

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for cancellation of CLEC Certificate No. 7180 by Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc., effective July 3, 2007. DOCKET NO. 070401-TX
ORDER NO. PSC-07-0750-PAA-TX
ISSUED: September 19, 2007

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

LISA POLAK EDGAR, Chairman
MATTHEW M. CARTER II
KATRINA J. McMURRIAN
NANCY ARGENZIANO
NATHAN A. SKOP

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER
CANCELING COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY CERTIFICATE ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. currently holds Certificate No. 7180, issued by this Commission on October 15, 1999, authorizing the provision of competitive local exchange telecommunications service (CLEC). Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, competitive local exchange telecommunications companies must pay a minimum annual Regulatory Assessment Fee if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161(2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. Pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the Regulatory Assessment Fee return forms, for the period of January 1 through December 31, are mailed to entities at least 45 days prior to the date that payment of the fee is due. In addition, Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, provides that a competitive local exchange telecommunications company requesting cancellation of its certificate must state its intent and date to pay the current Regulatory Assessment Fee.

On July 3, 2007, this Commission received a letter from the company's representative, Sharon M. Allen, dated July 2, 2007, requesting cancellation of Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s CLEC certificate. Ms. Allen stated the company was requesting cancellation due to the new increased minimum Regulatory Assessment Fees and asked us to mail her the 2007 RAF return form as soon as possible. Staff mailed the 2007 RAF return form on July 9, 2007. As of July 27, 2007, the 2007 RAF remains unpaid.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

For the reasons described above, we deny Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s request for voluntary cancellation of its CLEC certificate. However, we find it appropriate to involuntarily cancel the competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate, effective July 3, 2007, on this Commission's own motion for failure to comply with Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, and pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes.

Since it appears Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. does not provide service in Florida and has requested cancellation of its certificate, there would be no purpose in requiring the company to pay a penalty. The cancellation of the CLEC certificate, in no way diminishes the entity's obligation to pay the applicable Regulatory Assessment Fee. If this Order is not protested, the company's CLEC Certificate No. 7180 shall be cancelled, effective July 3, 2007. If the company pays the Regulatory Assessment Fee prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the cancellation of the company's competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate will be voluntary. If the company fails to protest the Order or pay the Regulatory Assessment Fee prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the company's competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate should be cancelled administratively, and the collection of the past due Regulatory Assessment Fee should be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. If the company's competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate is cancelled in accordance with the Commission's Order from this recommendation, the company should be required to immediately cease and desist providing competitive local exchange telecommunications service in Florida. This docket should be closed administratively either upon receipt of the payment of the Regulatory Assessment Fee or upon cancellation of the company's competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate. If Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s CLEC certificate is cancelled on this Commission's own motion and it subsequently decides to reapply for a certificate as a competitive local exchange telecommunications company, Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. shall be required to first pay any outstanding fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. We are vested with jurisdiction over these matters pursuant to Sections 350.113, 364.336, 364.337, and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that pursuant to Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s CLEC Certificate No. 7180 is hereby cancelled effective July 3, 2007, on this Commission's own motion for failure to pay the 2007 Regulatory Assessment Fee, pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that the cancellation of the certificate in no way diminishes Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s obligation to pay the applicable Regulatory Assessment Fee. If the company's CLEC certificate is cancelled and the company subsequently decides to reapply for a certificate as a competitive local exchange telecommunications company, that company shall be required to first pay any outstanding fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. It is further

ORDERED that if Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. pays the Regulatory Assessment Fee prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, the cancellation of the certificate shall be deemed voluntary. It is further

ORDERED that if Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. does not pay the Regulatory Assessment Fee prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, the collection of the Regulatory Assessment Fee shall be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. It is further

ORDERED that if Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc.'s certificate is cancelled in accordance with this Order, Telephone Systems of Georgia, Inc. shall immediately cease and desist providing competitive local exchange telecommunications service in Florida. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this docket shall be closed upon receipt of the Regulatory Assessment Fee, or upon cancellation of the CLEC certificate.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 19th day of September, 2007.



ANN COLE
Commission Clerk

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VSM

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on October 10, 2007.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.