BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service Commission of Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 4773 issued to Easy Phone, Inc. d/b/a Easy Tel, Inc. for violation of Rule 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies.

DOCKET NO. 992039-TI ORDER NO. PSC-00-1670-AS-TI ISSUED: September 18, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
LILA A. JABER

ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT

BY THE COMMISSION:

Easy Phone, Inc. d/b/a Easy-Tel, Inc. (Easy Tel) currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 4773, issued by the Commission on February 18, 1997, authorizing the provision of Interexchange Telecommunications service. The Division of Administration advised our staff by memorandum that Easy Tel had not paid the 1998 and 1999 Regulatory Assessment Fees (RAFs). Also, accrued statutory penalties and interest charges for late RAFs payments for the year 1998 and 1999 had not been paid. RAFs are required by Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

All entities that apply for certification receive a copy of our rules governing Interexchange Telecommunications service. All applicants must attest that these rules have been received and understood by the applicant and an affidavit must be attached to the application in order for the application to be processed.

Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, certificate holders must pay a minimum annual RAF of \$50 if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. The RAFs form was mailed to Easy Phone for the period of January 1, through December

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31, 1998 and January 1, through December 31, 1999. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161(2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. However, pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the Commission shall provide at least a 45 days notice of the date the payment is due prior to the due date. Easy Tel was scheduled to remit its 1998 RAFs by February 1, 1999 and its 1999 RAFs by January 30, 2000.

After the docket was opened, but prior to our staff filing a recommendation, Easy Tel contacted our staff and advised that it would pay the past due amount in full and make a settlement offer. Easy Tel has since paid the 1998 and 1999 RAFs, including accrued statutory penalties and interest charges, offered to contribute \$100 to the State General Revenue Fund, and proposed to pay future RAFs on a timely basis.

We believe that the terms of the settlement agreement represent a fair and reasonable resolution of this matter. Accordingly, we hereby accept the settlement offer. Easy Tel must comply with these requirements within ten business days from the date this Order becomes final. The contribution should be identified with the docket number and the company name. Upon timely receipt, the contribution will be forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. If Easy Tel fails to comply with this Order, its certificate will be canceled administratively. Upon remittance of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate, this docket shall be closed.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Easy Phone, Inc. d/b/a Easy Tel, Inc.'s settlement proposal summarized in the body of this Order is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending receipt of the \$100 contribution. The contribution will be transmitted to the Comptroller for deposit in the State of Florida General Revenue Fund. It is further

ORDERED that if Easy Phone, Inc. d/b/a Easy Tel, Inc. fails to comply with this Order, its certificate will be canceled administratively. It is further

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ORDERED that upon receipt of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this <u>18th</u> day of <u>September</u>, <u>2000</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director (

Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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 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, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, 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 and/or wastewater 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. filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.