

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM

December 4, 1997

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FPSC - Records/Reporting

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

FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (B. KEATING) *AK*
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (WIGGINS, SPELFER) *AK* *MB* *ET*

RE: DOCKET NO. 950699-TL - RESOLUTION BY CITY COMMISSION OF
HAINES CITY REQUESTING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) FROM
HAINES CITY EXCHANGE TO ALL EXCHANGES WITHIN POLK COUNTY

AGENDA: DECEMBER 16, 1997 - REGULAR AGENDA - REQUEST TO EXTEND
TIME FOR SURVEY BY 45 DAYS

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:\PSC\LEG\WP\950699ME.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

This docket was opened in response to Resolution No. 627 filed by the City Commission of Haines City on May 1, 1995, requesting extended area service (EAS) from the Haines City exchange to all exchanges located within Polk County. GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL or the Company) provides service to the Haines City, Lakeland, Bartow, Polk City, Mulberry, and Indian Lakes exchanges. Sprint-Florida, Inc. (Sprint) serves the Fort Meade exchange. The Haines City, Lakeland, Bartow, Polk City, Mulberry, and Indian Lakes exchanges are located in the Tampa LATA, whereas the Fort Meade exchange is located in the Fort Myers LATA. The involved parties agreed that this proceeding should be governed by Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, as it existed prior to July 1, 1995.

By Order No. PSC-96-0620-FOF-TL, issued May 8, 1996, the Commission denied the request for EAS from the Haines City exchange to all exchanges located within Polk County. The Commission determined that none of the routes qualified for non-optional, flat rate, two-way EAS or an alternative toll relief plan. Since the

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DATE: DECEMBER 4, 1997
DOCKET NO. 950699-TL

traffic data on the intralATA routes did not indicate a community of interest, the Commission concluded that additional interLATA traffic information would not change the result. On May 28, 1996, the City Commission of Haines City filed a protest of Order No. PSC-96-0620-POF-TL, and this matter was set for hearing. On April 22, 1997, the Commission held a public and technical hearing in Haines City, Florida.

By Order No. PSC-97-1308-FOF-TL, issued October 22, 1997, the Commission required GTEFL to survey the Haines City/Lakeland, Haines City/Bartow, and Haines City/Polk City routes for non-optional, two-way EAS within 45 days of the issuance of the Order. In accordance with that Order, the survey should be completed by December 6, 1997.

On November 13, 1997, the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) filed a Motion to Extend Time for Survey by an Additional 45 Days. Therein, OPC asks that the deadline for GTEFL to conduct the survey of the Haines City routes be extended in order to avoid holiday conflicts.

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 1997
DOCKET NO. 950699-TL

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should OPC's Motion to Extend Time for Survey by an Additional 45 Days be granted?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. In view of concerns raised regarding the validity of the survey if conducted during the holiday season, OPC's motion should be granted. GTEFL should be required to mail the survey of the Haines City routes by January 20, 1998.

STAFF ANALYSIS: In its motion, OPC states that if the current deadline for conducting the survey stands, customers will receive the survey during the holiday season. OPC asserts that, as a result, many subscribers may inadvertently overlook the survey. OPC states that if the survey is extended by an additional 45 days, subscribers will receive the survey after the holidays, thereby ensuring that the survey will more accurately reflect the position of the Haines City subscribers on the proposed extended area service plan.

Staff agree that it is possible that if GTEFL is required to survey the Haines City subscribers over the holiday season, the survey results may be inaccurate. Staff, therefore, recommends that OPC's motion be granted. GTEFL should be required to mail the survey by January 20, 1998.

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 1997
DOCKET NO. 950699-TL

ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: No. This docket should remain open pending the outcome of the survey.

STAFF ANALYSIS: This docket should remain open pending the outcome of the survey.