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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff filing By GTE Incorporated to transfer a portion of the Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton exchange Docket No. 97099-TL Filed February 5, 1998

SARASOTA EQUINE ASSOCIATE'S REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO FILE DIRECT TESTIMONY

Sarasota Equine Associates asks the Commission to grant it an extension to file it's direct testimony in this case until February 9, 1998.

William J. McGinty, a partner of SEA has misunderstood the procedures and timetables of this case. He thought that the testimony was to be given in person. On February 2, 1998, he called the Commission to find out where testimony was to be held. At that time he learned that testimony was to have been filed. Please realize that while Dr. McGinty is proficient in treating sick horses, he is easily confused in other matters. It will take until Monday, February 9, 1998 to submit his testimony.

Sarasota Equine Associates has proposed February 9, 1998 as the new filing date as it will give SEA sufficient time to file it's testimony and yet will not delay nor have any effect on any future scheduled hearings or dates.

Sarasota Equine Associates asks the Commission to grant this short extension to file it's direct testimony in this case. SEA will not ask for any further extensions in the future. Respectfully submitted on February 5, 1998.

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By: Why Dr

William J. McGinty, D.V.M. Sarasota Equine Associates 8325 Whiskey Pond Lane Sarasota, F1., 34340

941-355-7759

Partner, Sarasota Equine Associates

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02024 FEB-98

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of Sarasota Equine Associates' request for Extension to File Direct Testimony in DocketNo. 970990-T1 were sent via U.S. mail on February 5, 1998, to the parties listed below.

Mary Beth Keating, Staff Counsel Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Fl 32399-0850

Rimberly Caswell po box 110, FLTC 0007 Tampa, Florida 33601 Attorney for GTE Florida Inc.

William J McGinty DVM