



Public Service Commission
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COMMISSION CLERK

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2001
TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (BAYÓ)
FROM: DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES (ISLER) *PIG*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA; B. KEATING; J. ELLIOTT) *KMP JAE*
RE: DOCKET NO. 010527-TC - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE NO. 5840 ISSUED TO METROPHONE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

DOCKET NO. 010603-TC - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE NO. 7416 ISSUED TO RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

AGENDA: 11/06/01 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMP\WP\010527.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

The Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services mailed each of the certificated telecommunications providers listed on Attachment A the 2000 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) notice. When full payment had not been received by the due date, the Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services mailed a delinquent notice to the companies. After the dockets were established, staff wrote each of the companies listed on Attachment

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A and explained that the dockets had been opened and to contact staff if they were interested in resolving their respective dockets. Although the companies listed on Attachment A have paid the minimum RAF, as of October 16, 2001, the companies have a past due penalty and interest amount and have not either proposed a settlement to keep the certificate active or requested cancellation of their respective certificates.

The Commission is vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.285, and 364.3375, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's respective certificate as listed on Attachment A for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies and Section 350.113, Florida Statutes?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's respective certificate as listed on Attachment A if the fine and the statutory penalty and interest charges are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and statutory penalty and interest charges are not received, the certificate numbers listed on Attachment A should be cancelled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts. (Isler)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission may impose a fine or cancel a certificate if a company refuses to comply with Commission rules. Rule 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the requirements for cancellation

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of a certificate. The rule provides for the Commission to cancel a certificate on its own motion for violation of Commission Rules and Orders.

Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, which implements Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, requires the payment of regulatory assessment fees by January 30 of the subsequent year for telecommunications companies, and provides for penalties and interest as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

The Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services' records show that each of the telecommunications providers listed on Attachment A had not paid their 2000 regulatory assessment fees, plus statutory penalty and interest charges. After the dockets were established, staff wrote each of the companies and provided them with a list of options to resolve the dockets and asked that staff be contacted. The companies listed on Attachment A paid the minimum RAF, but still have past due penalty and interest charges. Therefore, it appears the companies have failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies, and Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, and have not requested cancellation of their certificates in compliance with Rule 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code. The fine amount recommended in these dockets is consistent with amounts imposed for recent, similar violations.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with the Commission rules or cancel each company's respective certificate as listed on Attachment A if the fine and the statutory penalty and interest charges are not paid within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and statutory penalty and interest charges are not received, the certificate numbers listed on Attachment A should be cancelled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts.

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ISSUE 2: Should these dockets be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Order issued from this recommendation will become final upon issuance of a Consummating Order, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the Proposed Agency Action Order. The dockets should then be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final. (K. Peña; B. Keating; J. Elliott)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Whether staff's recommendation on Issue 1 is approved or denied, the result will be a Proposed Agency Action Order. If no timely protest to the Proposed Agency Action is filed within 21 days of the date of issuance of the Order, these dockets should be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order and upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final.

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<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>PROVIDER</u> <u>LAST REPORTED REVENUES & PERIOD COVERED</u>	<u>CERT.</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>RAFs</u>	<u>P and I</u>
010527-TC	Metrophone Telecommunications Inc. \$11,088.05 Revenues for Period Ended 12/31/00	5840	2000	1998 1999 2000
010603-TC	Radio Communications Corporation \$0 Revenues for Period Ended 12/31/00	7416	2000	2000