



Public Service Commission

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RECORDS AND REPORTING

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2000

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (DAYO)

FROM: DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES (ISLER) *Pji*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (DANDELAKE) *M+D BIL*

RE: DOCKET NO. 001187-TC - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE NO. 7276 ISSUED TO TALON ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

AGENDA: 10/17/00 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMP\WP\001187.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- **12/29/99** - This company obtained Florida Public Service Commission PATS Certificate No. 7276.
- **01/14/00** - The Division of Administration mailed the 1999 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) notice. Payment was due February 28, 2000.
- **02/29/00** - The Division of Administration mailed the delinquent notice.
- **08/30/00** - Mr. Michael K. Rankin, President, called staff and advised that he had no revenues but wished to keep his certificate active. He asked that the 1999 RAF notice and information on how to resolve this case be faxed to him.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

12634 OCT-48

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Staff wrote the company and provided the information Mr. Rankin requested.

- **09/27/00** - As of this date, the company has not paid the past due amount.

Staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel Talon Enterprises, Inc.'s pay telephone service certificate 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 the company's certificate 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 company's Certificate No. 7276 should be canceled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts. (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 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the requirements for cancellation of a pay telephone service 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, which implements Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, 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 the company has not paid its 1999 regulatory assessment fee, plus statutory penalty and interest charges. Although the company's president, Mr. Michael K. Rankin, contacted staff and indicated it would resolve the docket, the past due amount has not been paid and Mr. Rankin has had no further contact with staff as of September 27, 2000. Therefore, it appears the company has failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies and has not requested cancellation of its certificate in compliance with Rule 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code. This fine is consistent with amounts used for recent, similar violations.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with the Commission rules or cancel the company's 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 company's Certificate No. 7276 should be canceled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts.

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ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Order issued from this recommendation will become final upon issuance of a consummating order, 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. The docket should then be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. (Dandelake)

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, this docket should be closed upon issuance of a Consummating Order and upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate.