

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: June 27, 2007

TO: Office of Commission Clerk (Cole)

FROM: Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement (Isler)
Office of the General Counsel (McKay)

RE: Docket No. 070278-TI – Acknowledgment of cancellation of IXC Registration No. TJ285 by Affordable Voice Communications Inc., effective April 30, 2007.

AGENDA: 07/10/07 – Regular Agenda – Proposed Agency Action – Interested Persons May Participate

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

PREHEARING OFFICER: Administrative

CRITICAL DATES: None

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: None

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMP\WP\070278.RCM.DOC

Discussion of Issues

Issue 1: Should the Commission deny Affordable Voice Communications Inc., a voluntary cancellation of its IXC tariff and Registration No. TJ285 and cancel the tariff and remove the company's name from the register on the Commission's own motion with an effective date of April 30, 2007?

Recommendation: Yes, the company should be denied a voluntary cancellation as listed on Attachment A. (Isler, McKay)

Staff Analysis: See attached proposed Order.

Issue 2: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Order issued from this recommendation will become final and effective upon issuance of a Consummating Order, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest that identifies with specificity the issues in dispute, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, within 21 days of the issuance of the Proposed Agency Action Order. As provided by Section 120.80(13)(b), Florida Statutes, any issues not in dispute should be deemed stipulated. If the company fails to timely file a protest and to request a Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, hearing, the facts should be deemed admitted and the right to a hearing waived. If the company pays the Regulatory Assessment Fees prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the cancellation of the company's tariff and the removal of its name from the register will be voluntary. If the company fails to pay the Regulatory Assessment Fees prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the company's IXC tariff should be cancelled administratively and its name removed from the register, and the collection of the past due Regulatory Assessment Fees should be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. If the company's IXC tariff is cancelled and its name removed from the register in accordance with the Commission's Order from this recommendation, the company should be required to immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange telecommunications service in Florida. This docket should be closed administratively either upon receipt of the payment of the Regulatory Assessment Fees or upon cancellation of the company's IXC tariff and removal of its name from the register. (McKay)

Staff Analysis: Staff recommends that the Commission take action as set forth in the foregoing staff recommendation statement.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Acknowledgment of cancellation of IXC Registration No. TJ285 by Affordable Voice Communications Inc., effective April 30, 2007.	DOCKET NO. 070278-TI ORDER NO. ISSUED:
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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
CANCELLING INTRASTATE INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF
AND REGISTRATION 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.

Affordable Voice Communications Inc. currently holds Intrastate Interexchange Telecommunications (IXC) Registration No. TJ285, issued by this Commission on November 12, 1999. Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, telecommunications companies must pay a minimum annual Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) for each certificate or registration if the certificate or registration 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 25-24.474, Florida Administrative Code, provides that intrastate interexchange companies must pay any current and past due Regulatory Assessment Fees with its request for cancellation.

On April 23, 2007, this Commission received a letter from the company's president, Charles R. Combs, dated April 20, 2007, requesting cancellation of Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s IXC registration effective April 30, 2007. Mr. Combs stated that the company would cease operations in Florida on April 28, 2007, and that all final bills would be

issued by April 28, 2007. Mr. Combs stated that he did not believe the company's Florida customers would pay the increased rates that would result from the increased minimum Regulatory Assessment Fee, which went into effect April 16, 2007. Our staff e-mailed Mr. Combs on April 24, 2007, and explained that before a voluntary cancellation could be acknowledged, the 2007 RAF must be paid. The 2007 RAF return form was attached to the e-mail and our staff requested the payment by May 31, 2007. As of June 15, 2007, the 2007 RAF has not been received.

For the reasons described above, we deny Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s request for voluntary cancellation of its IXC tariff and removal of its name from the register. However, we find it appropriate to involuntarily cancel the IXC tariff and remove the company's name from the register, effective April 30, 2007, on this Commission's own motion for failure to comply with Rule 25-24.474, Florida Administrative Code, and pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes.

Since it appears Affordable Voice Communications Inc. no longer provides service in Florida and has requested cancellation of its registration, there would be no purpose in requiring the company to pay a penalty. The cancellation of the IXC tariff and removal of its name from the register in no way diminishes the entity's obligation to pay the applicable Regulatory Assessment Fees. If this Order is not protested, the company's IXC tariff shall be cancelled, and Registration No. TJ285 removed from the register, effective April 30, 2007. If the company pays the 2007 Regulatory Assessment Fee, prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the cancellation of the company's IXC tariff and removal of its name from the register 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 IXC tariff should be cancelled administratively and its name removed from the register, and the collection of the unpaid Regulatory Assessment Fee should be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. If the company's IXC tariff is cancelled and its name removed from the register in accordance with the Commission's Order from this recommendation, the company should be required to immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange telecommunications service in Florida. This docket should be closed administratively either upon receipt of the payment of the Regulatory Assessment Fees or upon cancellation of the company's IXC tariff and removal of its name from the register. If Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s IXC tariff is cancelled and its name removed from the register, and the company subsequently decides to reregister as an intrastate interexchange telecommunications company, that company shall be required to first pay any unpaid Regulatory Assessment Fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. We are vested with jurisdiction over these matters pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.02, and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that pursuant to Rule 25-24.474, Florida Administrative Code, Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s IXC tariff and Registration No. TJ285 is hereby cancelled and its name removed from the register effective April 30, 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 IXC tariff, including removal of its name from the register, in no way diminishes Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s obligation to pay the applicable Regulatory Assessment Fees. If Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s IXC tariff is cancelled and its name removed from the register, and the company subsequently decides to reregister as an intrastate interexchange telecommunications company, that company shall be required to first pay any unpaid Regulatory Assessment Fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. It is further

ORDERED that if Affordable Voice Communications Inc. pays the Regulatory Assessment Fee prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, the cancellation of the tariff and removal of its name from the register shall be deemed voluntary. It is further

ORDERED that if Affordable Voice Communications 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 Affordable Voice Communications Inc.'s IXC tariff is cancelled and its name removed from the register in accordance with this Order, the company shall immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange 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 IXC tariff and removal of the company's name from the register.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this _____ day of _____, _____.

ANN COLE
Commission Clerk

(S E A L)

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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 _____.

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.