

State of Florida



## 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-**

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**DATE:** JANUARY 25, 2001

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

**FROM:** DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES (ISLER) *PIE*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BANKS) *FB* *OV* *W*

**RE:** CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
ALTERNATIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CERTIFICATE  
FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY  
ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

DOCKET NO. 001419-TX - TALK TIME COMMUNICATIONS, LTD.  
D/B/A TALK TIME COMMUNICATIONS, LTD. INC.  
DOCKET NO. 001453-TX - DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
D/B/A TELRITE  
DOCKET NO. 001469-TX - FREEDOMTEL, INC.  
DOCKET NO. 001496-TX - ACCUTEL OF TEXAS, INC.

**AGENDA:** 02/06/01 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION -  
INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

**CRITICAL DATES:** NONE

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** NONE

**FILE NAME AND LOCATION:** S:\PSC\CMP\WP\001419.RCM

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### CASE BACKGROUND

Each of the certificated providers listed on page 5 were mailed the 1999 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) notice. When full payment had not been received by the due date, the Division of Administration mailed a delinquent letter to the companies. As of January 18, 2001, none of the companies have paid the past due amount.

The Commission is vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336 and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

01096 JAN 25 2001

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

### **DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

**ISSUE 1:** Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's respective certificate listed on page 5 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 each company's certificate as listed on page 5 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. 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 certificate numbers listed on page 5 should be cancelled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts. (Isler)

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission may impose a fine or cancel a certificate if a company refuses to comply with Commission rules. Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the requirements for cancellation of a certificate. The rule provides for the Commission to cancel a certificate on its own motion for violation of Commission Rules and Orders.

Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, which implements Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, 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.

The Division of Administration's records show that each of the companies listed on page 5 had not paid its 1999 regulatory assessment fees, plus statutory penalty and interest charges. Therefore, it appears the companies have failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies and have not requested cancellation of their certificates in compliance with Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code. This fine is consistent with amounts used for recent, similar violations.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's certificate as listed on page 5 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. 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 certificate numbers listed on page 5 should be cancelled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts.

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**ISSUE 2:** Should these dockets be closed?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. The Order issued from this recommendation will become final 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. These dockets should then be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final. (Banks)

**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, these dockets should be closed upon issuance of a Consummating Order and upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final.

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<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>PROVIDER</u> <u>LAST REPORTED REVENUES &amp; PERIOD COVERED</u>	<u>CERT.</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>RAFs</u>	<u>P and I</u>
001419-TX	Talk Time Communications, Ltd. Inc. 1998 Revenues - \$0 For the Period Ended 12/31/98	5645	1999	1999
001453-TX	Telrite 1998 Revenues - \$0 For the Period Ended 12/31/98	5703	1999	1999
001469-TX	FreedomTel, Inc. No Previous RAF Return Filed	7132	1999	1999
001496-TX	AccuTel of Texas, Inc. No Previous RAF Return Filed	7258	1999	1999

