

STATE OF FLORIDA

Commissioners:
E. LEON JACOBS, JR., CHAIRMAN
J. TERRY DEASON
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ
MICHAEL A. PALECKI



DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES
WALTER D'HAESELEER
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6600

Public Service Commission

January 25, 2001

Mr. John M. Jolley, Attorney at Law
112 Hampton Trace Lane
Columbia, SC 29209

**Re: Docket No. 001359-TI
Ozark Telecom, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Jolley:

This is a follow up to our e-mails concerning the above docket. The regulatory assessment fee (RAF) is due each year by January 30 for the previous year, unless the 30th falls on a weekend, then the due date is the next working day. For example, the 1999 fee was due January 31, 2000 and the 2000 fee is due by January 30, 2001.

Commission records show that as of this date, the 1999 RAF has not been paid. The 1999 and 2000 RAF returns are attached. Please complete and return them along with a check for the past due amount in full. The RAF is .0015% of the company's total Florida gross revenues, or \$50.00, whichever is greater. However, if Ozark owes only the minimum amount and if it is postmarked by February 24, the 1999 total is \$69.00 (\$50.00 fee, \$12.50 penalty, and \$6.50 interest). The 2000 minimum fee is \$50.00, if postmarked by January 30. If it is postmarked after January 30 but prior to March 1, the 2000 fee is \$53.00 (\$50.00 fee, \$2.50 penalty, \$0.50 interest).

On January 9, 2001, Order No. PSC-01-0078-PAA-TI was issued, which imposed a \$500 fine for nonpayment of the 1999 RAF. According to the Order, the company has until January 30 to respond. At this point, Ozark has four options.

- (1) Cancel the certificate voluntarily - Pay all past due charges in full, pay the 2000 and 2001 RAFs or provide a date certain that the 2001 RAF will be paid (such as 30 days from the date of the Commission Order cancelling the certificate), and write a letter requesting cancellation and reference the docket number. A copy of our rule is attached.

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE
01226 JAN 26 01

FFSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Mr. John M. Jolley, Attorney at Law

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January 25, 2001

- (2) Do nothing - In this case, Ozark's certificate will be cancelled on the Commission's own motion. All outstanding RAFs, including penalty and interest charges, will be turned over to the Comptroller's Office for collection.
- (3) Pay the outstanding charges, the 2000 RAF, and the \$500 fine imposed by January 30, 2001. If the company chooses this option, Ozark's certificate will not be cancelled.
- (4) File a petition for a formal proceeding in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., copy attached. This petition must be filed with the Commission by January 30, which is the end of the protest period. Rule 28-106.201(2)(g) states that the petition must include "A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action." This means that you may wish to propose a settlement. If you propose a settlement, the petition must include the following elements:
 - Docket number;
 - A check for the past due amount in full;
 - A statement that it has taken steps to prevent future late payments of the regulatory assessment fees and what those steps are; and
 - Make a specific monetary settlement.

Any settlement offer should be addressed to Ms. Blanca Bayó, Director, Division of Records and Reporting, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850. The proposed settlement amount should **not** be paid at this time, instead only the past due regulatory assessment fee, plus penalty and interest charges should be paid. The settlement amount, if approved by the Commission, will become due after the Commissioners vote on this issue.

If you file a timely petition proposing a settlement, a new Agenda Conference date will be scheduled. At that time, the Commissioners will vote on whether or not to accept the settlement offer. An Order will then be issued and you will have 10 business days from the date of the Order to pay the settlement.

Please let me know what your decision is by January 30, 2001. If you have any questions, just let me know. I can be reached at (850) 413-6502-voice, (850) 413-6503-fax, and by internet e-mail at pisler@psc.state.fl.us.

Mr. John M. Jolley, Attorney at Law
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January 25, 2001

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula J. Isler".

Paula J. Isler, Research Assistant
Bureau of Service Evaluation & Compliance

Enclosures

cc: Docket No. 001359-TI
Division of Legal Services (Elliott)

Interexchange Company Regulatory Assessment Fee Return

Florida Public Service Commission

(See Filing Instructions on Back of Form)

STATUS:

- Actual Return
- Estimated Return
- Amended Return

TJ283
 Ozark Telecom, Inc.
 1115 Mill Street
 Camden, SC 29020-3743

PERIOD COVERED:

10/15/1999 TO 12/31/1999

Please Complete Below If Official Mailing Address Has Changed

FOR PSC USE ONLY

Check# _____

\$ _____ 0603001
 _____ 003001

\$ _____ P
 _____ 0603001
 _____ 004011

\$ _____ I

Postmark Date _____

Initials of Preparer _____

 (Name of Company) (Address) (City/State) (Zip)

LINE NO.	ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION	FLORIDA GROSS OPERATING REVENUE	INTRASTATE REVENUE
1.	Long Distance Services	\$ _____	\$ _____
2.	Access Services	_____	_____
3.	Private Line Services	_____	_____
4.	Leased Facilities & Circuits Services	_____	_____
5.	Miscellaneous Services	_____	_____
6.	TOTAL Telephone Services	\$ _____	\$ _____
7.	LESS: Amounts Paid to Other Telecommunications Companies* (see "2. Fees" on back)	(_____)	(_____)
8.	TOTAL REVENUES For Regulatory Assessment Fee Calculation	_____	_____
9.	Regulatory Assessment Fee Due (Multiply Line 8 by 0.0015)	_____	_____
10.	Penalty for Late Payment (see "3. Failure to File by Due Date" on back)	_____	_____
11.	Interest for Late Payment (see "3. Failure to File by Due Date" on back)	_____	_____
12.	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	_____	\$ _____

* These amounts must be intrastate only and must be verifiable.

AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 364.336, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE MINIMUM ANNUAL FEE IS \$50

CURRENT COMPANY STATUS

- () Facilities-Based Carrier () Reseller () Call Aggregator
 () Alternate-Operator Service () Rebiller () Other: _____

BILLING INFORMATION

Complete below if billing agent if other than yourself.

 (Name) (Address: City/State/Zip) (Telephone)

What is the total amount of customer deposits collected? What is the total amount of bond held (if applicable)?
 Amount: \$ _____ for 19____ Amount: \$ _____ Expires: _____

COMPANY INFORMATION

Do you lease telecommunications' facilities? () YES () NO
 If YES, who do you lease these facilities from? Name: _____

Address: _____

I, the undersigned owner/officer of the above-named company, have read the foregoing and declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above information is a true and correct statement. I am aware that pursuant to Section 837.06, Florida Statutes, whoever knowingly makes a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

 (Signature of Company Official) (Title) (Date)

 (Preparer of Form - Please Print Name) Telephone Number () Fax Number ()

F.E.I. No. _____

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Instructions For Filing Regulatory Assessment Fee Return
(Interexchange Company)

1. **WHEN TO FILE:** For companies which owed a total of \$10,000 or more of assessment fee for the preceding calendar year, the Regulatory Assessment Fee Return and payment must be filed or postmarked:

*On or before July 30 for the six-month period January 1 through June 30, AND
On or before January 30 for the six-month period July 1 through December 31.*

For companies which owed a total of less than \$10,000 of assessment fee for the preceding calendar year, this Regulatory Assessment Fee Return and payment must be filed or postmarked:

On or before January 30 for the twelve-month period January 1 through December 31.

However, if July 30 or January 30 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the Regulatory Assessment Fee may be filed or postmarked on the next business day, without penalty.

2. **FEES:** Each company shall pay 0.0015 of its gross operating revenues derived from intrastate business, as referenced in Rule 214.0161(1), F.A.C. Gross Operating Revenues are defined as the total revenues before expenses. Gross Intrastate Operating Revenue are defined as revenues from calls originating and terminating within Florida. Do not deduct any expenses, taxes, or uncollectible from these amounts other than the amount in Line 7.

On Line 7, deduct any amounts paid to another telecommunications company for the use of any telecommunications network to provide service to its customers. Do not deduct any taxes, federal subscriber line charges, interstate long distance access charges, or amounts paid for nonregulated services such as voice mail, inside wire maintenance, or equipment purchases/rentals. **DEDUCTIONS MUST BE INTRASTATE ONLY AND MUST BE VERIFIABLE.**

3. **FAILURE TO FILE BY DUE DATE:** Failure to file a return by the established due date will result in a penalty being added to the amount of fee due, 5% for each 30 days or fraction thereof, not to exceed a total penalty of 25% (Line 10). In addition, interest shall be added in the amount of 1% for each 30 days or fraction thereof, not to exceed a total of 12% per year (Line 11). A Regulatory Assessment Fee Return must be completed, signed, and filed even if there are no revenues to report or if the minimum amount is due.

When a company fails to timely file a Regulatory Assessment Fee Return, the Commission has the authority to order the company to pay a penalty and/or cancel the company's certificate. The company will have an opportunity to respond to any proposed Commission action.

4. **EXTENSION:** A request for an extension of time up to 30 days may be made by filing the enclosed *Request for Extension to File Regulatory Assessment Fee Return* form (PSC/ADM-124), two weeks prior to the filing date. When an extension is granted, a charge shall be added to the amount due:

0.75% of the fee to be remitted for an extension of 15 days or less, or
1.5% of the fee for an extension of 16 to 30 days.

In lieu of paying the charges outlined above, a company may file a return and remit payment based upon estimated gross operating revenues. If such return is filed by the normal due date, the company shall be granted a 30-day extension period in which to file and remit the actual fee due without paying the above charges, provided the estimated fee payment remitted is at least 90% of the actual fee due for the period. An automatic 30-day extension to file an actual return may be obtained by checking the "Estimated Return" space in the top left-hand corner on the reverse side.

5. **FEE ADJUSTMENTS:** You will be notified as to the amount and reason for any fee adjustment. Penalty and interest charges may be applicable to additional amounts owed the Commission by reason of the adjustment. The company may file a written request for a refund of any overpayments. The request should be directed to Fiscal Services at the below-referenced address.
6. **MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete this form, make a copy for your files, and return the original and in the enclosed preaddressed envelope. Use of this envelope should assure a more accurate and expeditious recording of your payment. Make your check payable to the Florida Public Service Commission. If you are unable to use the envelope, please address your remittance as follows:

Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 ATTENTION: Fiscal Services

7. **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE:** If you need additional assistance in preparing your Regulatory Assessment Fee Return or regarding telecommunications facilities, please contact the Division of Competitive Services at (850) 413-6600. This division may be contacted at the above-referenced address, directing correspondence to the attention of the division.

Interexchange Company Regulatory Assessment Fee Return

Florida Public Service Commission

(See Filing Instructions on Back of Form)

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- Actual Return
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 Ozark Telecom, Inc.
 1115 Mill Street
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FOR PSC USE ONLY

Check# _____

\$ _____ 0603001
 _____ 003001

\$ _____ P
 _____ 0603001
 _____ 004011

\$ _____ I

Postmark Date _____

Initials of Preparer _____

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25-24.474 Cancellation of a Certificate.

(1) The Commission may on its own motion cancel a company's certificate for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Violation of the terms and conditions under which the authority was originally granted;
- (b) Violation of Commission rule or order; or
- (c) Violation of Florida Statutes.

(2) If a certificated company desires to cancel its certificate, it shall request cancellation from the Commission in writing and shall provide the following with its request.

- (a) Statement of intent and date to pay Regulatory Assessment Fee.
- (b) Statement of why the certificate is proposed to be cancelled.
- (c) A statement on treatment of customer deposits and final bills.
- (d) Proof of individual customer notice regarding discontinuance of service.

(3) Cancellation of a certificate shall be ordered subject to the holder providing the information required by subsection (2).

Specific Authority 350.127(2) FS.

Law Implemented 350.113, 350.127(1), 364.285, 364.337, 364.345 FS.

History--New 2-23-87, Amended 3-13-96.

PART II HEARINGS INVOLVING DISPUTED ISSUES OF MATERIAL FACT

28-106.201 Initiation of Proceedings.

(1) Unless otherwise provided by statute, initiation of proceedings shall be made by written petition to the agency responsible for rendering final agency action. The term "petition" includes any document that requests an evidentiary proceeding and asserts the existence of a disputed issue of material fact. Each petition shall be legible and on 8 ½ by 11 inch white paper. Unless printed, the impression shall be on one side of the paper only and lines shall be double-spaced.

(2) All petitions filed under these rules shall contain:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;

(b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;

(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;

(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;

(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;

(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

(3) Upon receipt of a petition involving disputed issues of material fact, the agency shall grant or deny the petition, and if granted shall, unless otherwise provided by law, refer the matter to the Division of Administrative Hearings with a request that an administrative law judge be assigned to conduct the hearing. The request shall be accompanied by a copy of the petition and a copy of the notice of agency action.

(4) A petition shall be dismissed if it is not in substantial compliance with subsection (2) of this rule or it has been untimely filed. Dismissal of a petition shall, at least once, be without prejudice to petitioner's filing a timely amended petition curing the defect, unless it conclusively appears from the face of the petition that the defect cannot be cured.

(5) The agency shall promptly give written notice to all parties of the action taken on the petition, shall state with particularity its reasons if the petition is not granted, and shall state the deadline for filing an amended petition if applicable.

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 01/25/2001 15:28
NAME :
FAX :
TEL :

DATE, TIME	01/25 15:24
FAX NO./NAME	518032521375
DURATION	00:04:01
PAGE(S)	09
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM