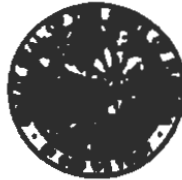


Commissioners  
JULIA I. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN  
J TERRY DEASON  
SUSAN F CLARK  
JOE GARCIA  
E LEON JACOBS, JR



DIVISION OF APPEALS  
DAVID E SMITH  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6245

# Public Service Commission

February 2, 1998

Mr. Carroll Webb  
Joint Administrative Procedures  
Committee  
120 Holland Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Docket No. 980037-TF - Proposed Amendments to Rule 25-  
4.160, F.A.C., Operation of Telecommunications Relay  
Service; Rule 25-24.585, F.A.C., Records and Reports;  
Rule Incorporated; Rule 25-24.825, F.A.C., Price List;  
and Rule 25-24.835, F.A.C., Records and Reports; Rules  
Incorporated

Dear Mr. Webb:

Enclosed are an original and two copies of the following  
materials concerning the above referenced proposed rule:

1. A copy of the rules.
2. A copy of the F.A.W. notice.
3. A statement of facts and circumstances justifying the  
proposed rules.
4. A federal standards statement.
5. A statement of estimated regulatory costs.

If there are any questions with respect to these rules,  
please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

*Diana W. Caldwell*  
Diana W. Caldwell  
Associate General Counsel

ADM4160.MPD  
Enclosures

cc: Division of Records & Reporting  
CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BLVD • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0850

1 25-4.160 Operation of Telecommunications Relay Services.

2 (1) For intrastate toll calls received from the relay  
3 service, each local exchange and interexchange telecommunications  
4 company billing relay calls shall discount relay service calls by  
5 50 percent off of the otherwise applicable rate for a voice  
6 nonrelay call except that where either the calling or called party  
7 indicates that either party is both hearing and visually impaired,  
8 the call shall be discounted 60 percent off of the otherwise  
9 applicable rate for a voice nonrelay call. The above discounts  
10 apply only to time-sensitive elements of a charge for the call and  
11 shall not apply to per call charges such as a credit card  
12 surcharge. In the case of a tariff which includes either a  
13 discount based on number of minutes or the purchase of minutes in  
14 blocks, the discount shall be calculated by discounting the minutes  
15 of relay use before the tariffed rate is applied.

16 (2) When a local exchange telecommunications company passes  
17 a call to the Florida relay service provider, it shall also forward  
18 the calling party's originating telephone number if the calling  
19 party's central office has that capability.

20 (3) To fund the telecommunications access system established  
21 under Part II of Chapter 427, F.S., all local exchange  
22 telecommunications companies shall impose a monthly surcharge on  
23 all local exchange telecommunications company subscribers,  
24 excluding federal and state agencies, on an individual access line  
25 basis, except that such surcharge shall not be imposed upon more

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in  
~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 | than 25 basic telecommunications access lines per account bill  
2 | rendered.

3 | (a) A local exchange telecommunications company shall  
4 | consider an account bill rendered in a manner consistent with its  
5 | billing practices for other telecommunications services.

6 | (b) Except as otherwise provided by law, the surcharge billed  
7 | by the local exchange telecommunications companies is not subject  
8 | to any sales, use, franchise, income, municipal utility, gross  
9 | receipts, or any other tax, fee, or assessment, nor shall it be  
10 | considered revenue of the local exchange telecommunications  
11 | companies for any purpose.

12 | (c) All local exchange telecommunications companies shall  
13 | include the surcharge as a part of the local service charge that  
14 | appears on the customer's bill except that the surcharge may be  
15 | itemized if a company monthly itemizes all local service charges.  
16 | However, the local exchange telecommunications company shall  
17 | itemize the surcharge on the initial bill to the subscriber and  
18 | itemize it at least once annually. The local exchange  
19 | telecommunications company may deduct and retain 1 percent of the  
20 | total surcharge amount collected each month to recover the billing,  
21 | collecting, remitting, and administrative costs attributed to the  
22 | surcharge. All moneys received by the local exchange  
23 | telecommunications company, less the authorized amount retained,  
24 | shall be submitted so as to be received by the Administrator within  
25 | fifteen days after the end of the previous month. Each local

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in  
~~struck-through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 exchange telecommunications company shall follow the same  
2 procedures for collecting this surcharge as for collecting for  
3 other regulated telecommunications services.

4 (4) For purposes of this part, the term "local exchange  
5 telecommunications company" shall be as defined in Section  
6 427.703(7), F.S. The term shall include shared tenant service  
7 providers and alternative local exchange companies.

8 Specific Authority: 427.704(8), F.S.

9 Law Implemented: 427.704(4), (5), F.S.

10 History--New 9/16/92, Amended \_\_\_\_\_.

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25-24.585 ~~Records and Reports~~, Rules Incorporated.

(1) The following rules are incorporated herein by reference and apply to shared tenant service companies:

		PORTIONS
SECTION	TITLE	NOT APPLICABLE
25-4.019	Records and Reports in General	<u>All</u> None
25-4.020	Location and Preservation of Records	<u>All</u> except (1) and (3) <del>(2)</del>
25-4.043	Response to Commission Staff Inquiries	<u>All</u> None
25-4.0161	Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunication Companies	<u>All</u> None
<u>25-4.160</u>	<u>Operation of Telecommunications</u> <u>Relay Service</u>	<u>All</u>

(2) Each shared tenant service company shall file with the Commission's Division of Communications updated information for the following items within ten days after either such change occurs.

- (a) The mailing address of the certificate holder.
- (b) Name, title, and phone number of individual responsible for Commission contacts.

Specific Authority: 350.127(2), 427.704(8), F.S.  
 Law Implemented: 350.113, 364.016, 364.17, 364.18, 364.183, 364.185, 364.339, F.S.  
 History--New 1/28/91, Amended 12/29/91, 11/13/95, 7/29/97, \_\_\_\_\_.

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 25-24.825 Price List.

2 (1) Prior to providing service, each company subject to these  
3 rules shall file and maintain with the Commission a current price  
4 list which clearly sets forth the following information for the  
5 provision of residential dial tone, single-line business dial tone,  
6 and dial tone with any combination of the services included as part  
7 of basic local telecommunications services, as defined in s.  
8 364.02(2), F.S. If residential dial tone, single-line business  
9 dial tone, or dial tone with any combination of the services  
10 included as part of basic local telecommunications service is  
11 offered on a package basis, the following information must be  
12 provided for each the package:

13 (a) current prices,  
14 (b) customer connection charges,  
15 (c) billing and payment arrangements, and  
16 (d) levels of service quality which the company holds itself  
17 out to provide for each service.

18 (2) At the company's option, price list information in  
19 paragraph (1) above and other information concerning the terms and  
20 conditions of service may be filed for services other than basic  
21 local telecommunication services.

22 (3) A price list revision must be physically received by the  
23 Commission's Division of Communications at least one day prior to  
24 its effective date.

25 (4) Price lists must be on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper in

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~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 loose-leaf form and must utilize an ongoing page identification  
2 system which will allow for the identification of inserted and  
3 removed pages. The color of paper on which price lists are filed  
4 must be amenable to being clearly photocopied on standard photocopy  
5 equipment.

6 (5) Complete information concerning a company's service  
7 offerings, rates and charges, conditions of service, service  
8 quality, terms and conditions, service area, and subscribership  
9 information identified by local exchange company exchange must be  
10 made available to Commission staff upon request.

11 Specific Authority: 350.127(2), F.S.

12 Law Implemented: 364.04, 364.337(5), F.S.

13 History--New 12/27/95, Amended.

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16 25-24.835 ~~Records and Reports~~, Rules Incorporated.

17 The following rules are incorporated herein by reference and  
18 apply to alternative local exchange companies.

19 Section Title

20 25-4.0161 Regulatory Assessment Fees

21 25-4.043 Response to Commission Staff Inquiries

22 25-4.036 Design and Construction of Plant

23 25-4.038 Safety

24 25-4.160 Operation of Telecommunications Relay Service

25 Specific Authority: 350.127(2), 427.704(8), F.S.

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in  
~~struck-through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 | Law Implemented: 364.336, 364.337, F.S.

2 | History--New 12/27/95, Amended\_\_\_\_\_.

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~~struck-through~~ type are deletions from existing law.



FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 980037-TP

RULE TITLE:

RULE NO.:

Operation of Telecommunications

Relay Services

25-4.160

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of changes to rule 25-4.160, F.A.C., Operation of Telecommunications Relay Service, is to clarify that the definition of "local exchange telecommunications company" includes alternative local exchange companies (ALECs) and shared tenant services (STS) providers, and to make the term consistent throughout the rule. The effect is to ensure that these providers of local telecommunications exchange services will collect and remit the surcharge required for funding of the Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS).

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment clarifies that ALECs and STS providers are included in the definition of the term "local exchange telecommunications company" for purposes of collecting and remitting the surcharge required for funding of the TRS.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST: The proposed amendment does not appear to impose significant transactional costs on most of the regulated companies surveyed.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 427.704(8), FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 427.704(4), (5) FS.

WRITTEN COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED RULE MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE FPSC, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

HEARING: IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 A.M., May 21, 1998

PLACE: Room 152, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

Director of Appeals, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0862.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

25-4.160 Operation of Telecommunications Relay Services.

(1) For intrastate toll calls received from the relay service, each local exchange and interexchange telecommunications company billing relay calls shall discount relay service calls by 50 percent off of the otherwise applicable rate for a voice nonrelay call except that where either the calling or called party indicates that either party is both hearing and visually impaired, the call shall be discounted 60 percent off of the otherwise applicable rate for a voice nonrelay call. The above discounts apply only to time-sensitive elements of a charge for

the call and shall not apply to per call charges such as a credit card surcharge. In the case of a tariff which includes either a discount based on number of minutes or the purchase of minutes in blocks, the discount shall be calculated by discounting the minutes of relay use before the tariffed rate is applied.

(2) When a local exchange telecommunications company passes a call to the Florida relay service provider, it shall also forward the calling party's originating telephone number if the calling party's central office has that capability.

(3) To fund the telecommunications access system established under Part II of Chapter 427, FS., all local exchange telecommunications companies shall impose a monthly surcharge on all local exchange telecommunications company subscribers, excluding federal and state agencies, on an individual access line basis, except that such surcharge shall not be imposed upon more than 25 basic telecommunications access lines per account bill rendered.

(a) A local exchange telecommunications company shall consider an account bill rendered in a manner consistent with its billing practices for other telecommunications services.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, the surcharge billed by the local exchange telecommunications companies is not subject to any sales, use, franchise, income, municipal utility, gross receipts, or any other tax, fee, or assessment, nor shall it be considered revenue of the local exchange telecommunications

companies for any purpose.

(c) All local exchange telecommunications companies shall include the surcharge as a part of the local service charge that appears on the customer's bill except that the surcharge may be itemized if a company monthly itemizes all local service charges. However, the local exchange telecommunications company shall itemize the surcharge on the initial bill to the subscriber and itemize it at least once annually. The local exchange telecommunications company may deduct and retain 1 percent of the total surcharge amount collected each month to recover the billing, collecting, remitting, and administrative costs attributed to the surcharge. All moneys received by the local exchange telecommunications company, less the authorized amount retained, shall be submitted so as to be received by the Administrator within fifteen days after the end of the previous month. Each local exchange telecommunications company shall follow the same procedures for collecting this surcharge as for collecting for other regulated telecommunications services.

(4) For purposes of this part, the term "local exchange telecommunications company" shall be as defined in Section 427.703(7), FS. The term shall include shared tenant service providers and alternative local exchange companies.

Specific Authority 427.704(8) FS.

Law Implemented 427.704(4), (5) FS.

History--New 9-16-92, Amended\_\_\_\_\_.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Anne Marsh

NAME OF SUPERVISOR OR PERSONS WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE:  
Florida Public Service Commission.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED: January 20, 1998

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAW:  
Volume 23, Number 41, October 10, 1997

DELETE IF NO HEARING OFFERED:

If any person decides to appeal any decision of the Commission with respect to any matter considered at the rulemaking hearing, if held, a record of the hearing is necessary. The appellant must ensure that a verbatim record, including testimony and evidence forming the basis of the appeal is made. The Commission usually makes a verbatim record of rulemaking hearings.

Any person requiring some accommodation at this hearing because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (850) 413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Public Service Commission using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at: 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 980037-TP

RULE TITLE:	RULE NO.:
Price List	25-24.825
<del>Records and Reports,</del> Rules Incorporated	24-24.835
<del>Records and Reports,</del> Rules Incorporated	25-24.585

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the changes to Rule 25-24.825 (Price List) is to ensure that the public has access to information on certain services defined as "basic". The effect of the rule change is to make such information available. Rules 25-24.835 and 25-24.585 provide cross references to Rule 25-4.160.

SUMMARY: The changes to Rule 25-24.825 (Price List) clarify the services for which an ALEC must file a price list with the Commission. As the rule is currently written, a price list is required for the provision of basic local telecommunications service, as defined in Section 364.02(2), FS. The rule amendment will require a price list to be filed for provision of dial tone or any combination of services included as part of basic local telecommunications service for residential or single-line business subscribers.

Rules 25-24.835 and 25-24.585 provide cross references to Rule 25-4.160.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST: The proposed amendment does not appear to impose significant transactional

costs on most of the regulated companies surveyed.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 350.127(2), 427.704(8), FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 350.113, 364.04, 364.016, 364.17, 364.18, 364.183, 364.185, 364.336, 364.337(5), 364.339, FS.

WRITTEN COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED RULE MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE FPSC, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

HEARING: IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 A.M., May 21, 1998

PLACE: Room 152, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

Director of Appeals, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0862.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

25-24.585 ~~Records and Reports~~, Rules Incorporated.

(1) The following rules are incorporated herein by reference and apply to shared tenant service companies:

PORTIONS

SECTION	TITLE	NOT APPLICABLE
25-4.019	Records and Reports in General	<u>All None</u>
25-4.020	Location and Preservation of Records	<u>All except (1)</u> <u>and (3) + (2)</u>
25-4.043	Response to Commission Staff Inquiries	<u>All None</u>
25-4.0161	Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunication Companies	<u>All None</u>
<u>25-4.160</u>	<u>Operation of Telecommunications</u> <u>Relay Service</u>	<u>All</u>

(2) Each shared tenant service company shall file with the Commission's Division of Communications updated information for the following items within ten days after either such change occurs.

(a) The mailing address of the certificate holder.

(b) Name, title, and phone number of individual responsible for Commission contacts.

Specific Authority 350.127(2), 427.704(8) FS.

Law Implemented 350.113, 364.016, 364.17, 364.18, 364.183, 364.185, 364.339 FS.

History--New 1-28-91, Amended 12-29-91, 11-13-95, 7-29-97, \_\_\_\_\_.

25-24.825 Price List.

(1) Prior to providing service, each company subject to these rules shall file and maintain with the Commission a current price list which clearly sets forth the following information for the provision of residential dial tone, single-line business dial



tone, and dial tone with any combination of the services included as part of basic local telecommunications services, as defined in s. 364.02(2), FS. If residential dial tone, single-line business dial tone, or dial tone with any combination of the services included as part of basic local telecommunications service is offered on a package basis, the following information must be provided for each the package:

- (a) current prices,
- (b) customer connection charges,
- (c) billing and payment arrangements, and
- (d) levels of service quality which the company holds itself out to provide for each service.

(2) At the company's option, price list information in paragraph (1) above and other information concerning the terms and conditions of service may be filed for services other than basic local telecommunication services.

(3) A price list revision must be physically received by the Commission's Division of Communications at least one day prior to its effective date.

(4) Price lists must be on 8 1/4 by 11 inch paper in loose-leaf form and must utilize an ongoing page identification system which will allow for the identification of inserted and removed pages. The color of paper on which price lists are filed must be amenable to being clearly photocopied on standard photocopy equipment.

(5) Complete information concerning a company's service offerings, rates and charges, conditions of service, service quality, terms and conditions, service area, and subscribership information identified by local exchange company exchange must be made available to Commission staff upon request.

Specific Authority 350.127(2) FS.

Law Implemented 364.04, 364.337(5) FS.

History--New 12-27-95, Amended.

25-24.835 ~~Records and Reports~~, Rules Incorporated.

The following rules are incorporated herein by reference and apply to alternative local exchange companies.

Section Title

25-4.0161 Regulatory Assessment Fees

25-4.043 Response to Commission Staff Inquiries

25-4.036 Design and Construction of Plant

25-4.038 Safety

25-4.160 Operation of Telecommunications Relay Service

Specific Authority 350.127(2), 427.704(8) FS.

Law Implemented 364.336, 364.337 FS.

History--New 12-27-95, Amended.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Anne Marsh

NAME OF SUPERVISOR OR PERSONS WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULES:

Florida Public Service Commission.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED: January 20, 1998

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAW:

Volume 23, Number 41, October 10, 1997

DELETE IF NO HEARING OFFERED:

If any person decides to appeal any decision of the Commission with respect to any matter considered at the rulemaking hearing, if held, a record of the hearing is necessary. The appellant must ensure that a verbatim record, including testimony and evidence forming the basis of the appeal is made. The Commission usually makes a verbatim record of rulemaking hearings.

Any person requiring some accommodation at this hearing because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (850) 413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Public Service Commission using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at: 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Rules 25-4.160, 25-24.585,  
25-24.825 & 25-24.835  
Docket No. 980037-TP

**STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES  
JUSTIFYING RULE**

Rule 25-24.825, F.A.C., can be interpreted to mean that unless ALECs provide the full panoply of services included under the definition of basic services, they do not have to file a price list. As a result certain price information is not available for the public for certain carriers.

Rule 25-4.160, F.A.C., relating to the telecommunications Relay Service, is not clear as to what types of providers are included in the definition of local exchange telecommunications companies for the purposes of Chapter 427, F.S.

**STATEMENT ON FEDERAL STANDARDS**

There are no federal standards on the same subject.

## MEMORANDUM

December 22, 1997

TO: DIVISION OF APPEALS (CALDWELL)

FROM: DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND REGULATORY REVIEW (LEWIS) *W P L Shod*

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 25-4.160, F.A.C., OPERATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE; RULE 25-24.825, F.A.C., PRICE LIST; RULE 25-24.835, F.A.C., RECORDS AND REPORTS; RULES INCORPORATED; RULE 25-24.585, F.A.C., RECORDS AND REPORTS; RULES INCORPORATED.

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### SUMMARY OF THE RULE

Rule 25-24.825, F.A.C., presently requires Alternative Local Exchange Companies (ALECs) to file a price list for the provision of basic local telecommunications service, as defined in Section 364.02(2), F.S. Under the proposed amendment ALECS will be required to file a price list when they provide dial tone or any combination of services included as part of basic local telecommunications service for residential or single-line business subscribers.

Rule 25-4.160, F.A.C., currently dictates the manner in which local exchange companies shall bill and collect the monthly Telecommunications Access System surcharge from their subscribers and remit it to the Administrator of the Telecommunications Relay Service system. The proposed amendment will clarify that ALECs and Shared Tenant Service (STS) providers are included in the definition of "local exchange telecommunications company" for purposes of collecting and remitting the surcharge required for funding of the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS).

The proposed amendments to Rules 25-24.835 and 25-24.585, F.A.C., incorporate Rule 25-4.160, F.A.C., to apply it to ALECs and STS providers, respectively.

**ESTIMATED NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION  
OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED AND ENTITIES REQUIRED TO COMPLY**

ALECs will be required to comply with the proposed amendments to rules 25-24.825, F.A.C., and 25-24.835, F.A.C. STS providers will be required to comply with the proposed amendments to rule 25-24.585, F.A.C. Both ALECs and STS providers will be required to comply with the proposed amendments to rule 25-4.160, F.A.C. There are presently 135 ALECs and 35 STS providers certificated to provide telecommunications service in Florida.

Subscribers of ALECs or STS providers who have not previously been billed the TRS surcharge may be billed as a result of the proposed amendments to Rules 25-4.160, 25-24.835 and 25-24.585, F.A.C. The number of subscribers who have not been billed the TRS surcharge is unknown. The TRS system may receive additional funds if ALECs or STS providers who have not previously collected and remitted the TRS surcharge begin to do so as a result of the proposed rule amendments. The Commission staff may receive an increased number of price list filings from ALECs as a result of the proposed amendment to Rule 25-24.825, F.A.C. Ratepayers will have more information available to them if ALECs file price lists on a wider variety of basic local service offerings as a result of the proposed amendment to Rule 25-24.825, F.A.C.

**DIRECT COSTS TO THE AGENCY  
AND OTHER STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

The proposed amendments are not expected to provide additional costs to the Commission. Adequate Commission staff and procedures are already in place to process any new or revised price lists that may be filed as a result of the proposed rules. Existing Commission staff and procedures are also sufficient to respond to any customer or company inquiries that may be received if the proposed rules are adopted. If the proposed rules achieve their purpose of clarifying requirements for utility companies and making more information available to ratepayers and the Commission staff, there should be no direct costs to the agency.

At least two local governments (City of Lakeland and City of Ocala) hold ALEC certificates, although neither is currently offering telecommunications services. Local governments operating regulated telecommunications companies (ALEC or STS) are expected to face the same compliance

costs as other regulated entities. No other direct costs to state or local government entities are foreseen.

#### ESTIMATED TRANSACTIONAL COSTS TO INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES REQUIRED TO COMPLY

One STS provider anticipated additional costs to comply with the proposed rule amendments. Executive Business Centers, Inc. estimated its annual administrative costs would increase by \$5,000. All other STS providers reported little or no costs to comply with the proposed rules. Telephone Company of Central Florida, Inc. (TCCF) is an ALEC that resells local exchange service. TCCF does not foresee its business incurring costs as a result of the proposed rules. No other ALECs provided information on transactional costs. It should be noted that existing Rule 25-4.160, F.A.C. provides for companies to retain 1 percent of the total surcharge amount collected from their subscribers each month to recover the administrative costs attributed to the surcharge. In conclusion, neither the proposed amendments on collecting and remitting the TRS surcharge nor the proposed amendment on filing price lists appear to impose significant transactional costs on most of the regulated companies surveyed.

#### IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS, SMALL CITIES, OR SMALL COUNTIES

Only one of the responding companies (UniversalCom, Inc., formerly Data and Electronic Services, Inc.) met the statutory definition of a small business. UniversalCom, Inc. stated it would experience minimal administrative costs as a result of the proposed rules. The proposed rules are not expected to have any greater economic impact on regulated small businesses than on other regulated entities. Small businesses, small cities, and small counties are expected to experience some of the same benefits from the proposed rules as ratepayers and utilities. These expected benefits are: increased availability of information about telecommunications services through price lists filings; and, consistency in collecting and remitting the TRS surcharge. No additional direct impacts on small businesses, small cities or small counties is foreseen.

**REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE METHODS**

No alternative methods of accomplishing the goals of the proposed rules were proposed by the respondents.

KDL:tf/e-plist.tnf