

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM

October 23, 1997

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

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHELPER) *AH& RD*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (CULPEPPER) *MCB*

RE: DOCKET NO. 961238-TL - RESOLUTION BY SUWANNEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) BETWEEN DOWLING PARK/LAKE CITY, FLORIDA SHERIFF'S BOYS RANCH/LAKE CITY, AND LURAVILLE/LAKE CITY.

AGENDA: NOVEMBER 4, 1997 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:\PSC\CMU\WP\961238TL.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

This docket was initiated pursuant to Resolution No. 96-33 filed on August 6, 1996, by the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners, requesting extended area service (EAS) between the Dowling Park, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Luraville exchanges, and the Lake City exchange. The Dowling Park, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Luraville exchanges are served by ALLTEL, Florida, Inc. (ALLTEL). The Lake City exchange is served by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth). All the exchanges are in the Jacksonville LATA (local access and transport area).

By Order No. PSC-97-0655-FOF-TL, issued June 9, 1997, the Commission set this docket for hearing to consider the propriety and feasibility of a one-way alternative toll relief plan for the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes. The Order noted that under Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, the Commission cannot require BellSouth, which has elected price regulation, to provide EAS or ECS for requests made after July 1, 1995.

ALLTEL has not opted for price regulation and remains under rate of return regulation, pursuant to Chapter 364.052(2), Florida Statutes.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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Since the issuance of this Order, BellSouth has agreed to implement ECS on the two routes identified in the Order; therefore, a hearing on the feasibility of one-way EAS/ECS is not required.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission order ALLTEL to implement extended calling service (ECS) on the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should order ALLTEL to implement extended calling service (ECS) on the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes. Residential customers should pay \$.25 per call regardless of duration, and business calls should be rated at \$.10 for the first minute and \$.06 for each additional minute. IXCs may continue to carry the same type of traffic on these routes that they are now authorized to carry. ECS should be implemented on these routes as soon as possible but not to exceed six months from the issuance of an order resulting from this recommendation.

STAFF ANALYSIS: By Order No. PSC-97-0655-FOF-TL the Commission determined that the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes met the calling rate requirement (3 M/A/Ms or more) and exhibited a substantial showing on the distribution requirement (both routes had a distribution of 40% or greater). The Commission further determined that while, historically, we have considered \$.25 calling plans or ECS on routes with similar calling rates and distribution factors, changes in federal law (Telecommunications Act of 1996) and in Chapter 364 (1995), made it more appropriate to evaluate the viability of EAS and ECS on one-way routes, as well as other toll relief options.

Since the issuance of the above Order on June 9, 1997, BellSouth has agreed to implement ECS on the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes (the Lake City exchange is served by BellSouth). With BellSouth's agreement, ECS can now be implemented on a twp these routes in both directions; therefore, a hearing is not needed. Since the Commission has already reviewed the traffic data and determined that ECS would have been ordered on the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes, staff believes it is appropriate to require ALLTEL to implement ECS on these routes.

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Staff recommends that the Commission order ALLTEL to implement extended calling service (ECS) on the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City and Luraville/Lake City routes. Residential customers should pay \$.25 per call regardless of duration, and business calls should be rated at \$.10 for the first minute and \$.06 for each additional minute. IXCs may continue to carry the same type of traffic on these routes that they are now authorized to carry. ECS should be implemented on these routes as soon as possible but not to exceed six months from the issuance of an order resulting from this recommendation.

ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: With the approval of Issue 1, this docket should be closed provided that no person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's Proposed Agency Action, files a protest within 21 days of the issuance date of the order.

STAFF ANALYSIS: With the approval of Issue 1, this docket should be closed provided that no person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's Proposed Agency Action, files a protest within 21 days of the issuance date of the order.