



ORIGINAL

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GTE SERVICE CORPORATION

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February 23, 1998

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1998

CMU

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records & Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 970990-TL
Proposed tariff filing by GTE Florida Incorporated to transfer a portion
of the Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton exchange

Dear Ms. Bayo:

ACK _____
AFA _____
APP _____
CAF _____
CMU *Huggins* _____
CTR _____
EAG _____
LEG *1* _____
LIN *3* _____
DPC _____
RCH _____
SEC *1* _____
NAS _____
DTH _____

Please find enclosed an original and fifteen copies of GTE Florida Incorporated's Prehearing Statement for filing in the above matter. Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (813) 483-2617.

Very truly yours,

Kimberly Caswell
Kimberly Caswell

KC:tas
Enclosures

A part of GTE Corporation

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
99553 FEB 24 88
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff filing by GTE Florida)	Docket No. 970990-TL
Incorporated to transfer a portion of the)	Filed: February 23, 1998
Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton)	
exchange)	
)	

GTE FLORIDA INCORPORATED'S PREHEARING STATEMENT

In accordance with Commission Rule 25-22.038(3) and Orders PSC-97-1398-PCO-TL and PSC-97-1619-PCO-TL in this docket, GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL) files its Prehearing Statement.

A. Witnesses

Charles M. Scobie will be GTEFL's witness in this proceeding for all matters designated for resolution.

B. Exhibits

GTEFL does not plan to introduce any exhibits at this time, but reserves the right to do so later at any appropriate points in the proceeding.

C. GTEFL's Basic Position

GTEFL's proposal to transfer part of the Sarasota Exchange to the Bradenton exchange is reasonable and should be put to a vote by affected subscribers. A vote is the best way to ensure the best solution for the greatest amount of people. Unfortunately, Dr. McGinty's protest in this case has delayed that vote. This is particularly troubling considering that the sole basis for the original protest--the expense of changing letterhead, office supplies, and yellow pages advertising--was rendered moot by GTEFL's explanation that number changes would be required in Dr. McGinty's area whether or not the requested transfer occurs.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02553 FEB 24 88

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Nevertheless, GTEFL has tried to work with Dr. McGinty to ease his continuing dissatisfaction with the transfer. For instance, GTEFL proposed to provide Local Remote Call Forwarding to Dr. McGinty at no charge until the next directory publication date for the area. None of the resolutions GTEFL has offered has been deemed acceptable by Dr. McGinty.

GTEFL believes it has been more than reasonable in this case and asks only that the Commission allow the Company to put the proposed transfer to a vote as soon as possible. The best way to know if the proposed transfer is, on the whole, in the interest of affected customers is to ask them.

D. , E., F. Specific Positions

GTEFL regards each issue in this case as a mixed issue of fact, law, and policy.

The Company's positions on the specific issues follow:

Issue 1: Would transferring a portion of the Sarasota exchange to the Bradenton exchange create unreasonable expenses for affected customers?

GTEFL's Position: GTEFL does not believe so, and would caution the Commission against accepting Dr. McGinty's concerns as representative of all or most of the affected subscribers. The only way to definitively determine whether expenses would be too unreasonable for affected customers is to ask them, by way of a vote, if they favor the proposed transfer. If the vote had not been delayed by the protest, the Commission would already have an answer to this question.

Issue 2: Should affected customers be balloted in order to determine if they are in favor of the boundary change?

GTEFL's Position: Yes, for the reasons GTEFL described above, in response to Issue 1. The only way to determine whether the proposed transfer is in the best interest of affected customers is to ask them. The vote should be done as soon as possible.

G. Stipulated Issues

No issues were stipulated in this case.

H. Pending Matters

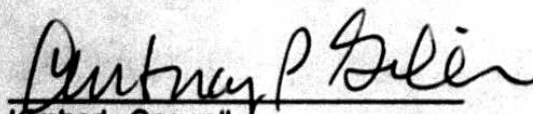
GTEFL has no matters pending before the Commission in this case.

I. Procedural Requirements

To GTEFL's knowledge, it can comply with all the requirements set forth in the procedural order in this case.

Respectfully submitted on February 23, 1998.

By:



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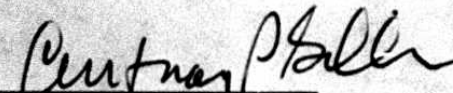
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of GTE Florida Incorporated's Prehearing Statement in Docket No. 970990-TL were sent via U.S. mail on February 23, 1998, to the parties listed below.

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