



# Public Service Commission

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

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RECORDS AND REPORTING  
*[Handwritten initials]*

**DATE:** DECEMBER 9, 1999  
**TO:** DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYÓ)  
**FROM:** DIVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (ISLER) *[Handwritten initials]*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (K. PEÑA; B. KEATING) *[Handwritten initials]*  
**RE:** CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATION CERTIFICATE FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

- DOCKET NO. 991580-TI - QCC, INC.
- DOCKET NO. 991581-TI - CONQUEST OPERATOR SERVICES CORP.
- DOCKET NO. 991582-TI - DISCOUNT CALL RATING, INC. D/B/A FLAT RATE LONG DISTANCE, INC. D/B/A CONNECTFREE
- DOCKET NO. 991583-TI - NTI TELECOM, INC.
- DOCKET NO. 991584-TI - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE NETWORKS, LTD. D/B/A IXNET, LTD. CO.
- DOCKET NO. 991585-TI - STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

**AGENDA:** 12/21/99 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

**CRITICAL DATES:** NONE

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** NONE

**FILE NAME AND LOCATION:** S:\PSC\CMU\WP\991580.RCM

### CASE BACKGROUND

Each of the certificated interexchange telecommunications providers listed on page 4 were mailed the 1998 regulatory assessment fee (RAF) notice. When full payment had not been received by the due date, the Division of Administration mailed a delinquent letter to the companies. As of December 2, 1999, none of the companies have paid the past due amount.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
15049 DEC-99  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

#### DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

**ISSUE 1:** Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel the interexchange telecommunications certificates issued to each company listed on page 4 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's certificate as listed on page 4 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received, the interexchange telecommunications certificate numbers listed on page 4 should be canceled administratively. (Isler)

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission may impose a fine or cancel a certificate if a company refuses to comply with Commission rules. Rule 25-24.474, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the requirements for cancellation of an interexchange telecommunications company certificate. The rule provides for the Commission to cancel a certificate on its own motion for violation of Commission Rules and Orders.

Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, requires the payment of regulatory assessment fees by January 30 of the subsequent year for telecommunications companies, and provides for penalties and interest as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

The Division of Administration's records show that each of the interexchange telecommunications providers listed on page 4 had not paid its 1998 regulatory assessment fees in full, plus statutory penalty and interest charges. Therefore, it appears the companies have failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies and

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have not requested cancellation of their certificates in compliance with Rule 25-24.474, Florida Administrative Code.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with the Commission rules or cancel the companies' respective certificate if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, along with statutory penalty and interest charges, are not paid within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. The fine should be paid to the Florida Public Service Commission and forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If the Commission's Order is not protested and the fine and regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received, the interexchange telecommunications certificate numbers listed on page 4 should be canceled administratively.

**ISSUE 2:** Should these dockets be closed?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Yes, these dockets should be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the proposed agency action order. (K. Peña; B. Keating)

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** Whether staff's recommendation on Issue 1 is approved or denied, the result will be a proposed agency action order. If no timely protest to the proposed agency action is filed within 21 days of the date of issuance of the Order, these dockets should be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final.

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| <u>DOCKET NO.</u> | <u>PROVIDER<br/>LAST REPORTED REVENUES &amp; PERIOD COVERED</u>                        | <u>CERT.<br/>NO.</u> | <u>RAFs</u>  | <u>P and I</u>                             |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|--------------|--|
| 991580-TI         | QCC, Inc.<br>\$49,759 Revenues<br>For Period Ending 12/31/97                           | 2483                 | 1998         | 1991<br>1993 (Bal.)<br>1994 (Bal.)<br>1998 |
| 991581-TI         | ConQuest Operator Services Corp.<br>\$1,233,864 Revenues<br>For Period Ending 12/31/97 | 2669                 | 1998         | 1994<br>1995<br>1997 (Bal.)<br>1998        |
| 991582-TI         | ConnectFree<br>\$0 Revenues<br>For Period Ending 12/31/97                              | 5239                 | 1998         | 1997<br>1998                               |
| 991583-TI         | NTI Telecom, Inc.<br>\$384 Revenues<br>For Period Ending 12/31/97                      | 5242                 | 1998         | 1997<br>1998                               |
| 991584-TI         | IXNET, LTD. CO.<br>No Previous Form Returned   | 5256                 | 1997<br>1998 | 1997<br>1998                               |
| 991585-TI         | Strategic Technologies, Inc.<br>No Previous Form Returned                              | 5300                 | 1998         | 1998                                       |