

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation into telephone exchange boundary issues in South Volusia County (Deltona Area).

DOCKET NO. 981795-TL

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR BALLOTING DIRECTED IN ORDER NO. PSC-99-1133-FOF-TL

NOW COMES the County of Volusia, by and through its undersigned counsel and on behalf of those customers of Sprint-Florida Incorporated (Sprint) and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) affected by this Docket, requests that the time period for balloting be extended, and as grounds therefor states:

- 1. Order No. PSC-99-1133-FOF-TL, provided for customer balloting in Part IV of the Order. Under Part IV, Sprint and BellSouth were required to survey affected customers to determine their interest in being served from a newly created exchange, Osteen. Finding no controlling rule for balloting in this instance, the Commission directed that the procedures of Rule 25-4.063, Florida Administrative Code, be utilized.
2. Rule 25-4.063, Florida Administrative Code, provides for subscriber surveys. Under that rule, the company is to mail ballots and information letters to customers. The ballots must provide a return date for the postcard ballots, which must be "as a minimum, a period of thirty days from the

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date on which the survey letter is mailed. (Emphasis added).
In this case, the return date was specified as September 17, 1999, which was the minimum time period provided for in the Rule.
4. Upon information and belief, the minimum number of ballots were not submitted by

September 17, 1999, in order for the results to be considered.

5. The Commission may take administrative notice that the lives of the customers in the balloting area were severely disrupted during the entire last week of the balloting period by the threat of Hurricane Floyd. An undetermined number of these customers may have had to evacuate their homes, or at a minimum, give their attention to preparations for protection of their families and property and other matters more pressing than the survey.

6. This situation may well have been a significant factor in the small response to the ballot.

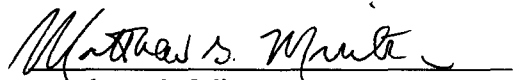
7. In light of the fact that these customers were originally provided the minimum time to respond to the ballot, it should not work a significant hardship to the companies to permit an extension of the balloting period.

WHEREFORE, the County of Volusia respectfully requests the following relief:

1. Permit an additional period of two weeks, from a to-be set date, for the customers to respond to the balloting.

2. If the Commission will grant this requested relief, the County of Volusia will bear the expense for mailing a Commission-approved notice to the affected customers, advising the customers that they have an additional two weeks from the designated date to return their ballots to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted this 20 day of September, 1999.

  
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