

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by residents of Ft. White requesting extended area service between Ft. White exchange in Columbia County and Gainesville exchange in Alachua County.

DOCKET NO. 971627-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-98-1458-PCO-TL
ISSUED: October 26, 1998

ORDER APPROVING ISSUES AND
EXTENDING DATE FOR DIRECT TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS

On September 17, 1997, the residents of the Fort White exchange filed a petition with the Commission asking that extended area service (EAS) be implemented between the Fort White and Gainesville exchanges. The Fort White/Gainesville route is an interLATA route served by two local exchange companies (LECs), ALLTEL, Florida, Inc. (ALLTEL) and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth). ALLTEL serves the Fort White exchange, which is located in the Jacksonville Local Access Transport Area (LATA) and covers approximately sixty-five (65) square miles in the southwestern portion of Columbia County. BellSouth serves the Gainesville exchange, which is located in the Gainesville LATA in the central portion of Alachua County. ALLTEL is subject to rate-of-return regulation, pursuant to Chapter 364.052(2), Florida Statutes, while BellSouth has elected price regulation, in accordance with Section 364.051(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

The hearing in this Docket is scheduled for January 11, 1999, and the prehearing conference is set for December 14, 1998. In preparation for the hearing, Commission staff conducted an Issues Identification workshop on September 22, 1998. All of the parties to this docket participated in the meeting. The issues as agreed upon are set forth below:

1. Is there a sufficient community of interest on the Ft. White/Gainesville route to justify non-optional extended area service (EAS) as currently defined in Commission Rules or implementing an alternative toll plan?
2. If a sufficient community of interest is found to exist, what is the economic impact for the subscribers and the

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involved companies in implementing an alternative plan on the Ft. White/Gainesville route? (Summarize and discuss in detail the alternative toll plan and its rate structure):

- A) EAS with a 25/25 plan and re-grouping
 - B) One-way extended calling service(ECS)
 - C) Other (specify)
3. What are the appropriate rates for the alternative toll plan on the Ft. White/Gainesville route?
4. What dialing pattern should be implemented if the Commission determines that toll relief is appropriate?

I find that these issues are appropriate; therefore, the testimony filed in this docket shall address the issues set forth above.

Furthermore, the parties and Commission staff agreed at the Issues Identification workshop that it would be appropriate to extend the date for filing direct testimony and exhibits to October 20, 1998, in view of the scheduled hearing dates. I find this extension is appropriate; therefore, direct testimony and exhibits shall be filed by October 20, 1998.

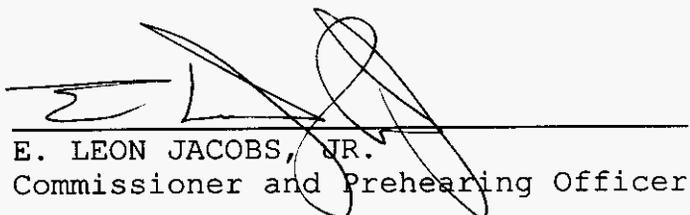
Based upon the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner E. Leon Jacobs, as Prehearing Officer that the testimony filed in this docket shall address the issues identified in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the date for filing direct testimony and exhibits is extended to October 20, 1998.

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By ORDER of Commissioner E. Leon Jacobs, Jr. as Prehearing Officer, this 26th Day of October, 1998.



E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(S E A L)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary,

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procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.