

**EATEL**

913 South Burnside Avenue  
Gonzales, Louisiana 70737-4258



April 27, 2001

Florida Public Service Commission  
Division of Regulatory Oversight  
Certificate Section  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

010647-TI

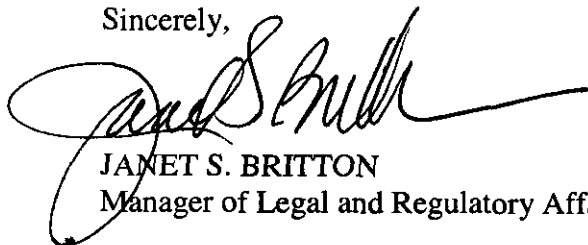
In Re: Transfer of Existing Certificate No. 4689 from  
TLX Communications, Inc., to Advanced Tel, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find an original and seven (7) copies of the Application Form for Authority to Provide Interexchange Telecommunications Service Between Points within the State of Florida. Please return a date stamped copy to me for my files in the enclosed self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Should you have any questions regarding this application, please call me directly at (225) 621-4498.

Sincerely,



JANET S. BRITTON  
Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

JSB:ka

Enclosures

This claim of confidentiality was filed by or on behalf of a "telco" for Confidential DN 05488-01. The document is in locked storage pending advice on handling. To access the material, your name must be on the CASR. If undocketed, your division director must obtain written EXD/Tech permission before you can access it.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

05486 MAY-16

(225) 621-4200 • <http://www.eatel.com>

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

APPLICATION

1. This is an application for (check one):

010647-TI

- Original** certificate (new company).
- Approval of transfer of existing certificate: Example, a non-certificated** company purchases an existing company and desires to retain the original certificate of authority.
- Approval of assignment of existing certificate: Example, a certificated** company purchases an existing company and desires to retain the certificate of authority of that company.
- Approval of transfer of control: Example a company purchases 51% of a** certificated company. The Commission must approve the new controlling entity

2. Name of company:

Advanced Tel, Inc.

3. Name under which the applicant will do business (fictitious name, etc.):

EATEL

4. Official mailing address (including street name & number post office box, city, state, zip code):

913 South Burnside Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737

5. Florida address (including street name & number, post office box, city, state, zip code):

Not applicable.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
05486 MAY-16  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

6. Select type of business your company will be conducting • (check all that apply):

- Facilities-based carrier** – company owns and operates or plans to own and operate telecommunications switches and transmission facilities in Florida.
- Operator Service Provider** – company provides or plans to provide alternative operator services for IXCs; or toll operator services to call aggregator locations; or clearinghouse services to bill such calls.
- Reseller** – company has or plans to have one or more switches but primarily leases the transmission facilities of other carriers. Bills its own customer base for services used.
- Switchless Rebiller** – company has no switch or transmission facilities but may have a billing computer. Aggregates traffic to obtain bulk discounts from underlying carrier. Rebills end users at a rate above its discount but generally below the rate end users would pay for unaggregated traffic.
- Multi-Location Discount Aggregator** – company contracts with unaffiliated entities to obtain bulk/volume discounts under multi-location discount plans from certain underlying carriers, then offers resold service by enrolling unaffiliated customers.
- Prepaid Debit Card Provider** – any person or entity that purchases 800 access from an underlying carrier or unaffiliated entity for use with prepaid debt card service and/or encodes the cards with personal identification numbers.

7. Structure of organization:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foreign Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Partnership            | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                    |  |

8. If individual, provide:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **If incorporated in Florida**, provide proof of authority to operate in Florida:

(a) **The Florida Secretary of State corporate registration number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **If foreign corporation**, provide proof of authority to operate in Florida:

(a) **The Florida Secretary of State corporate registration number:**

F00000005170

11. **If using fictitious name-d/b/a**, provide proof of compliance with fictitious name statute (Chapter 865.09, FS) to operate in Florida:

(a) **The Florida Secretary of State fictitious name registration number:**

G01114900258

12. **If a limited liability partnership**, provide proof of registration to operate in Florida:

(a) **The Florida Secretary of State corporate registration number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

13. **If partnership**, provide name, title and address of all partners and a copy of the partnership agreement.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Internet E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Internet Website Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

14. **If a foreign limited partnership**, provide proof of compliance with the foreign limited partnership statute (Charter 620.169, FS), if applicable.

(a) **The Florida registration number:** \_\_\_\_\_

15. Provide F.E.I.Number(if applicable): 72-1025691

16. Provide the following (if applicable):

(a) Will the name of your company appear on the bill for your services?

Yes     No

(b) If not, who will bill for your services?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) How is this information provided?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Who will receive the bills for your service?

Residential Customers

Business Customers

PATs providers

PATs station end-users

Hotels & motels

Hotel & motel guests

Universities

Universities dormitory residents

Other: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

18. Who will serve as liaison to the Commission with regard to the following?

(a) The application:

Name: Janet S. Britton

Title: Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Address: 913 South Burnside Avenue

City/State/Zip Gonzales, LA 70737

Telephone No.: (225) 621-4498 Fax No: (225) 647-7927

Internet E-Mail Address: janet@eatel.com

Internet Website Address: Same

(b) Official point of contact for the ongoing operations of the company:

Name: Janet S. Britton

Title: Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Address: 913 South Burnside Avenue

City/State/Zip Gonzales, LA 70737

Telephone No.: (225) 621-4498 Fax No: (225) 647-7927

Internet E-Mail Address: janet@eatel.com

Internet Website Address: www.eatel.com

(c) Complaints/Inquiries from customers:

Name: Janet S. Britton

Title: Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Address: 913 South Burnside Avenue

City/State/Zip Gonzales, LA 70737

Telephone No.: (225) 621-4498 Fax No: (225) 647-7927

Internet E-Mail Address: janet@eatel.com

Internet Website Address: www.eatel.com

19. List the states in which the applicant:

(a) has operated as an interexchange telecommunications company.

Louisiana and Mississippi

(b) has applications pending to be certificated as an interexchange telecommunications company.

Alabama and as an ALEC in Florida

(c) is certificated to operate as an interexchange telecommunications company.

Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas

- (d) has been denied authority to operate as an interexchange telecommunications company and the circumstances involved.

None

- (e) has had regulatory penalties imposed for violations of telecommunications statutes and the circumstances involved.

None

- (f) has been involved in civil court proceedings with an interexchange carrier, local exchange company or other telecommunications entity, and the circumstances involved.

None

20. Indicate if any of the officers, directors, or any of the ten largest stockholders have previously been:

- (a) adjudged bankrupt, mentally incompetent, or found guilty of any felony or of any crime, or whether such actions may result from pending proceedings. If so, please explain.

Not applicable

- (b) an officer, director, partner or stockholder in any other Florida certificated telephone company. If yes, give name of company and relationship. If no longer associated with company, give reason why not.

Not applicable

21. The application will provide the following interexchange carrier services  $\checkmark$  (check all that apply):

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ **MTS with distance sensitive per minute rates**

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGA

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGB

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGD

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is 800

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ **MTS with route specific rates per minute**

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGA

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGB

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGD

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is 800

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ **MTS with statewide flat rates per minute (i.e. not distance sensitive)**  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGA  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGB  
        \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is FGD  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is 800
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ **MTS for pay telephone service providers**
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ **Block-of-time calling plan (Reach Out Florida, Ring America, etc.)**
- f.  \_\_\_\_\_ **800 service (toll free)**
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ **WATS type service (bulk or volume discount)**  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is via dedicated facilities  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is via switched facilities
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ **Private line services (Channel Services)**  
       (For ex. 1.544 mbs., DS-3, etc.)
- I. \_\_\_\_\_ **Travel service**  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is via dedicated facilities  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Method of access is via switched facilities
- j. \_\_\_\_\_ **900 service**
- k. \_\_\_\_\_ **Operator services**  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Available to presubscribed customers  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Available to non presubscribed customers (for example, to patrons of hotels, students in universities, patients in hospitals).  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Available to inmates
- l. **Services included are:**  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Station assistance  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Person-to-person assistance  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Directory assistance  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Operator verify and interrupt  
       \_\_\_\_\_ Conference calling



22. Submit the proposed tariff under which the company plans to begin operation. Use the format required by Commission Rule 25-24.485 (example enclosed).

23. Submit the following:

- A. **Managerial capability;** give resumes of employees/officers of the company that would indicate sufficient managerial experiences of each.

See attached Biographies.

- B. **Technical capability;** give resumes of employees/officers of the company that would indicate sufficient technical experiences or indicate what company has been contracted to conduct technical maintenance.

See attached Biographies.

- C. **Financial capability. See attached documents.**

The application **should contain** the applicants audited financial statements for the most recent 3 years. If the applicant does not have audited financial statements, it shall so be stated.

The unaudited financial statements should be signed by the applicants chief executive officer and chief financial officer **affirming that the financial statements are true and correct** and should include:

1. the balance sheet;
2. income statement; and
3. statement of retained earnings.

**NOTE:** *This documentation may include, but is not limited to, financial statements, a projected profit and loss statement, credit references, credit bureau reports, and descriptions of business relationships with financial institutions.*

Further, the following (which includes supporting documentation) should be provided:

1. **written explanation** that the applicant has sufficient financial capability to provide the requested service in the geographic area proposed to be served.

The EATEL family of companies, including Advanced Tel, Inc., has a 65-year tradition of providing telecommunications services. During that time, EATEL has proven and maintained its capabilities through its operation as an incumbent local exchange company, competitive local exchange company and an interexchange company. In addition, Advanced Tel has the financing wherewithal to obtain any funding required for operation.

2. **written explanation** that the applicant has sufficient financial capability to maintain the requested service.

Advanced Tel has the financial capability and strength to maintain services requested of Florida end users. Further, Advanced Tel has access to financing or lines of credit to maintain the requested service.

3. **written explanation** that the applicant has sufficient financial capability to meet its lease or ownership obligations.

Advanced Tel has excellent credit and meets all lease or ownership obligations. The credit report attached demonstrates Advanced Tel's history of prompt payment. Advanced Tel has access to financing or lines of credit to meet its lease or ownership obligations. Advanced Tel does annual and 5 year planning to ensure that all obligations are met

**\*\* APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT \*\***

1. **REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEE:** I understand that all telephone companies must pay a regulatory assessment fee in the amount of .15 of one percent of gross operating revenue derived from intrastate business. Regardless of the gross operating revenue of a company, a minimum annual assessment fee of \$50 is required.
  
2. **GROSS RECEIPTS TAX:** I understand that all telephone companies must pay a gross receipts tax of two and one-half percent on all intra and interstate business.
  
3. **SALES TAX:** I understand that a seven percent sales tax must be paid on intra and interstate revenues.
  
4. **APPLICATION FEE:** I understand that a non-refundable application fee of \$250.00 must be submitted with the application.

UTILITY OFFICIAL:

Robert Waggon CPA  
Signature      ROBERT WAGNON, CPA

4/5/01  
Date

Manager of Tax, Audit & Treasury Services  
Title

225) 621-4303  
Telephone No.

913 South Burnside Avenue, Gonzales, LA 7073  
Address

(225) 644-6325  
Fax No.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A - CERTIFICATE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT
- B - INTRASTATE NETWORK
- C - AFFIDAVIT

**THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED**

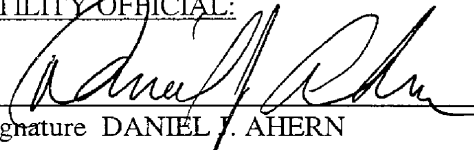
**CUSTOMER DEPOSITS AND ADVANCE PAYMENTS**

A statement of how the Commission can be assured of the security of the customer's deposits and advance payments may be provided in one of the following ways (applicant please  check one):

(  ) The applicant will **not** collect deposits nor will it collect payments for service for more than one month in advance.

(  ) The applicant intends to collect deposits and/or advance payments for more than one month's service and will file and maintain a surety bond with the Commission in an amount equal to the current balance of deposits and advance payments in excess of one month.  
(The bond must accompany the application)

UTILITY OFFICIAL:

  
Signature DANIEL J. AHERN

4/27/01  
Date

PRESIDENT  
Title

(225) 621-4498  
Telephone No.

913 South Burnside Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737  
Address

(225) 647-7927  
Fax No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

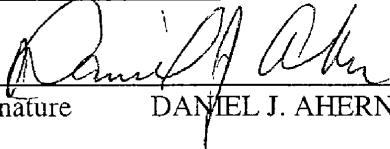
THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED

AFFIDAVIT

By my signature below, I, the undersigned officer, attest to the accuracy of the information contained in this application and attached documents and that the applicant has the technical expertise, managerial ability, and financial capability to provide alternative local exchange company service in the State of Florida. I have read the foregoing and declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information is true and correct. I attest that I have the authority to sign on behalf of my company and agree to comply, now and in the future, with all applicable Commission rules and orders.

Further, I am aware that, pursuant to Chapter 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 official duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.775.082 and s.775.083."

UTILITY OFFICIAL:

	<u>4/27/01</u>
Signature DANIEL J. AHERN	Date
President	<u>225) 621-4498</u>
Title	Telephone No.
<u>913 South Burnside Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737</u>	<u>(225) 647-7927</u>
Address	Fax No.
_____	_____
_____	_____

**CERTIFICATE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT**

I, (Name) JOHN BRYDELS, JR., PRESIDENT of

TLX COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (Name of Company)

and current holder of Florida Public Service Commission Certificate Number 4689

#Docket No. 969475-TL, Order No. PSC 96-0914-FOF-TL, 7/16/96, have reviewed this application and join in the

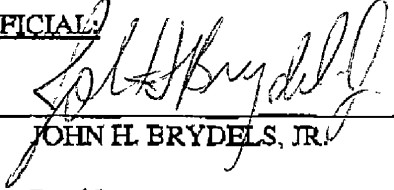
petitioner's request for a:

(  ) transfer

(  ) assignment

of the above-mentioned certificate.

UTILITY OFFICIAL:

  
Signature JOHN H. BRYDELS, JR.

4/24/01  
Date

President  
Title

(225) 387-4438  
Telephone No.

263 Third Street, Suite 208, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801  
Address

Fax No.

FORM PSC/CMU 31 (12/96)  
Required by commission Rule Nos. 25-24.470,  
25-24.471, and 25-24.473, 25-24.480(2).

**CURRENT FLORIDA INTRASTATE SERVICES**

Applicant **has** ( ) or **has not** (  ) previously provided intrastate telecommunications in Florida.

If the answer is has, fully describe the following:

a) What services have been provided and when did these services begin?

---

---

---

b) If the services are not currently offered, when were they discontinued?

---

---

---

UTILITY OFFICIAL:

  
Signature DANIEL J. AHERN

4/24/01  
Date

President  
Title

225) 621-4498  
Telephone No.

913 South Burnside Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737  
Address

(225) 647-7927  
Fax No.

**AFFIDAVIT**

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned notary, personally came and appeared:

**KEVIN DOLAN, Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer  
Advanced Tel, Inc.  
913 South Burnside Avenue  
Gonzales, Louisiana 70737**

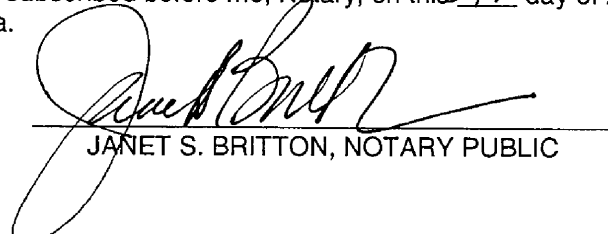
Who after first being duly sworn by me did declare and state that:

The Unaudited Financial Statements attached hereto and made a part hereof are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN DOLAN, VICE-PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Sworn to and subscribed before me, Notary, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001, at my offices in Gonzales Louisiana.



\_\_\_\_\_  
JANET S. BRITTON, NOTARY PUBLIC



## Executive Biographies

### DAN AHERN

Dan Ahern was named president of EATELCORP and its subsidiaries in April, 2000 and brings over 20 years experience to the role. Since April, Ahern has managed the acquisitions of The SunShine Pages Directories and TelAmerica Long Distance Services. Prior to being named president, Ahern worked for four years as the vice president of sales and marketing where he played an instrumental role in the 1997 launch of EATEL's wireless product and other services including competitive local exchange service. Ahern has also overseen the development of new markets for the company and expanded EATEL's retail presence in Baton Rouge and Lafayette to include a total of seven stores. Ahern also initiated a partnership between EATEL and LSU Athletics which has resulted in an increase in both the company's visibility and revenue. Prior to joining the company, Ahern worked as the Director of Emerging Markets for Citizens Utilities Company, one of the largest independent companies in the United States. As the Director of Emerging Markets for Citizens, he was responsible for launching paging services throughout the United States, and the marketing and sales program for long distance, Internet and other telephone offerings.



As president of EATEL, Ahern will continue the company's expansion into new markets and increase its marketshare in existing markets.

#### Former Positions

- Vice President of Sales and Marketing, EATEL, 1996
- Director of Emerging Markets, Citizens Utilities Company, 1995-1996

#### Education

- Bachelor of Science, Business Administration,

California State University

- Master of Business Administration, California State University

**Community Activities**

- Member of Gonzales Rotary Club
- Member of Board of Directors of Swine Palace Productions
- Member of Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra
- Member of Board of Directors of the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center

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## Department Directors

### KEVIN DOLAN



In his role as Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of EATEL, Kevin Dolan provides leadership to the Financial Services Division, overseeing the broad disciplines of Corporate Accounting, Treasury Management, Financial Planning, Acquisition Analysis, and Taxation and Purchasing. Dolan confers with the president, executive committee and board of directors on strategic financial issues. Prior to joining EATEL in 1995, Dolan served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Cajun Electric Power, Inc. He has over 20 years of diverse financial management experience including strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, capital sourcing, debt restructuring, maintaining banking relationships, and risk management. Dolan has also held financial management positions with Gulf Oil Corporation, McDermott, Inc., and Paine Webber, Inc.

#### Former Positions

- Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Cajun Electric Power, Inc., 1993-1995
- Vice President of Finance/Corporate Treasurer, Cajun Electric Power, Inc., 1990-1993

#### Education and Certifications

- Bachelor Degree in Economics, University of New Orleans
- Master of Arts Degree in Economics, Ohio State University
- Certified Management Accountant
- Certified Cash Manager

#### Current Memberships

- Institute of Management Accountants
- Board of Directors Junior Achievement

- Executive Board, Istrouma Council Boy Scouts
- Board of Directors Growth Equipment, Inc.

**Awards/Honors**

- Cum Laude Graduate
- Leadership Louisiana Class

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## Executive Biographies

### JOHN SCANLAN

John D. Scanlan is the Executive President and Vice Chairman of EATELCORP and its subsidiary companies. As a third generation owner of the company, Scanlan has deep roots in the telecommunications industry. He began his career at EATEL as a teenager in 1979 and worked through college as an installer, repairman/ wireman. In 1989, Scanlan was promoted to Marketing Products Manager; four years later he was made responsible for the overall sales and marketing of EATEL's long distance, business communications systems, and telephony services. In 1994, Scanlan was promoted to Executive Vice President of EATEL and its subsidiaries. Scanlan has served in his current role as Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman since 1996.



#### Positions Held at EATEL

- Installer-Repairman, 1984-1986
- Wireman, 1986-1989
- Marketing Products Manager, 1989-1993
- Marketing Manager, 1993-1994
- Executive Vice President, 1994-1996
- Executive President and Vice Chairman, 1996

#### Education

- Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Nicholls State University

#### Current Memberships

- Wireless Management Corporation
- Gulf Coast Wireless Chairman of the Board and Secretary (Sprint PCS Affiliate)
- Ascension Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- American Management Association
- Gulf Coast Conservation Association
- Knights of Columbus

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## Executive Biographies

### SMOKEY SCANLAN

Arthur "Smokey" Scanlan is the Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer of EATELCORP, Inc., and its subsidiaries. As a third generation owner of EATEL, Scanlan became acquainted with the telecommunications industry at a early age. Working part-time at EATEL during his college years, he joined the firm on a full-time basis in May 1984. Over the years he has held various positions within the company, and has worked as an installer, repair technician, outside plant engineer, and personnel director. In addition to his position as chief executive officer, he also serves as a director and member of EATELCORP's executive committee.



#### Positions Held At EATEL

- Various Part-Time Positions, 1977-1984
- Installer and Repair Technician, 1984
- Scout, 1984-1985
- Outside Plant Engineer, 1988-1989
- Personnel Director, 1989-1993
- Secretary and Treasurer, 1991-1993
- Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer, 1994 to present

#### Education

- Southeastern Louisiana University
- Telecommunications-Related Schools -Seminars

#### Current Memberships

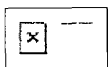
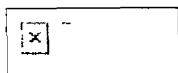
- Board of Directors/USTA
- Board of Directors/Louisiana Telephone Association
- Board of Directors/Ascension Economic Development Council
- Auxiliary Board Member/Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center
- USTA Operations Subcommittee/American



- [Management Association Gonzales Rotary Club](#)

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## **David Butler**

*EATEL Vice President and Chief Technology Officer*

David Butler has over 31 years of executive telecommunications experience. As EATEL's Chief Technology Officer Butler will be responsible for creating and implementing a progressive technology plan to serve the company's growing customer base.

Prior to joining EATEL, he served as President/COO of Columbia Telecommunications, a New Orleans-based company. He also worked 28 years at BellSouth.

### **Former Positions**

- President/ Chief Operating Officer, Columbia Telecommunications 1999 - 2000
- President/ Chief Operating Officer, American Metrocomm Corporation, 1998 -1999
- Bellsouth Telecommunications, 1969 - 1997

### **Education**

- Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Southern University
- Masters of Business Administration, Tulane University

### **Memberships:**

- Baton Rouge Technology Council Board of Directors
- United States Telecom Association
- Louisiana Telecommunications Association

## Department Directors

### V. GALEN GAUTREUX

*EATEL Director, Information Services*

V. Galen Gautreaux has 20 years experience working with a variety of computing systems, including enterprise mainframes, departmental servers, and personal computer systems. He is experienced in systems administration, relational database design, systems analysis and development, and business process re-engineering. He has a computer consulting business, and has sold software to the financial industry.

Prior to joining EATEL, Gautreaux spent 10 years with Cajun Electric Power Cooperative in a variety of management positions in Information Systems. Prior to Cajun, Gautreaux performed various technical assignments ranging from computer operations to consultant.

Since joining EATEL in May of 1996, he has assumed responsibility for preparing the computing infrastructure to meet the needs of the changing telecommunications industry. Additionally, Gautreaux has migrated EATEL to industry standard solutions, including HP 9000 enterprise servers and Microsoft NT Server for departmental computing.

#### Former Positions

- Cajun Electric Power Cooperative

#### Education

- Louisiana State University

#### Current Memberships

- Louisiana State University College of Business  
Information Sciences and Decision Support  
Advisory Council
- Graduate of the Gonzales Chamber of

**SUZANNE HILL  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

In her role as Director of Finance, Suzanne Hill manages Treasury, Tax, Auditing, Credit, Collections, Purchasing and Warehouse Operations. She has over 25 years of diverse financial experience including bank relationship management, debt restructuring, risk analysis and auditing. Prior to joining EATEL, she worked as a consulting in public accounting and in corporate banking.

**FORMER POSITIONS:**

EatelCorp, Inc.	1997 – Present
Business Manager, Division of Recreational Sports, Louisiana State University	1996 - 1997
Senior Consultant to Corporate and Government Agency Clients, Grant Thornton, C.P.A. and in independent practice	1990 - 1996
Senior Credit Officer and Corporate Lender, First City National Bank of Houston	1980 - 1990
Credit Manager and Loan Operations Supervisor State National Bank of El Paso, Texas	1972 – 1980

**EDUCATION:**

Bachelor Degree in Accounting, University of Texas at El Paso

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:**

Louisiana Certified Public Accountants

Treasury Management Association

**CYNTHIA F. BOURG, C.P.A.**  
**6512 Double Tree Court**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817**  
**(504) 753-2995**

**OBJECTIVE:** Administrative Management position in which an accounting background and financial experience will be valuable.

**EXPERIENCE:**

**1994 - EATELCORP, INC.**  
**Present Controller**

Serve as Corporate Director of Accounting and oversee all functions of accounting department for this established telecommunications company. Responsibilities of accounting department include accounts payable, payroll, regulatory compliance, inventory management and monthly financial reporting for six subsidiaries. These subsidiaries include diverse areas such as retail, construction, publishing, regulated telephone service and other telecommunications services such as long distance and internet. Supervise four accounting managers and twelve clerical staff. Initiated and implemented complete accounting and payroll software conversions. Proficient in use of Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Ultipro Payroll and Oracle Financials Software.

**1989 - BRAND SCAFFOLD SERVICES, INC., Port Allen, LA**  
**1994 Assistant Regional Controller**

Responsible for monthly financial reporting for the Southern Region office of this Waste Management, Inc. subsidiary. Supervised and coordinated duties of six accounting managers who were responsible for all accounting functions of nine operating divisions. Prepared quarterly schedules to comply with SEC requirements. Assisted controller in preparation of annual budgets. Implemented, coordinated and maintained fixed asset accounting system used to track purchases and sales of approximately 8,000 scaffold items. Prepared detailed schedules and analysis for year end audit requirements. Prepared reconciliations and account analysis as requested by various departments of the Corporate office. Assisted controller during transition resulting from Corporate mergers and acquisitions. Utilized LOTUS 123 (vers 2.2 and 3.1) to design and create detailed spreadsheets to assist in financial analysis. Proficient in use of WordPerfect and Windows.

**1986 - MARGOT, INC., Baton Rouge, LA**  
**1989 Controller**

Responsible for all accounting functions of this established automotive service and parts business. Reported directly to the President after preparation of monthly financial statements to confer on financial business decisions as necessary. Supervised three person office staff. Worked closely with CPA firm in preparation of annual corporate tax return. Instrumental in purchase and implementation of personal computers used for financial reporting. Developed LOTUS worksheets to simplify bookkeeping procedures that previously required extensive manual ledgers and calculations. Joined company as Assistant Controller. Promoted to Controller after 18 months.

**1984 - UFFMAN & WELCH, CPA'S, Baton Rouge, LA**  
**1986 Accountant**

Responsible for monthly bookkeeping services for write up clients. Prepared monthly financial statements on IBM system 34 and IBM AT computers. Filed sales tax returns and quarterly payroll reports for clients. Assisted CPA's in preparation of clients' year end workpapers and individual and corporate tax returns.

**Cynthia F. Bourg**

**Page 2**

**1982 - RICHARDS ENTERPRISES, Lawton, OK**  
**1984 Assistant Controller**

Responsible for maintaining books and records and preparing monthly financial statements for several businesses operating from one office. Assisted CPA firm and Controller with year end workpapers for corporate tax returns. Supervised three accounting clerks. Was instrumental in the installation of an IBM 36 computer system.

**1980 - DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, Schweinfurt, West Germany**  
**1982 Administrative Assistant**

Served as administrative assistant to Child Support Services Coordinator. Responsible for developing, executing and monitoring financial aspects of child care program. Duties included procurement of supplies and equipment through military supply channels, preparing payroll, assisting in preparation of budget, maintenance of financial records for government funds, coordinating employee work schedule, supervising six employees in execution of programs.

**1979 TOUCHE ROSS & COMPANY, New Orleans, LA**  
**Junior Accountant**

Recruited after graduation from LSU by this Big Eight accounting firm to assist on audits and to prepare individual and corporate tax returns. Participated on tax research projects utilizing extensive tax library.

#### **EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

- **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, Baton Rouge, LA**  
Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, December 1978  
GPA - 3.2 overall
- Certified Public Accountant
- Member of Delta Sigma Pi Accounting Fraternity at LSU
- Member of Baton Rouge Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants  
- Program Director and President-Elect, 2000
- Member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Member of Louisiana CPA Society

EATEL CORP., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

PROPRIETARY - CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Postlethwaite & Netterville**

A Professional Accounting Corporation  
Associated Offices in Principal Cities of the United States  
www.pncpa.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Officers and Board of Directors  
Eatelcorp, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Gonzales, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Eatelcorp, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Eatelcorp, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the results of their consolidated operations and their consolidated cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Postlethwaite & Netterville*

Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
March 24, 2000

**EATELCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

**ASSETS**

	1999	1998
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 961,703	\$ 2,051,557
Accounts receivable - net	8,447,383	8,434,591
Due from unconsolidated affiliate	3,590,193	1,262,902
Notes receivable	82,230	91,628
Interest and dividends receivable	104,721	53,691
Income taxes refundable	2,214,524	2,737,826
Inventory	1,615,416	5,013,721
Prepayments and deferred costs - net	519,872	546,390
	17,536,042	20,192,306
<b><u>INVESTMENTS</u></b>	7,730,608	2,757,053
<b><u>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</u></b>		
Regulated telecommunication plant-in-service	87,008,631	82,384,652
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(50,844,371)	(45,157,568)
	36,164,260	37,227,084
Telecommunication plant under construction	5,304,317	4,556,688
	41,468,577	41,783,772
Other property, plant and equipment	13,547,687	8,175,237
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(5,995,676)	(4,057,629)
	7,552,011	4,117,608
Net property, plant, and equipment	49,020,588	45,901,380
<b><u>OTHER ASSETS AND DEFERRED CHARGES</u></b>		
Notes receivable	298,341	458,554
Deferred charges	386,795	441,432
Cash surrender value of life insurance	341,362	254,753
Intangibles	136,517	83,000
	1,163,015	1,237,739
Total Assets	\$ 75,450,253	\$ 70,088,478

The accompanying notes are in integral part of these statements.



**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 1,507,614	\$ 1,501,168
Line-of-credit	7,650,000	3,600,000
Accounts payable	3,015,231	5,394,919
Accrued expenses	876,039	901,756
Other liabilities	3,504,304	2,156,088
	<u>16,553,188</u>	<u>13,553,931</u>
<b><u>LONG-TERM DEBT, excluding current portion</u></b>	<u>36,456,142</u>	<u>38,526,257</u>
<b><u>OTHER LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED CREDITS</u></b>		
Deferred income taxes	3,985,546	4,510,462
Losses in excess of investment	9,053,001	3,801,603
Deferred investment tax credits	375,457	489,162
Regulatory liability	230,120	299,810
Other	38,844	38,844
	<u>13,682,968</u>	<u>9,139,881</u>
<b><u>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</u></b>		
Common stock, no par value per share.		
Class A - voting, 1,000,000 shares authorized, 868,200 shares issued and 322,050 shares outstanding	39,092	39,092
Class B - non-voting, 200,000 shares authorized, 96,466 shares issued and 35,783 shares outstanding	4,344	4,344
Paid-in capital	10	10
Retained earnings	51,576,785	54,658,220
Accumulated other comprehensive income	2,970,981	-
Treasury stock, 550,785 shares Class A, 60,683 shares Class B	<u>(45,833,257)</u>	<u>(45,833,257)</u>
	<u>8,757,955</u>	<u>8,868,409</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 75,450,253</u>	<u>\$ 70,088,478</u>

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**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	1999	1998
<b><u>OPERATING REVENUES</u></b>		
Telephone	\$ 36,685,152	\$ 34,405,314
Long distance and other communications services	22,825,686	13,914,604
Sales and rentals	4,602,165	4,395,552
Directory publishing	1,929,286	3,269,851
Other services	1,935,936	1,389,548
	<u>67,978,225</u>	<u>57,374,869</u>
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>		
Cost of services and products	25,620,225	17,122,539
Depreciation and amortization	8,762,735	7,201,336
Selling, general and administrative	29,682,963	22,644,492
	<u>64,065,923</u>	<u>46,968,367</u>
Total operating expenses		
Operating profit	<u>3,912,302</u>	<u>10,406,502</u>
<b><u>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</u></b>		
Miscellaneous income (expense), net	891,714	1,013,352
Interest expense	(2,901,903)	(3,108,862)
Loss from unconsolidated entities	(6,924,783)	(9,233,909)
Other expenses	(1,096)	(10,984)
	<u>(8,936,068)</u>	<u>(11,340,403)</u>
Total other expense		
<b><u>LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAXES</u></b>	<u>(5,023,766)</u>	<u>(933,901)</u>
Income tax expense (benefit)	(1,942,331)	6,301
	<u>(3,081,435)</u>	<u>(940,202)</u>
<b><u>NET LOSS</u></b>	<u>\$ (3,081,435)</u>	<u>\$ (940,202)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock	Total
\$ -	\$ 55,598,422	\$ (45,833,257)	\$ 9,808,611
-	(940,202)	-	(940,202)
-	54,658,220	(45,833,257)	8,868,409
-	(3,081,435)	-	(3,081,435)
2,970,981	-	-	2,970,981
2,970,981	(3,081,435)	-	(110,454)
<u>\$ 2,970,981</u>	<u>\$ 51,576,785</u>	<u>\$ (45,833,257)</u>	<u>\$ 8,757,955</u>



**EATELCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	1999	1998
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Net loss	\$ (3,081,435)	\$ (940,202)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	8,762,735	7,201,336
Bad debts	2,025,728	503,864
Amortization of investment tax credits	(113,705)	(138,931)
Equity in losses of unconsolidated affiliate	6,924,783	9,233,909
Impairment loss on investment	-	747,360
Gain on sale of investments	(120,044)	(880,975)
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment in excess of proceeds	(4,715)	(51,958)
Deferred income taxes	(2,415,530)	1,159,675
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,370,116)	(4,017,257)
Income taxes refundable	523,302	(1,499,032)
Inventory	402,610	(2,757,082)
Accounts payable	(2,379,689)	2,601,877
Other assets and liabilities	1,289,135	348,676
Net cash provided by operating activities	10,443,059	11,511,260
 <b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(12,000,610)	(9,238,513)
Investments in PCS partnership	(937,086)	(624,619)
Investments in Directory Publishing partnerships	(885,714)	-
Purchase of Acadiana Internet	(89,000)	-
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	218,343	61,600
Proceeds from sale of investment	282,684	514,155
Purchase of investments	(277,472)	(364,056)
Advances on notes receivable	-	(25,000)
Repayment of notes receivable	169,611	23,633
Net cash used in investment activities	(13,519,244)	(9,652,800)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

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**EATELCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b><u>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
Net (repayments) proceeds from lines-of-credit	\$ 4,050,000	\$ (1,150,000)
Repayment of long-term debt	<u>(2,063,669)</u>	<u>(1,427,347)</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>1,986,331</u>	<u>(2,577,347)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (1,089,854)	\$ (718,887)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>2,051,557</u>	<u>2,770,444</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 961,703</u>	<u>\$ 2,051,557</u>

**SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

Cash paid during the year for:

Interest	<u>\$ 3,016.487</u>	<u>\$ 2,868,655</u>
Income taxes - net	<u>\$ 297.000</u>	<u>\$ 386,200</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

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**EATELCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Principles of Consolidation

Eatelpcorp, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) consolidates the accounts of all active majority-owned subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Eatelpcorp, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, East Ascension Telephone Co., Inc., Eatel Finance, Inc., Eatel Finance Limited Partnership, Eatel Construction Company, Inc., Eatel Technology Outlet, Inc., Advanced Tel., Inc., Meretel Wireless, Inc., and RBS Enterprises, Inc.

Effective January 1, 1994, the Company began consolidating its majority-owned (97%) subsidiary, Eatel Publishing, Inc. The Company has recognized all operating losses incurred by Eatel Publishing, Inc. in excess of the minority stockholder's capital contributions. Significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Basis of Accounting

The Company's regulated operations are subject to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 71, *Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulations* (SFAS No. 71). Where applicable, SFAS No. 71 gives accounting recognition to the actions of regulators which can provide reasonable assurances of the existence of an asset, reduce the value of an asset or impose or eliminate a liability of a regulated entity.

The Company depreciates telephone, plant and equipment using regulator-prescribed asset lives. The Company periodically reviews its plant assets and the adequacy of regulator-prescribed depreciation rates as well as the changing regulatory environment in which the Company operates and the increasing possibility of competition in the Company's service territory. Although the Company believes it appropriate to apply SFAS No. 71 at this time, if the Company were to discontinue using SFAS No. 71, the accounting impact to the Company would be an extraordinary, non-cash charge to earnings of an amount equal to any reduction in the telephone plant values. The impact of discontinuing SFAS No. 71 cannot be determined at this time.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The consolidated statement of cash flows provides information about changes in cash and cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents includes cash and short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

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**EATELCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

Investments

The Company's investment securities include of equity securities that have a readily determinable fair market value and other securities whose marketability is restricted. Management determines the appropriate classification of its investments at the time of purchase and re-evaluates such determinations at each balance sheet date.

Beginning January 1, 1999, the Company began recording marketable equity securities in accordance with SFAS No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*. Since the Company does not intend to sell these securities in the near term, they are classified as "available for sale" and accordingly, are carried at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, reported as a separate component within the stockholder's equity section of the consolidated balance sheets. Realized gains and losses on all marketable securities are determined by specific identification and are charged or credited to current earnings.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Regulated plant and equipment are stated substantially at original cost of construction and includes indirect costs consisting of payroll taxes, pensions and other fringe benefits. The Company's telephone subsidiary capitalizes estimated interest and equity costs during periods of construction to the extent allowed by regulatory agencies.

Normal retirements of utility property are charged against accumulated depreciation along with the costs of removal less salvage, with no gain or loss recognized. The Company provides depreciation on the straight-line method, over estimated service lives ranging from 3 to 40 years, using class or overall composite rates acceptable to the regulatory authorities. The composite depreciation rate for utility property was 7.9% for both 1999 and 1998. All other property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using straight-line and accelerated methods. When non-utility property is sold or retired, a gain or loss is recognized.

Repairs to all property, plant and equipment, as well as renewals of minor items, are charged to maintenance expense.

Inventory

Merchandise and equipment held for resale consists primarily of wireless communications handsets and other retail electronic equipment. Inventory held for resale is carried at the lower of cost (determined using an average cost method) or replacement value. Any losses on the sales of handsets are recognized at the time of sale as a promotional cost. During the year ended December 31, 1999, the company transferred its handset inventory to a related party.

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**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

Income Taxes

The Company files a consolidated federal income tax return with its subsidiaries. Taxes are computed and allocated based on taxable income of each member of the consolidated group. Investment tax credits related to utility plant are deferred and amortized as a reduction of federal income tax expense over the estimated useful lives of the assets giving rise to the credit.

Provisions for income taxes are based on taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred taxes on temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are included in the financial statements at currently enacted income tax rates applicable to the period in which the deferred tax assets and liabilities are expected to be realized or settled as prescribed in SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. As changes in tax laws or rates are enacted, deferred tax assets and liabilities are adjusted through the provision for income taxes.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized when earned regardless of the period in which it is billed.

The Company participates in revenue pools with other telephone companies. Such pools are funded by toll revenue within the state jurisdiction and by access charges regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the interstate market. Revenue earned through the various pooling processes is initially recorded based on estimates. The Company recorded adjustments based upon settlements of prior years' revenue, which increased revenue by \$383,534 and \$143,194 for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively. The Company has settled substantially all intrastate toll revenue agreements through 1992 and interstate carrier common-line access charge revenue agreements through 1993.

The FCC manages traffic sensitive access charge revenue through a two-year monitoring review plan. As a result of these review procedures, the Company may subsequently determine that certain amounts may have been over or under collected and result in assessments against or refunds to the Company. Although management continually reviews its compliance with regulatory rules and regulations, the Company may be required to refund amounts from time-to-time which management does not believe will have a significant adverse impact on the Company's financial position or operations.

In 1998, the Company received two prior period Intralata settlement adjustments from BellSouth totaling approximately \$1.2 million. Both settlements resulted from errors in BellSouth's settlement process.

Uncollectible Revenue

Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable is based on management's assessment of the receivables, current economic conditions, experience and other relevant factors. Accounts receivable are recorded net of an allowance for bad debts of \$149,414 and \$170,966 at December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

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**EATEL CORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

Computer Software Development Costs

The Company incurs costs related to research and development of its internal information systems and computer systems which are charged to expense as incurred.

Reclassification

Certain amounts in the Company's 1998 financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year financial statement presentation.

**2. INVENTORY**

Inventory consists of the following:

	1999	1998
Merchandise and equipment held for resale	\$ 726,435	\$ 4,382,164
Materials and supplies	888,981	631,557
	<b>\$ 1,615,416</b>	<b>\$ 5,013,721</b>

**3. INVESTMENTS**

The carrying values and estimated fair values of investment securities for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, are as follows:

	1999		1998	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Equity Securities				
Rural Telephone Bank stock	\$ 252,400	\$ 252,400	\$ 252,400	\$ 252,400
National Bank of Cooperatives	1,686,059	1,686,059	1,500,451	1,500,451
Wireless One, Inc.	-	-	162,640	25,128
Baton Rouge Yellow Pages, L.L.C.	347,314	347,314	396,000	396,000
River Directories, L.L.C.	266,397	266,397	64,285	64,285
Other	102,106	34,386	99,631	32,288
Partnership Equity				
Merotel Communications Limited Partnership	-	-	-	-
Eatel Finance Limited Partnership	( 1,048)	( 1,048)	( 295)	( 295)
Industrial Communications	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Telatex Partnership	274,810	5,134,435	271,452	271,452
Other	665	665	489	489
	<b>\$ 2,938,703</b>	<b>\$ 7,730,608</b>	<b>\$ 2,757,053</b>	<b>\$ 2,552,198</b>



**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**3. INVESTMENTS** (continued)

Also during 1998, the Company sold a portion of its investment in Illuminet, Inc. and recognized a realized gain of \$480,975, which is included in miscellaneous income.

During the year ended December 31, 1999, management began steps to liquidate and distribute all assets held in the Telatex Partnership. At December 31, 1999, securities held by Telatex for distribution to the partners were considered to be marketable and recorded at their estimated fair value. The investments were valued at cost as of December 31, 1998, due to the restrictions on these securities.

In November 1998, the Company entered into an agreement whereby the Company received equity interests in certain limited liability companies in exchange for the transfer of certain telephone directories and cash contributions. Pursuant to these transfers, the Company recorded its investment in these companies based on the fair value of the equity interests received. Fair value was based primarily on the amount of cash contributed by other equity holders of these entities and resulted in the Company recognizing a \$400,000 gain which is included in miscellaneous income.

At December 31, 1999 and 1998 the Company owned 31.08%, directly and indirectly, of Meretel Communications Limited Partnership (Meretel LP) which is accounted for using the equity method of accounting. Meretel LP provides wireless Personal Communication Services (PCS) in south Louisiana and east Texas. The Company has recognized its share of Meretel LP's losses through December 31, 1999.

Summarized financial information of Meretel LP as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, is as follows:

**MERETEL COMMUNICATIONS, L.P.**

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Total assets	\$ 63,195,120	\$ 52,552,351
Total liabilities	<u>93,317,381</u>	<u>64,951,139</u>
Total partners' (deficit)	<u>(\$ 30,122,261)</u>	<u>(\$ 12,398,788)</u>
Losses in excess of investment	<u>\$ 9,053,001</u>	<u>\$ 3,801,603</u>
Meretel LP net loss	<u>\$ 20,534,518</u>	<u>\$ 29,704,220</u>
Eatelcorp, Inc.'s equity in net loss, before income taxes	<u>\$ 6,188,412</u>	<u>\$ 9,296,604</u>

The Company purchased airtime from Meretel LP during 1999 and 1998 of \$3,153,000 and \$2,248,000, which is resold to its customers. During 1999 and 1998, Meretel LP paid the Company \$1,344,425 and \$4,833,822 pursuant to management and construction service agreements and promotional and advertising reimbursements.



**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**3. INVESTMENTS** (continued)

The Company expects Meretel LP to continue to incur substantial losses in the near term. The Company will record its share of Meretel LP's losses in its financial statements as they are incurred. At December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively, the Company has recorded \$9,053,001 and \$3,801,603 of losses from Meretel LP in excess of the Company's capital contributions which is classified as a long-term liability.

Effective January 1, 2000, Meretel LP and its partners entered into an agreement to substantially restructure the operations and ownership of Meretel LP. This restructuring includes a split-off of significant operating assets and liabilities associated with a market currently serviced by Meretel LP into a new entity and the acquisition of contractual rights to provide service in a market not currently served by Meretel LP. The restructuring increased Eatelcorp, Inc.'s direct and indirect ownership to 52.68%. In consideration for the additional ownership, the Company contributed its PCS customer base in the Baton Rouge and Lafayette Basic Trading Areas (BTA's) and its handset and accessories inventory. The Company has committed to make additional capital contributions to Meretel LP totaling \$3.46 million as well as guaranteed approximately \$5.9 million of Meretel LP's debt.

**4. LONG-TERM DEBT AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS**

Long-term debt is summarized below for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998:

	<u>1999</u>		<u>1998</u>	
	<u>Due Within</u>	<u>Due After</u>	<u>Due Within</u>	<u>Due After</u>
	<u>One Year</u>	<u>One Year</u>	<u>One Year</u>	<u>One Year</u>
Mortgage loan with CoBank dated January 6, 1994, secured by substantially all of the telephone plant, to be paid in monthly installments including interest and due January 2009, bearing interest at 7.78%.	\$ 1,507,614	\$ 17,612,392	\$ 1,395,119	\$ 19,120,007
Mortgage loan with CoBank dated January 6, 1994, secured by substantially all of the telephone plant. The note is divided into various tranches for calculation of the variable interest rates which ranged from 7.08% to 7.6% at December 31, 1999. For the period May 20, 1996 through December 20, 2000, the Company is to pay interest monthly. Commencing January 20, 2001, the Company is to make monthly principal and interest payments of \$281,250 until the maturity date of September 20, 2006.	-	18,843,750	-	19,406,250



**EATEL CORP., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**4. LONG-TERM DEBT AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS** (continued)

	<u>1999</u>		<u>1998</u>	
	<u>Due Within One Year</u>	<u>Due After One Year</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>	<u>Due After One Year</u>
Various promissory notes with RCC Publishing Incorporated (minority stockholder of Eatel Publishing Company), guaranteed by Eatelcorp, to be paid in monthly and quarterly installments plus interest and due October 1999, bearing interest at 7.25%.	-	-	106,049	-
	<u>\$ 1,507,614</u>	<u>\$ 36,456,142</u>	<u>\$ 1,501,168</u>	<u>\$ 38,526,257</u>

The Company has a \$10 million operating line-of-credit from CoBank which is renewable annually and can be used to fund the Company's operating needs. The line-of-credit is unsecured, bears interest at CoBank's variable lending rate (7.34% at December 31, 1999) and is subject to renewal August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. At December 31, 1999 and 1998, the Company had \$7,650,000 and \$3,600,000, respectively, outstanding under the line-of-credit.

Maturities of long-term debt for the years ending December 31, are as follows:

2000	\$ 1,507,614
2001	5,004,181
2002	5,135,550
2003	5,277,512
2004	5,430,921
Thereafter	<u>15,607,978</u>
	<u>\$ 37,963,756</u>

On January 6, 1994, the Company borrowed \$26 million under mortgage notes, issued under a certain loan agreement with National Bank for Cooperatives (CoBank), to be paid in equal monthly installments including interest, beginning February 20, 1994, and expiring in 2009. The proceeds were used for the retirement of approximately \$25.5 million of debt to the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), Rural Telephone Bank, (RTB), and Federal Financing Bank (FFB). The remaining net proceeds were used to pay fees and expenses associated with the refinancing.

Also on January 6, 1994, the partnership Eatel Finance Limited Partnership, which is 100% owned by the Company and its subsidiary, Eatel Finance, Inc., borrowed \$27 million under mortgage notes, issued under a certain loan agreement with CoBank. The proceeds were reloaned by Eatel Finance Limited Partnership to Eatelcorp, Inc. for application to the payment of the redemption of stock by and among certain stockholders of Eatelcorp, Inc. and to payment of all fees and costs associated with the loan and the closing thereof.

The loan agreements with CoBank require the Company to meet various restrictive covenants. These covenants include maintaining certain financial ratios and restrictions regarding borrowings, liens, mergers, transfer of assets, loans and investments, change in business, and disposition of licenses.



**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**4. LONG-TERM DEBT AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS** (continued)

As part of the CoBank lending program, borrowers receive patronage refunds which reduce their actual interest expense. This is accomplished by CoBank refunding a portion of its net margins. CoBank distributes such refunds to customers in cash and additional CoBank stock. The additional stock distributions are pledged as security under the CoBank loan agreements, and are redeemed based on a stock redemption program.

Substantially all of the telephone plant is pledged under the CoBank mortgage notes. The loans are guaranteed by a continuing guaranty made by Eatelcorp, Inc., and the Company's telephone subsidiary for the benefit of CoBank.

**5. TREASURY STOCK**

During 1994, the Company purchased 546,150 shares of common stock Class A - voting and 60,683 shares of common stock Class B - non-voting for \$75.16 per share for a total of \$45,606,838 from shareholders. The stock repurchase was funded from the proceeds of a \$27 million bank loan and the liquidation of certain assets of the Company. During 1997, shareholder notes receivable and accrued interest of \$226,419 were forgiven in exchange for 4,635 shares of Class A common stock from the shareholders. These shares are recorded as treasury stock.

**6. INCOME TAXES**

The sources and tax effect of items reconciling income tax expense to the amount computed by applying the federal income tax rates in effect to net income before income taxes for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, were as follows:

	<u>1999</u>		<u>1998</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Loss before income taxes	( <u>\$ 5,023,766</u> )	<u>100.0%</u>	( <u>\$ 933,901</u> )	<u>100.0%</u>
Income tax benefit at statutory rates	(\$ 1,708,081)	( 34.0%)	(\$ 317,526)	( 34.0%)
Amortization of investment tax credits	( 113,705)	( 2.3 )	( 138,931)	( 14.9 )
State income tax	723,858	14.4	732,090	78.4
Miscellaneous and other non-deductible expenses - net	( <u> 844,403</u> )	( <u> 16.8 )</u>	( <u> 269,332</u> )	( <u> 28.8 )</u>
Income tax expense (benefit)	( <u>\$ 1,942,331</u> )	( <u> 38.7%</u> )	<u>\$ 6,301</u>	<u> 0.7%</u>



**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**6. INCOME TAXES** (continued)

The components of income tax expense (benefit) are:

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Current payable (refundable) - federal and state (net)	\$ 473,199	(\$ 1,238,524)
Deferred	( 2,415,530)	<u>1,244,825</u>
<b>Total income tax expense (benefit)</b>	<b>(\$ 1,942,331)</b>	<b>\$ 6,301</b>

The tax effects of temporary differences that gave rise to deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 1999 and 1998, were as follows:

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>Deferred tax assets</b>		
Deferred investment tax credit	\$ 230,120	\$ 299,810
Accrued expenses and asset valuation reserves not yet deductible for tax purposes	507,995	529,329
Net operating loss carryforward	1,671,771	-
Investments	-	133,288
Alternative minimum tax carryforward	<u>613,321</u>	<u>513,321</u>
<b>Total deferred tax assets</b>	<b>3,023,207</b>	<b>1,475,748</b>
<b>Deferred tax liabilities</b>		
Property, plant and equipment, primarily due to depreciation differences	( 3,348,531)	( 3,987,657)
Losses on unconsolidated affiliate	( 1,839,298)	( 1,998,553)
Valuation of available-for-sale securities	<u>( 1,820,924)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total deferred tax liabilities</b>	<b>( 7,008,753)</b>	<b>( 5,986,210)</b>
<b>Net deferred tax liability</b>	<b>(\$ 3,985,546)</b>	<b>(\$ 4,510,462)</b>

At December 31, 1999, the Company had federal net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$3,170,000 available to offset future taxable income. Each company in the consolidated tax group is required to file state income tax returns on a stand-alone basis. As such, net operating losses of certain companies within the consolidated group cannot be used to reduce state taxable income of other companies within the consolidated group. Companies in the consolidated group had state net operating losses of approximately \$42 million available to be carried forward to apply against future state taxable income of that company within the consolidated group. These state net operating loss carryforwards begin to expire in 2009.

**7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Company has a note receivable from a stockholder of \$55,575 and \$171,093 at December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively. The note receivable is secured by property and bears interest at 7.5%. The Company also has a note receivable from an entity related through common ownership with a balance of \$34,371 and \$39,192 at December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively, that is secured by a mortgage and bears interest at 7.25%.





**EATEL CORP. INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**8. RETIREMENT PLAN AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

The Company has a retirement plan covering substantially all employees. The Company contributes profit-sharing for an amount determined annually by the Board of Directors. The Company recorded profit-sharing contributions related to the plan in the amount of \$659,069 and \$507,000 during the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

Effective January 1, 1998, the Company restated the retirement plan to establish a defined contribution 401(k) provision which covers substantially all employees meeting certain eligibility requirements. The Company matches a portion of the participants' elective deferral. During the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, the Company made matching contributions of \$466,032 and \$405,532, respectively, to the plan.

The Company incurred administrative expenses of \$24,259 and \$35,291 related to the retirement plan during the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, respectively.

**9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC"), which regulates the Company's Louisiana intrastate operations, changed the funding mechanism in 1999 for the intraLATA settlements between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and each of the independent telephone companies. The Interim Local Optional Service (LOS) Preservation Fund was established to replace the revenue received from the Revenue Distribution Fund on a company by company basis. The amount of revenue received by each company is capped by the number of access lines as of November 30, 1998. The LPSC established the Interim LOS Preservation Fund for a minimum duration of the earlier of at least three (3) years from the anniversary date of the order or "when the FCC issues its rules regarding universal service as it relates to rural telephone companies."

The LPSC also passed an order that is intended to foster competition in the Louisiana telecommunications markets. This order was adopted shortly after the passage of the *Telecommunications Act of 1996* by the federal government. Both the order and the Act are currently being implemented by the LPSC and the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), respectively.

The Company is fully aware of the competitive challenges it faces as a result of these regulatory actions. While the effect of these regulatory actions on the Company's operations are uncertain at this time, management believes that the Company is being positioned to benefit from its competitive advantages and that it will continue to be a strong competitor in the telecommunications industry of the future.

The Company has entered into operating leases for office space and various pieces of equipment. Minimum operating lease payments for the remainder of the leases are \$92,084 for 2000 and \$23,396 for 2001. Operating lease expense for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998, was \$113,463 and \$227,311, respectively.

The Company has several claims and suits pending which management believes, based on counsel's opinion, are either without merit or will not result in substantial loss.



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**TITLE SHEET**

**FLORIDA TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF**

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service and facilities for telecommunications services provided by ADVANCED TEL, Inc., with its principal offices located at 913 South Burnside Avenue, Gonzales, Louisiana 70373. This tariff applies for services furnished within the state of Florida. This tariff is on file with the Florida Public Service Commission, and copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business.

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Issued: April 24, 2001

Daniel J. Ahern, President  
913 South Burnside Avenue  
Gonzales, LA 70737

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHECK SHEET**

The sheets listed below, which are inclusive of this tariff, are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheet(s). Original and revised sheets as named below comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date of the bottom of this page.

Sheet	Original and/or Revised	Sheet	Original and/or Revised
1	Original		
2	Original		
3	Original		
4	Original		
5	Original		
6	Original		
7	Original		
8	Original		
9	Original		
10	Original		
11	Original		
12	Original		
13	Original		
14	Original		
15	Original		
16	Original		
17	Original		
18	Original		

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Section 1 – Technical Terms and Abbreviations	6
Section 2 – Rules and Regulations	
Section 3 – Description of Service	
Section 4 – Rates	

**Note: If you have more than 30 sheets you need to attach an index to the tariff after this page**

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Issued: April 24, 2001

Daniel J. Ahern, President  
913 South Burnside Avenue  
Gonzales, LA 70737

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SYMBOLS SHEET

**NOTE: These are the only approved symbols to be used in your tariff and this list of symbols must be copied verbatim.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| D | - | Delete or Discontinue  |
| I | - | Change Resulting in an Increase to a Customer's Bill         |
| M | - | Moved from Another Tariff Location                           |
| N | - | New  |
| R | - | Change Resulting in a Reduction to a Customer's Bill         |
| T | - | Change in Text or Regulation But No Change in Rate or Charge |

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**TARIFF FORMAT**

- A. Sheet Numbering - Sheet numbers appear in the upper-right corner of the page. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to this tariff. When a new sheet is added between sheets already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new sheet added between sheets 14 and 215 would be 14.1.
- B. Sheet Revision Numbers - Revision numbers also appear in the upper-right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current sheet version on file with the FPSC. For example, the 4th revised Sheet 14 cancels the 3rd revised Sheet 14. Because of various of suspension periods, deferrals, etc., the FPSC follows in their tariff approval process, the most current sheet number on file with the Commission is not always the tariff page in effect. Consult the Check Sheet for the sheet currently in effect. deferrals, notice periods, etc., the most current sheet number on file with the Commission is not always the tariff sheet in effect.
- C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence - There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level of coding.
- 2.
  - 2.1
  - 2.1.1
  - 2.1.1.A.
  - 2.1.1.A.1.
  - 2.1.1.A.1.(a)
  - 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I
  - 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i)
  - 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).(1)
- D. Check Sheets - When a tariff filing is made with the FPSC, an updated check sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the sheets contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current revision number. When new sheets are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (\*). There will be no other symbols used on this sheet if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc., remains the same, just revised revision levels on some pages). The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular sheet is the most current sheet on file with the FPSC.

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## **SECTION 1 – TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### 1.1 Definitions

Access Line – An arrangement which connects the customer's location to the Company's network switching center.

Authorization Code - A numerical code, one or more of which are assigned to a customer to enable Reseller to identify use of service on his account and to bill the customer accordingly for such service. Multiple authorization codes may be assigned to customer to identify individual users or groups of users on his account.

Company or Carrier - Advanced Tel, Inc., unless otherwise specified or clearly indicated by the context.

Customer - The person, firm, corporation, or other entity which orders service or is responsible for the payment of charges due and compliance with the Company's tariff regulations.

Customer Provided Equipment - Terminal equipment, as defined herein, provided by a customer.

Day – From 8:00 AM up to but not including 5:00 PM local time Sunday through Friday.

Evening—From 5:00 PM up to but not including 11:00 PM local time Sunday through Friday.

Holidays---The Company's recognized holidays are New Years Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Night/weekend—From 11:00 PM up to but not including 8:00 AM Sunday through Friday, and 8:00 A.M. Saturday up to but not including 5:00 PM Sunday.

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## **SECTION 2 – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Note: include in this section of all the rules and regulations you want to include- limitations, liabilities, restoration of service, interruption of service, maintenance, billing periods, refunds/credits, responsibilities of the customer, frequency restrictions.**

### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

The Company's services and facilities are furnished for communications originating at specified points within the state of Florida under the terms of this tariff.

The Company installs operates, and maintains the communications service provided herein in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth under this Tariff. It may act as the customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities when authorized by the customer to allow connection of a customer's location to the Company's network. The customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service arrangement.

The Company's services and facilities are provided on a monthly basis unless ordered on a longer term basis, and are available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

### 2.2 Limitations

2.2.1 Service is offered subject to the availability of facilities and provisions of this tariff.

2.2.2 The Company reserves the right to discontinue furnishing service, or limit the use of service necessitated by conditions beyond its control: or when the customer is using service in violation of the law or the provisions of this Tariff.

2.2.3 All facilities provided under this tariff are directly controlled by the Company and the customer may not transfer or assign the use of service or facilities, except with the express written consent of the Company. Such transfer or assignment shall only apply where there is no interruption of the use or location of the service or facilities.

2.2.4 All regulations contained in this tariff shall apply to such permitted assignees or transferees, as well as all conditions for service.

2.2.5 Customers reselling or rebilling services must have a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as an interexchange carrier from the Florida Public Service Commission.



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## **SECTION 2 – RULES AND REGULATIONS (Continued)**

### 2.3 Liabilities of the Company

- 2.3.1 The Company's liability arising out of mistakes, interruptions, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in the transmission occurring in the course of furnishing service or facilities, and not caused by the negligence of its employees or its agents, in no event shall exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the customer for the period during which the aforementioned faults in transmission occur, unless ordered by the Commission.

The Company shall be indemnified and held harmless by the customer against:

- (A) Claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright arising out of the material, data, information, or other content transmitted over the Company's facilities.
- (B) All other claims arising out of any act or omission of the customer in connection with any service or facility provided by the Company.

### 2.4 Interruption of Service

- 2.4.1 Credit allowance for the interruption of service which is not due to the Company's testing or adjusting, negligence of the customer, or due to the failure of channels or equipment provided by the customer, are subject to the general liability provisions set forth in Subsection 2.3.1. It shall be the customer's obligation to notify the Company immediately of any service interruption for which a credit allowance is desired. Before giving such notice, the customer shall ascertain that the trouble is not being caused by any action or omission by the customer within his control, or equipment, if any, furnished by the customer and connected to the Company's facilities. No refund or credit will be made for the time that the Company stands ready to repair the service and the subscriber does not provide access to the Company for such restoration work.

- 2.4.2 No credit shall be allowed for an interruption of a continuous duration of less than twenty-four hours as follows:

Credit Formula:

$$\text{Credit} = A \ 720 \times C$$

"A" outage time in hours

"B" each month is considered to have 720 hours "C" – total charge for affected facility.

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## **SECTION 2 – RULES AND REGULATIONS (Continued)**

### 2.5 Disconnection of Service by Carrier

The company (carrier), upon 5 working days written notice to the customer, may discontinue service or cancel an application for service without incurring any liability for any of the following:

- 2.5.1 Non-payment of any sum due to carrier for regulated service for more than thirty days beyond the date of rendition of the bill of such service.
- 2.5.2 A violation of any regulation governing the service under this tariff.
- 2.5.3 A violation of any law, rule or regulation of any government authority having jurisdiction over such service.
- 2.5.4 The company has given the customer notice and has allowed a reasonable time to comply with any rule, or remedy, and deficiency as stated in Rule 25-4.113, F.A.C., Refusal or Discontinuance of Service by Company.
- 2.5.5 Service may be disconnected without notice for tampering with company equipment, for interfering with the service to other customers, for fraud, or in the event of a hazardous condition.

**THE FOLLOWING SUBSECTIONS DEALING WITH DEPOSITS AND ADVANCED PAYMENTS WILL BE IN THIS SECTION. RULE 25-24.490(2) FORBIDS COLLECTION OF ANY DEPOSITS, AND ANY ADVANCE PAYMENTS IN EXCESS OF ONE MONTH'S ESTIMATED CHARGES WITHOUT POSTING AN APPROPRIATE BOND OR OBTAINING A WAIVER OF THIS RULE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BOND OR WAIVER YOU MUST STATE IN THIS SECTION SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT OF THE FOLLOWING:**

### 2.6 Deposits

The company does not require a deposit from the customer.

### 2.7 Advance Payments

For customers whom the Company feels an advance payment is necessary, the Company reserves the right to collect an amount not to exceed one (1) month's estimated charges as an advance payment for service. This will be applied against the next month's charges and if necessary a new advance payment will be collected for the next month.

### 2.8 Taxes

All state and local taxes (i.e., gross receipts tax, sales tax, municipal tax) are listed on customers bills as separate line items and are not included in the quoted rates.

### 2.9 Billing of Calls

All charges due by the subscriber are payable at any agency duly authorized to receive such payments. An objection to billed charges should be promptly reported to the Company. Adjustments to customers' bills shall be made to extent that records are available and/or circumstances exist which reasonably indicate that such charges are not in accordance with approved rates or that an adjustment may otherwise be appropriate.

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## SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION: HOW CALLS ARE TIMED, CALCULATION OF DISTANCE (INCLUDING FORMULA), MINIMUM CALL COMPLETION RATE, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH SERVICE YOU ARE OFFERING. PLEASE REFER TO SECTION 25-24.485(3)(C)(6) OF THE FPSC RULES GOVERNING INTEREXCHANGE CARRIERS FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND USE THE FOLLOWING FOR FORMAT REFERENCE.

### 3.1 Timing of Calls

#### 3.1.1 When Billing Charges Begin and End for Phone Calls

The customer's long distance usage charge is based on the actual usage of the Company's network. Usage begins when the called party picks up the receiver, (i.e. when 2 way communication, often referred to as "conversation time" is possible). When a called party picks up is determined by hardware answer supervision in which the local telephone company sends a signal to the switch or the software utilizing audio tone detection. When software answer supervision is employed, up to 60 seconds of ringing is allowed before it is billed as usage of the network. A call is terminated when the calling or called party hangs up.

#### 3.1.2 Billing Increments

The minimum call duration for billing purposes is 1 minute for a connected call and calls beyond 1 minute are billed in 1 minute increments.

#### 3.1.3 Per Call Billing Charges

Billing will be rounded up to the nearest penny for each call.

#### 3.1.4 Uncompleted Calls

There shall be no charge for uncompleted calls.

### 3.2 Calculation of Distance

Usage charges for all sensitive products are based on the airline distance between rate centers associated with the originating and terminating points of call.

The airline mileage between rate centers is determined by applying the formula below to the vertical and horizontal coordinates associated with the rate centers involved. The Company uses the rate centers that are produced by Bell Communications Research in the NPA-NSS V & H Coordinates Tape and Bell's NECA Tariff No. 4.

#### FORMULA:

The square root of: 
$$\frac{(V1 - V2)^2 + (M1 - H2)^2}{10}$$

### 3.3 Minimum Call Connection Rate

A customer can expect a call completion rate (number of calls completed/number of calls attempted) of not less than 90% during peak use periods for all Feature Group D services ("1+" dialing).

---

**SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE (Continued)**

3.4 Long Distance Service

Long Distance service is offered to residential and business customers. The service permits direct dated outbound calling at a single per minute rate. Service is provided from presubscribed, dedicated or shared use access lines. Calls are billed in one minute increments. No monthly recurring charges or minimum monthly billing requirements apply.

3.4.2 800/888 (Inbound) Long Distance Service

800/888 (Inbound) Long Distance Service is offered to residential and business customers. The service permits inbound 800/888 calling at a single per minute rate. Service is provided from presubscribed, dedicated or shared use access lines. Calls are billed in six second increments, with a six second minimum call duration. A \$10.00 minimum monthly billing requirement applies. Customers whose monthly usage is less than the minimum will be billed the minimum amount.

3.4.3 Calling Card Service

Calling Card Service is a calling card service offered to residential and business customers who subscribe to the Long Distance Service calling plan. Customers using the Carrier's calling card service access the service by dialing a 1-800 number followed by an account identification number and the number being called. This service permits subscribers utilizing the Carrier's calling card to make calls at a single per minute rate. Calls are billed in one (1) minute increments after the initial minimum period of one (1) minute. There are no nonrecurring or monthly recurring charges.

3.4.4 Operator Services

The Company's operator services are provided to residential and business customers who "**presubscribe**" to this service for intrastate calling. Operator services include the completion of collect, station-to-station, person-to-person, third party billing and credit card calls with the assistance of a Carrier operator. Each completed operator assisted call consists of two charge elements (except as otherwise indicated herein): (i) a fixed operator charge, which will be dependent on the type of billing selected (e.g., calling card, collect or other) and/or the completion restriction selected (e.g., station-to-station or person-to-person); and (ii) a measured usage charge dependent upon the duration, distance and/or time of day of the call.

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**SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE (Continued)**

**3.4.4.A Operator Dialed Surcharge**

This surcharge applies to calls when the customer has the capability of dialing all the digits necessary to complete a call, but elects to dial only the appropriate operator code and requests the operator to dial the called station. The surcharge does not apply to:

- (1) Calls where a customer cannot otherwise dial the call due to defective equipment or trouble on the Advanced Tel, Inc. network; and
- (2) Calls in which a Company operator places a call for a calling party who is identified as being handicapped and unable to dial the call because of his/her handicap.

The Operator Dialed Surcharge applies in addition to any other applicable operator charges.

**NOTE: Operator service from payphones or all aggregator locations must comply with the rate caps in sections 25-24.630 and 25-24.516 F.A. C. for nonprescribed customers.**

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Daniel J. Ahern, President  
913 South Burnside Avenue  
Gonzales, LA 70737

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION 4 - RATES**

**REMEMBER TO INCLUDE INTRASTATE RATES ONLY - DO NOT INCLUDE INTERSTATE RATES UNLESS THE CUSTOMER NEEDS THEM TO CALCULATE THE INTRASTATE PORTION OF HIS/HER BILL. NOTE: IF BILLING IS IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN MINUTE INCREMENTS, ADD ANOTHER COLUMN INDICATING THESE CHARGES.**

4.1 Long Distance Service

Rate per minute - \$0.10  
Plan is billed in full minute increments

4.2 800/888 (Inbound) Long Distance Service

Rate per minute - \$0.12  
Plan is billed in six second increments with a six second minimum.

4.3 Calling Card Service

Rate per minute - \$0.20  
Plan is billed in full minute increments.

4.4 Operator Services (for Presubscribed Customers)

4.4.1 Usage Rates: The appropriate rate found under 4.1 or 4.3 shall apply.

4.4.2 Operator Charges:

Collect Station to Station	\$1.00
Collect Person to Person	\$3.25
Person to Person	\$3.25
Station to Station	\$1.00
Customer Dialed Calling Card	\$1.00
Operator Dialed Calling Card	\$1.75
Operator Dialed Surcharge	\$0.75

4.5 Determining Applicable Rate in Effect

For the initial minute, the rate applicable at the start of chargeable time at the calling station applies. For additional minutes, the rate applicable is that rate which is in effect at the calling station when the additional minute(s) begin. That is, if chargeable time begins during the Day Period, the Day Rate applies to the initial minute and to any additional minutes that the call continues during the rate period. If the call continues into a different rate period, the appropriate rates from that period apply to any additional minutes occurring in that rate period. If an additional minute is split between two rate periods, the rate period applicable at the start of the minute applies to the entire minute.

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**SECTION 4 – RATES (Continued)**

4.6 Payment of Calls

4.6.1 Late Payment Charges

A late payment charge of 1.5% per month will be assessed on all unpaid balances more than thirty days old.

4.6.2 Return Check Charges

A return check charge of \$25.00 will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds if the face value does not exceed \$50.00, \$30.00 if the face value does not exceed \$50.00 but does not exceed \$300.00, \$40.00 if the face value exceeds \$300.00 or 5% of the value of the check, which ever is greater.

4.7 Restoration of Service

A reconnection fee of \$25.00 per occurrence is charged when service is re-established for customers who had been disconnected for non-payment.

4.8 Special Promotions

The Company will from time to time offer special promotions to its customers waiving certain charges. The promotions will be approved by the FPSC with specific starting and ending dates, and be made part of this tariff.

4.9 Special Rates for the Handicapped

4.9.1 Directory Assistance

There shall be no charge for up to fifty calls per billing cycle from lines or trunks serving individuals with disabilities. The Company shall charge the prevailing tariff rates for every call in excess of 50 within a billing period.

4.9.3 Telecommunications Relay Service

For intrastate toll calls received from the relay service, the Company will when billing relay calls discount relay service calls by 50 percent off of the otherwise applicable rate for a voice nonrelay call except that where either the calling or called party indicates that either party is both hearing and visually impaired, the call shall be discounted 60 percent off of the otherwise applicable rate for a voice nonrelay call. The above discounts apply only to time-sensitive elements of a charge for the call and shall not apply to per call charges such as a credit card surcharge.