



ORIGINAL

Marcell Merrill**
Area Vice President & Associate General Counsel-
Regional Operations (East)

Anthony P. Gillman**
Assistant General Counsel

Attorneys*
Kimberly Caswell
M. Eric Edgington
Ernesto Mayor, Jr.

* Licensed in Florida
** Certified in Florida as Authorized House Counsel

GTE SERVICE CORPORATION

One Tampa City Center
201 North Franklin Street (33602)
Post Office Box 110, FLTC0007
Tampa, Florida 33601-0110
813-483-2606
813-204-8870 (Facsimile)

February 2, 1998

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records & Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 970990-TL
Proposed tariff filing by GTE Florida Incorporated to transfer a portion
of the Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton exchange

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed for filing an original and fifteen copies of the Direct Testimony of Charles M. Scobie on behalf of GTE Florida Incorporated in the above matter. Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (813) 483-2617.

ACK _____
AFA _____
APP _____ Very truly yours,

CAF _____
CMU *Kimberly Caswell*
CTR _____ Kimberly Caswell

EAG _____
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LIN 24 Enclosures

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RECEIVED & FILED
BUREAU OF RECORDS
A part of GTE Corporation

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

[Redacted] FEB-2 88
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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GTE FLORIDA INCORPORATED
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CHARLES M. SCOBIE
DOCKET NO. 970990-TL

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

A. My name is Charles Michael Scobie. My business address is One Tampa City Center, Tampa, Florida.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed by GTE Service Corporation (GTEFL) as Regional Manager-Regulatory Affairs and Tariffs.

Q. WILL YOU BRIEFLY STATE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE COMPANY?

A. I have been employed by GTE for over twenty seven years. For the past nine and one half years I have been employed in the regulatory and governmental affairs area of GTE Florida and GTE Service Corporation. Prior to my present assignment, I held the positions of South Area Regulatory Affairs Manager, Tariff Administrator and Service Cost Coordinator in the same department. During my career I have also held positions in Sales, Market Planning, and Forecasting with GTE Florida and positions in Market Planning with GTE Service Corporation.

1 Q. **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS DOCKET?**

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present GTEFL's position on the
3 issues in this docket. I will explain GTEFL's reasons for proposing to
4 transfer part of the Sarasota Exchange to the Bradenton Exchange and
5 address the complaint filed by Dr. McGinty relative to this proposal.
6

7 Q. **WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR REQUESTING THE TRANSFER OF
8 THE AREA IN QUESTION?**

9 A. GTEFL was informed by the developer for the Lakewood Ranch
10 development that it would be developing a 5,500 acre master-planned
11 community consisting of residential, recreational and office park
12 development. The development would overlap parts of both the
13 northeastern part of the Sarasota Exchange and the southeastern part
14 of the Bradenton Exchange. Most of the development will be in what
15 is currently the Bradenton Exchange. GTEFL decided to serve the
16 complete development out of one exchange to avoid the situation of
17 close neighbors in the development having different calling scopes and
18 different local rates.
19

20 Q. **HOW LARGE IS THE PROPOSED TRANSFER AREA?**

21 A. The proposed transfer area is generally described as approximately
22 eleven square miles east of Interstate 75 and south of University
23 Parkway, which is the northeast boundary of the Sarasota Exchange.
24 The area runs approximately two miles south of University Parkway and
25 approximately five to six miles east of the interstate.

- 1 Q. HOW MANY CUSTOMERS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE TRANSFER
2 AREA?
- 3 A. As of the first of the year, there were 73 residential customers and 27
4 business customers in affected area.
- 5
- 6 Q. HOW WILL CUSTOMERS BE AFFECTED IF THEY ARE MOVED
7 FROM THE SARASOTA EXCHANGE TO THE BRADENTON
8 EXCHANGE?
- 9 A. Residence customers will see a reduction of \$.45 per month in their
10 basic monthly service charge and business customers will see a
11 reduction of \$1.20 per month in their basic service charge.
- 12
- 13 Q. WHAT OTHER CUSTOMER IMPACT WOULD THERE BE AS A
14 RESULT OF THE TRANSFER?
- 15 A. There would be a change in the calling scope for the transferred
16 customers. Calls to the Venice Exchange, which are now flat-rated
17 EAS, would be toll and calls to the Englewood and North Port
18 Exchanges, which are now ECS, would also be toll. Also, calls to the
19 Palmetto Exchange, which are now ECS, would be flat-rated EAS.
- 20
- 21 Q. WHAT IS THE MAJOR ISSUE RAISED BY THE PETITIONER IN THIS
22 PROCEEDINGS?
- 23 A. Dr. McGinty's main assertion in his protest of the area transfer was that
24 the financial expense was unreasonable since he would have to
25 change letterhead, office supplies and yellow page advertising due to

1 the required number change. This reason was rendered moot when it
2 was explained to him that number changes would be required
3 regardless of whether the area was transferred or not. The reason
4 number changes would be required is because the switching
5 technology currently serving the proposed transfer area is not capable
6 of the advanced services requested by the developer of the project.
7 The area would have to be transferred to a central office served by a
8 switch with the advanced feature capabilities, thereby requiring number
9 changes.

10
11 **Q. BEYOND THE EXPENSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NUMBER**
12 **CHANGE, IS THERE OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY DR. MCGINTY?**

13 **A.** Dr. McGinty's other concern, which was not raised in his original
14 protest, seems to be that the transfer will cause some flat-rated EAS as
15 well as ECS calls to become toll. Dr. McGinty believes this change will
16 inhibit his clients in contacting him.

17
18 **Q. GIVEN DR. MCGINTY'S CONCERNS, IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE**
19 **THAT WOULD LESSEN THE IMPACT ON HIS CLIENTS?**

20 **A.** The best option would probably be for Dr. McGinty to subscribe to
21 Local Remote Call Forwarding Service. This service would allow him
22 to retain his current number in the Sarasota Exchange and calls coming
23 to that number would be forwarded to his new number in the Bradenton
24 Exchange. His existing clients in Venice, Englewood and Northport
25 Exchanges would experience no difference in rates to call his practice.

1 Q. **WHAT WOULD BE THE COST OF THIS SERVICE?**

2 A. Local Remote Call Forwarding has a monthly rate of \$16.00 and there
3 is a usage sensitive charge of six cents per minute for the first minute
4 and two cents per minute for additional minutes during the peak period
5 of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and three cents per
6 minute for the first minute and one cent per minute for additional
7 minutes during all other times. As an accommodation in this special
8 situation, GTE proposed to provide this service to Dr. McGinty at no
9 charge until the next directory publication date for this area, which is
10 scheduled for September, 1998.

11

12 Q. **WHAT WAS DR. MCGINTY'S RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL?**

13 A. After a number of discussions with him about his options, he appeared
14 to indicate that the options were not acceptable.

15

16 Q. **IN LIGHT OF DR. MCGINTY'S PROTEST OF THIS REQUEST, WHAT
17 SHOULD THE COMMISSION DO IN THIS CASE?**

18 A. GTE had hoped—and still does hope—that this matter can be settled
19 without the need for hearing. As noted above, GTE has tried to work
20 with Mr. McGinty on possible solutions, but these efforts have not yet
21 successfully concluded. Above all, GTE does not believe this protest
22 should delay or halt the planned customer ballot with regard to the
23 proposal transfer. GTE is ready to abide by the decision of the
24 customers in the transfer area. If they vote to stay in the Sarasota
25 Exchange, we will have to serve the development from two exchanges

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and have to deal with the resulting customer confusion and complaints.
While we understand Dr. McGinty's position in this matter, this situation
would be similar to a governmental annexation that results from a vote
of affected citizens. It is inevitable that some people will be unhappy,
but a vote is the best way to ensure the best solution for the greatest
amount of people.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes, it does.


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of the Direct Testimony of Charles M. Scoble on behalf of GTE Florida Incorporated in Docket No. 970990-TL were sent via U.S. mail on February 2, 1998, to the parties listed below.

Mary Beth Keating, Staff Counsel
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Nancy H. Sims
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
150 S. Monroe Street, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1556

Johnnie Copeland
Sarasota Equine Association
8325 Whiskey Pond Lane
Sarasota, FL 34240



Kimberly Caswell


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