

RE: DOCKET NO. 971286-TC - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE NO. 3767 ISSUED TO PUBLIC PAYPHONE SERVICES, INC. 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/971286TC.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- Public Payphone Services, Inc. (Public) obtained Florida Public Service Commission Pay Telephone certificate number 3767 on June 10, 1994.
- On June 3, 1997, the Division of Administration mailed a certified letter to the address listed in the Master Commission Directory informing Public that it was delinquent on its regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996. The letter was signed for and received, but to date, no response has been received (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 Public.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DOCKET NO. 971286-TC
DATE: October 23, 1997

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel Public's Pay Telephone Certificate No. 3767 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 the company's 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 3767 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 Public had not submitted the regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996, along with statutory penalties and interest charges. Therefore, the company 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 3767 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 Public if certificate number 3767 is canceled?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should order all certificated local exchange companies to discontinue providing service to Public if Public'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 Public 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 Public's certificate is canceled, any service offered by Public would be in violation of Rule 25-24.510, Florida Administrative Code. Since the Commission cannot readily identify which LEC provides service to Public, the Commission should order all certificated LECs to discontinue service to Public if Public 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 Public 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. (Peña)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If the Commission adopts staff's recommendation in Issue 1, then Public 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.

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	5. Received By: (Print Name)	4b. Service Type <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Insured <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> COD
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