

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Modified minimum filing ) DOCKET NO. 920195-TL  
requirements report of QUINCY ) ORDER NO. PSC-94-1384-FOF-TL  
TELEPHONE COMPANY. ) ISSUED: November 14, 1994

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
JOE GARCIA  
JULIA L. JOHNSON  
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION  
OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

BY THE COMMISSION:

I. BACKGROUND

By Order No. PSC-94-0645-FOF-TL (the Order) we directed Quincy Telephone Company (Quincy or the Company) to survey its subscribers for nonoptional, flat rate, two-way calling on the routes between the Gretna, Greensboro, and Quincy exchanges, and the Tallahassee exchange. The Gretna, Greensboro, and Quincy exchanges are served by Quincy Telephone Company and the Tallahassee exchange is served by Central Telephone Company of Florida (Centel). Consistent with the Order, the Company's customers were surveyed to determine whether a sufficient number of the customers would be willing to pay monthly charges of \$12.70 for residence, \$35.00 for businesses and \$69.95 for PBX trunks in order to have flat-rate extended area service (EAS) for the routes indicated. The proposed monthly charges, if approved, were to replace current charges of \$9.10 for residence, \$25.10 for businesses and \$50.15 for PBX trunks. The \$.20 per message calling plan which has a monthly five (5) free call allowance would be eliminated if EAS is implemented.

The survey was conducted in accordance with Rule 25-4.063, Florida Administrative Code. The rule provides for newspaper advertisement, an explanatory letter containing all pertinent information of the proposal, and a ballot for the subscriber's preference. The Company met each of these requirements.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

The customers were surveyed during the month of August 1994. Ballots returned prior to the August 31, 1994, expiration date have been tabulated. The survey results are:

|  |       |         |
|--|-------|---------|
| Ballots Mailed                             | 9,572 | 100.00% |
| Ballots Returned                           | 3,732 | 38.99%  |
| Ballots Not Returned                       | 5,840 | 61.01%  |
| Minimum Ballots Required<br>to be Returned | 3,829 | 40.00%  |
| Ballots Short of 40%                       | 97    | 1.01%   |

RESULTS ON RETURNED BALLOTS:

|                 |       |        |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Ballots FOR     | 2,054 | 55.04% |
| Ballots AGAINST | 1,597 | 42.79% |
| Ballots INVALID | 81    | 2.17%  |

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF EAS

A number of Quincy's customers appeared before the Commission during our consideration of this matter and spoke in favor of the implementation of EAS. The individuals described the importance and the various specific needs of the customers for toll relief for calls between Tallahassee and Quincy's exchanges. In addition, several individuals stated that Gadsden County has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the State of Florida and that this fact could cause the low ballot return rate.

Initially we would note that the response rate to the survey failed to meet the requirement of Rule 25-4.063 that at least 40% of all ballots mailed must be returned. However, we are also cognizant of the low literacy rate in the affected Quincy exchanges and how great an effect this could have on the response rate. It is also important to note that the voter approval rate of 55% is substantially higher than disapproval rate. It is also significant to note that had 97 more ballots been returned and even had they voted "no", the survey would have passed. Upon consideration of the specific facts in this case, we find that there is a sufficient community of interest to warrant implementation of flat-rate, two-way calling between the Gretna, Greensboro, and Quincy exchanges,

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and the Tallahassee exchange. Accordingly, Centel and Quincy shall implement EAS, as described above, on their respective portions of these routes by January 15, 1995.

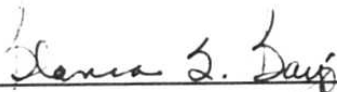
Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Quincy Telephone Company and Central Telephone Company of Florida shall implement nonoptional, flat-rate, two-way calling on their respective portions of the routes between the Gretna, Greensboro, and Quincy exchanges, and the Tallahassee exchange at the rates as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that extended area service shall be implemented by January 15, 1995, as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 14th day of November, 1994.



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BLANCA S. BAYO, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )  
TWH

Commissioner Kiesling dissented from the Commission's decision to implement EAS.

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, 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

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hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or sewer utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900 (a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.