

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Resolution by the Taylor County Board )  
of Commissioners for Countywide Extended )  
Area Service (EAS) within Taylor County )

Docket No. 930235-TL

Date Filed: Feb. 27, 1998

GTC, INC.'S BRIEF OF THE EVIDENCE

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This docket was opened in response to a resolution filed by the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County requesting extended area service (EAS) between all exchanges in Taylor County. Taylor County contains all or part of the Perry, Keaton Beach, and Cross City exchanges. The Cross City exchange is served by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) and is located in the Gainesville LATA, while the Perry and Keaton Beach exchanges are served by Gulf Telephone Company (GTC) and are located in the Tallahassee LATA.

By order No. PSC-96-0557-FOF-TL, issued April 25, 1996, the Commission set this matter for hearing on community of interest issues because BellSouth was unable to provide interLATA traffic data from its exchange to the other Taylor County exchanges. By Order No. PSC-96-1007-PCO-TL, issued August 6, 1996, the Commission extended the procedural dates in the docket to allow time to review the impact of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) on pending requests for interLATA EAS on BellSouth routes.

By Order No. PSC-97-1337-PCO-TL, issued October 23, 1997, the Commission reset this docket for hearing on community of interest issues. Pursuant to the Commission's Order, the customer and technical hearing was held on January 29, 1998, in Steinhatchee, Florida.

Statement of Basic Position

The basic position of GTC, Inc. is that there is probably no community of interest on an exchange-to-exchange basis and that even if there were a community of interest for the Taylor County pocket in the Cross City Exchange, the costs and administrative burdens of providing EAS would be prohibitive. GTC believes that there exists a need for Steinhatchee residents in Taylor County to be able to call various locations in Perry without paying traditional toll charges. However, GTC, Inc. does not feel that EAS with a 25/25 plan and regrouping is appropriate. GTC would receive no

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revenue from such a plan. GTC could implement an alternative interLATA toll plan for calling from the Perry and Keaton Beach exchanges to the Taylor County pocket area, but this would not satisfy needs, since most calling is from Steinhatchee in BellSouth's exchange. Also, such a plan would create an unworkable administrative billing problem and would cost GTC a great deal of money. The costs are detailed on Late Filed Exhibit 2. If there is any solution, it must be implemented by BellSouth.

#### Analysis of the Evidence

Something over a dozen people testified at the hearing in this docket, and it is apparent that each witness that testified has a strong desire to make toll free calls from Steinhatchee to Perry and sometimes from Perry to Steinhatchee. Absent definitive calling data, however, the community as a whole did not show an overwhelming need for toll free calling that could not be accommodated in some way short of establishing EAS. For example, an 800 number for schools, the hospital in Perry, and county offices would go a long way toward alleviating the calling problems of the residents of Steinhatchee.

#### CONCLUSION

GTC has been forced to conclude that two way flat rate EAS is unwarranted and that an alternative pocket calling plan would be cost prohibitive to GTC. GTC urges the Commission to work with BellSouth to find some alternative telecommunications solution to satisfy Steinhatchee residents.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998.



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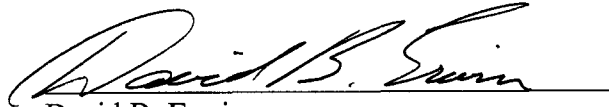
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
DOCKET NO.930235-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by hand delivery or U.S. Mail this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998, to each of the following:

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