

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

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RECORDS AND REPORTING

DATE: JUNE 17, 1999

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

FROM: DIVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (ISLER) *Aji MD*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA) *VMP CB*

RE: DOCKET NO. 981978-TX - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF ALEC CERTIFICATE NO. 5259 ISSUED TO BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC., FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

AGENDA: 06/29/99 - REGULAR AGENDA - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMU\WP\981978.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- 11/12/97 - This company obtained Florida Public Service Commission ALEC Certificate No. 5259.
- 12/11/97 - The Division of Administration mailed the regulatory assessment fee (RAF) notice by certified mail. The United States Postal Service returned the receipt, which showed the RAF notice was signed for and delivered on December 16, 1997.
- 12/02/98 - The Division of Administration notified staff by memorandum that this company had not paid its 1997 RAFs, plus statutory penalty and interest charges for the year 1997.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

07334, JUN 17 99

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

- **04/19/99** - Order No. PSC-99-0740-FOF-TX was issued, which imposed a \$500 fine for the RAFs violation or canceled the certificate. The company had until May 10, 1999 to file a protest and until May 17, 1999 to pay the \$500 fine and past due amount.
- **04/21/99** - Ms. Arlene Powers, General Manager, called staff and advised that the 1997 past due RAFs were paid on March 27, 1999 and the 1998 past due RAFs were paid on March 30, 1999, which has been confirmed by the Division of Administration. In addition, Ms. Powers advised she would make a settlement offer.
- **04/23/99** - Staff received a letter from Ms. Powers, which proposed a \$100 settlement and promised to pay future regulatory assessment fees on a timely basis.

Staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission accept the settlement offer proposed by Business Technology Systems, Inc. to resolve the apparent violations of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should accept the company's settlement proposal. Any contribution should be received by the Commission within ten business days from the effective date of the Commission Order and should identify the docket number and company name. The Commission should forward the contribution to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the company fails to pay in accordance with the terms of the Commission Order, the company's certificate should be canceled administratively with an effective date of December 31, 1998. (Isler)

STAFF ANALYSIS: On April 19, 1999, Order No. PSC-99-0740-FOF-TX was issued, which imposed a \$500 fine and required payment of the fine and past due amount by May 17, 1999, or required cancellation of ALEC Certificate No. 5259. The company's General Manager, Ms. Arlene Powers, called staff and advised that the company wanted to

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keep its certificate, had already paid the past due amount, and would make a settlement offer. On April 23, 1999, the company proposed a \$100 settlement.

Accordingly, staff believes the terms of the settlement agreement as summarized in this recommendation should be accepted. Any contribution should be received by the Commission within ten business days from the effective date of the Commission Order and should identify the docket number and company name. The Commission should forward the contribution to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the company fails to pay in accordance with the terms of the Commission Order, the company's certificate should be canceled administratively with an effective date of December 31, 1998.

ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes, if the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this docket should be closed. (K. Peña)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this docket should be closed.