



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

RECORDS AND REPORTING
JUL 13 AM 11:55
RECEIVED-FPSC

DATE: JULY 15, 1999

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

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (ISLER) *Diq*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA) *umf CB*

RE: DOCKET NO. 990671-TX - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF ALEC CERTIFICATE NO. 5221 ISSUED TO GUARANTEL, INC., FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

AGENDA: 07/27/99 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMU\WP\990671.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- **09/12/97** - Guarantel, Inc., obtained ALEC Certificate No. 5221.
- **12/10/98** - The Division of Administration mailed the regulatory assessment fee (RAF) notice and payment was due by February 1, 1999. Records show that this company had not paid its 1998 RAF.

Staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
08264 JUL 13 99
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DOCKET NOS. 990671-TX
DATE: JULY 15, 1999

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel Guarantel's certificate for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel the company's certificate if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received, ALEC Certificate No. 5221 should be canceled effective on the date of issuance of the Consummating Order. (Isler)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, requires the payment of regulatory assessment fees by January 30 of the subsequent year for telecommunications companies, and provides for penalties and interest as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

As of July 8, 1999, the company had not paid its 1998 regulatory assessment fees, plus statutory penalties and interest. Therefore, the company has failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with the Commission rules or cancel the company's certificate if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, along with statutory penalty and interest charges, are not paid within five business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received, the company's certificate should be canceled effective on the date of issuance of the Consummating Order.

DOCKET NOS. 990671-TX
DATE: JULY 15, 1999

ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes, this docket should be closed upon issuance of a Consummating Order unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the proposed agency action order. (K. Peña)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Whether staff's recommendation on Issue 1 is approved or denied, the result will be a proposed agency action order. If no timely protest to the proposed agency action is filed within 21 days of the date of issuance of the Order, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.