## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service Commission of PATs Certificate No. 5602 issued to J. Merritt Guthrie for violation of Rule No. 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies.

DOCKET NO. 001040-TC ORDER NO. PSC-01-0499-AS-TC ISSUED: February 27, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

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

## ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT

## BY THE COMMISSION:

J. Merritt Guthrie (Mr. Guthrie) currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5602, issued by the Commission on April 7, 1998, authorizing the provision of Pay Telephone service. The Division of Administration advised our staff by memorandum that Mr. Guthrie had not paid the 1999 Regulatory Assessment Fees (RAFs). Also, accrued statutory penalties and interest charges for late RAFs payments for the years 1998 and 1999 had not been paid.

Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, certificate holders must pay a minimum annual RAF of \$50 if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161 (2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. All entities that apply for certification receive a copy of our rules governing Pay Telephone service.

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Pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the RAFs forms, for the period of January 1, through December 31, are mailed to the entities at least 45 days prior to the date that payment of the fee is due. Mr. Guthrie was scheduled to remit its RAFs by January 31, 2000.

On September 29, 2000, we issued Order No. PSC-00-1784-PAA-TC to impose a \$500 fine for failure to pay 1999 RAFs and accrued stautory penalties and interest charges for 1998 and 1999. Failure to comply or respond to this Order would result in the cancellation of Mr. Guthrie's certificate. Mr. Guthrie has since paid the 1999 RAFs, including accrued statutory penalties and interest charges for the years 1998 and 1999, offered to contribute \$100 to the State General Revenue Fund, and proposed to pay future RAFs on a timely basis.

We believe that the terms of the settlement agreement represent a fair and reasonable resolution of this matter. Accordingly, we hereby accept the settlement offer. Mr. Guthrie must comply with these requirements within ten business days from the date this Order becomes final. The contribution should be identified with the docket number and the company name. Upon timely receipt, the contribution will be forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. Mr. Guthrie has waived any objection to the administrative cancellation of his certificate if he does not comply with his settlement agreement. Upon remittance of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate, this docket shall be closed. The Commission is vested jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.3375, and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that J. Merritt Guthrie's settlement proposal set forth in the body of this Order is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending receipt of the \$100 contribution. The contribution will be transmitted to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State of Florida General Revenue Fund. It is further ORDER NO. PSC-01-0499-AS-TC DOCKET NO. 001040-TC PAGE 3

ORDERED that if J. Merritt Guthrie fails to comply with this Order, its certificate will be canceled administratively. It is further

ORDERED that upon receipt of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this <u>27th</u> day of <u>February</u>, <u>2001</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Directo

Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

KMP

## NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,

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Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water and/or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.