

STATE OF FLORIDA

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



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

Public Service Commission

October 1, 2001

Mr. Thomas M. Benedict, VP
Asset Channels-Telecom, Inc.
244 Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840-5309

RE: Docket No. 011277-TX

Dear Mr. Benedict:

A docket has been opened by staff of the Florida Public Service Commission for nonpayment of the 2000 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) and for not providing the Commission with your updated address and telephone number. Commission records show that as of this date, the RAF, which was due January 30, 2001, has not been received. In addition, your company owes statutory penalty and interest charges. A late notice was mailed February 21, 2001, and to date, Commission records show that payment has not been received. If you need the 2000 RAF return form, which must be completed, just let me know.

It is staff's intention to file a recommendation imposing a \$1,000 fine (\$500 for each rule violation), or cancelling your telecommunications certificate. The Commissioners will vote at an upcoming Agenda Conference whether or not to accept staff's recommendation. A Proposed Agency Action Order will then be issued within 20 days after the vote and your company will have 21 days to protest the Order. It should be noted that just paying the delinquent RAF amount and providing the Commission with your updated address and phone number will not prevent your certificate from being cancelled.

If the Order is not protested and updated reporting requirements are not provided and the past due amount, including statutory penalty and interest charges, is not paid, then your certificate will be cancelled, and the past due amount will be turned over to the Florida Comptroller's Office for further collection attempts. Therefore, it is important that you contact staff as soon as possible, but no later than October 16, 2001. A list of options is attached.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed. I can be reached at (850) 413-6502-voice, (850) 413-6503-fax, at the address below, or via internet e-mail at pisler@psc.state.fl.us.

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

12376 OCT-16

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Mr. Thomas M. Benedict, VP
Page 2
October 1, 2001

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula J. Isler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'I'.

Paula J. Isler, Research Assistant
Bureau of Service Quality

Enclosure

cc: Docket No. 011277-TX
Division of Legal Services (K. Peña)

OPTIONS

CANCELLATION OF THE CERTIFICATE

- **Voluntary Cancellation** - In order to be granted a voluntary cancellation, the company must: 1) write a letter requesting cancellation of the certificate and explain why (such as no longer in the telecommunications business); 2) pay all past due charges in full; 3) provide the Commission with your updated mailing and physical location addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and liaison and title; and 4) pay the 2001 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) or provide a date certain that it will be paid (such as 30 days from the date of the Commission Order cancelling the certificate).
- **Involuntary Cancellation** - If the company does nothing to resolve this docket, the certificate will be cancelled on the Commission's own motion. All outstanding RAFs, including penalty and interest charges, will be turned over to the Comptroller's Office for collection.

TO KEEP THE CERTIFICATE ACTIVE

- Pay the past due RAF amount in full, including statutory penalty and interest charges, plus the fine imposed, after the Order is issued and the certificate will remain active. Just paying the past due amount will not prevent your certificate from being cancelled.
- Propose a settlement - All settlements should include the following elements:
 - 1) Docket number;
 - 2) A check for the past due amount in full. It should be noted that just paying the past due amount will not prevent your certificate from being cancelled;
 - 3) Updated reporting requirements (liaison and title of liaison, mailing and physical location addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, and web site);
 - 4) A statement that the company has taken steps to prevent future late payments of the regulatory assessment fees and what those steps are;
 - 5) A waiver of objection, which should state: The company agrees to waive any objection to the administrative cancellation of its certificate should it fail to pay in accordance with its settlement offer. If, however, there is a factual dispute as to the manner or level of compliance with any provision in the settlement, Commission staff will bring the matter to the Commission for consideration; and
 - 6) Make a specific monetary settlement. There is normally a \$1,000 fine (\$500 fine for each rule violation) associated with these rule violations, which is the case in this docket. However, the Commission has accepted amounts less than the fine amount in other similar cases.

Any settlement offer/correspondence should be addressed to Ms. Blanca Bayó, Director, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850. The proposed settlement amount should **not** be paid at this time, instead only the past due regulatory assessment fee, plus penalty and interest charges should be paid. The settlement amount, if approved by the Commission, must be paid within 10 business days after the Commission Order is issued.