

REQUEST TO ESTABLISH DOCKET
(PLEASE TYPE)

Date 07/27/96

Docket No. 980951-TC

1. Division Name/Staff Name Communications/McCoy

2. OPR Communications/McCoy

3. OCR Legal Services

4. Suggested Docket Title Petition for Exemption from Order, Rules and Regulations Prohibiting Termination of Conversations After Ten Minutes on Calls Placed From Pay Telephones Located in Confinement Institutions By Global Tel*Link Corporation.

5. Suggested Docket Mailing List (attach separate sheet if necessary)

- A. Provide NAMES ONLY for regulated companies or ACRONYMS ONLY regulated industries, as shown in Rule 25-22.104, F.A.C.
- B. Provide COMPLETE name and address for all others. (Match representatives to clients.)

1. Parties and their representatives (if any)

<u>Global Tel*Link Corporation</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Interested Persons and their representatives (if any)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. Check one: Documentation is attached.
 Documentation will be provided with recommendation.

Global Tel*Link

July 20, 1998

State Of Florida
Public Service Commission
Telecommunications Division
ATTN: MR. WALTER D'HAESELEER
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Petition For Waiver

Dear Mr. D'Haeseleer,

Enclosed please find Global Tel*Link Corporation's Petition For Waiver to the Florida Public Service Commission. Please file stamp the extra copy and return it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at 334/479-4500, extension 2275.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Clark
Regulatory Analyst

Enclosure

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COMMUNICATIONS

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CMU

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition of Global Tel*Link §
Corporation for Exemption From
Order, Rules and Regulations §
Prohibiting Termination of Conversations Docket Number:
After Ten Minutes on Calls Placed § Filed:
From Pay Telephones Located in
Confinement Institutions §

PETITION FOR WAIVER

COMES NOW, Global Tel*Link Corporation ("Global"), pursuant to Commission Rule 25-24.505(3), Florida Administrative Code, and Section 120.542, Florida Statutes, and files this Petition for Waiver with the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") for exemption from those Orders, Rules and Regulations of the Commission prohibiting Global from terminating conversation after ten minutes on calls placed from collect only telephones located in confinement institutions within the state of Florida. In support of its petition, Global states as follows:

1. Petitioner's name and address are:
Global Tel*Link Corporation
2609 Cameron Street
Mobile, Alabama 36607

2. All notices, orders or documents regarding this petition should be directed to:

Jennifer Clark
Regulatory Analyst
Global Tel*Link Corporation
2609 Cameron Street
Mobile, Alabama 36607

3. Global is certificated to provide pay telephone service in the state of Florida.

Global holds Certificate Number 3878 with an effective date of March 20, 1996.

4. Global offers pay telephone services to inmates of confinement institutions within the state of Florida using sophisticated equipment that permits inmates to place outbound, collect-only calls. Global's system was developed specifically to help governmental correctional facilities deal with their unique needs and problems. Such problems include call forwarding schemes, credit card abuse, subscription improprieties and harassing telephone calls to victims, witnesses and judges. Global provides an extensive, flexible set of tools for the prison administrator, all designed on a customized site-by-site basis. Global currently serves approximately nineteen (19) correctional facilities for the Florida Department of Corrections.

5. Through the instant Petition, Global seeks a waiver of the Commission's Rules 25-24.515(5) and 25-24.515(15) F.A.C. These rules appear to prohibit Global from terminating conversation in less than fifteen minutes on calls placed by inmates of confinement institutions. While it is not clear that this is the case, out of an abundance of caution, Global seeks waiver as set out in this Petition.

6. The Department of Corrections seeks to have the capability to limit such calls to a ten minute duration during certain periods and circumstances in confinement institutions. Rule 25-24.515(15) provides certain exemptions for pay stations in confinement institutions, including exemption from rule 25-24.515(5), except for the audible and written fifteen minute disconnect notification. Reducing conversation time from fifteen minutes to ten minutes will not disadvantage inmates and will provide the Department of Corrections with additional control over conversation time if the situation warrants reduced conversation time.

7. The purpose of the rule that appears to limit calls to not less than 15 minutes in duration presumably is to limit the ability of COCOT's to limit calls and force customers to regenerate calls at additional initial cost per minute. This protection to the pay telephone user is not necessary in the inmate calling environment because corrections officials have the ability to control inmate calling presently. The addition of limiting calls to no longer than 10 minutes could be useful in very crowded telephone conditions. Forcing corrections officials to allow a 15 minute call duration minimum by inmates is an unnecessary limit on corrections officials' authority in the inmate setting. The present rule could be a substantial hardship on corrections officials. Accordingly, the rule waiver requested herein is consistent with the provisions of Section 120.542, Florida Statutes. The Commission is authorized to grant variances and waivers to requirements of their rules consistent with Section 120.542, Florida Statutes. Therefore, Global would submit that approval of the requested rule waiver would not violate, in any manner, Section 120.542, Florida Statutes.

8. In the event the Commission grants the waivers requested herein, Global agrees to comply with the audible and written disconnect notification requirements of Rule 25-24.515(5).

9. The Commission recently approved similar requests for exemption from Orders, Rules and Regulations prohibiting termination of conversation after ten minutes on calls placed from pay telephones located in confinement institutions within the state of Florida filed by Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership, ("Sprint"), docket number 970551-TC and MCI Telecommunications Corporation, ("MCI"), docket number 971113-TC. Sprint and MCI also serve Florida Department of Corrections


Confinement facilities. To avoid inmate confusion, and to promote the other policies discussed above, the Department of Corrections desires to have the same payphone policies in place at all of its facilities.

WHEREFORE, Global Tel*Link Corporation respectfully requests that the Commission:

- (1) Grant Global a waiver from the provisions of the Commission's Rules 25-24.515(5) and 25-24.515(15) Florida Administrative Code; and,
- (2) Grant Global such other relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

GLOBAL TEL*LINK
CORPORATION



JENNIFER CLARK
2609 Cameron Street
Mobile, Alabama 36607

Regulatory Analyst for Global
Tel*Link Corporation