BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for elimination of the Automatic Meter Reading limited service offering tariff by UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF FLORIDA DOCKET NO. 900279-TL DO

The following Commissioner participated in the disposition of this matter:

MICHAEL McK. WILSON, Chairman BETTY EASLEY GERALD L. GUNTER

ORDER GRANTING WITHDRAWAL OF LIMITED SERVICE OFFERING

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Order No. 21561, issued July 17, 1989, we granted United Telephone Company of Florida's (United) tariff proposal seeking authority to provide Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) as a Limited Service Offering (LSO). AMR is a central office based service which provides for the remote reading of metering equipment located on the customer's premises by a water, gas, and/or electric utility. Through AMR the utility is able to read meters over phone lines by using equipment located at the utility, Local Exchange Company (LEC) central office and at the customer's premises. By reading meters via phone lines instead of manually, the utility saves labor costs. In addition, otherwise inaccessible meters are able to be read.

We approved the LSO for a period of one year, beginning May 31, 1989, at which time United would request that the LSO become a permanent offering or be withdrawn. The scheduled date for the LSO to end is May 30, 1990, and United has requested that it be withdrawn. Because the City of Cape Coral Water Department was the only subscriber utilizing the AMR service, United believes that there is not sufficient demand to maintain AMR as a tariffed service.

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The charges for AMR are based on the number of subscribers using the service; the more subscribers, the lower the cost per subscriber. United maintains that since demand for the service is so low, it would be administratively and economically more efficient to offer AMR on an individual case basis.

The City of Cape Coral Water Department currently reads 250 meters through AMR and plans to add an additional 5000 unites within the next year. The City is pleased with the savings realized through AMR and intends to have all new customers equipped with AMR capabilities. Accordingly, United will continue to provide this service to the City of Cape Coral Water Department on an individual basis, thereby eliminating the need to maintain AMR as a tariffed service.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that United Telephone Company of Florida's request to withdraw its Automatic Meter Reading Service as a Limited Services Offering is granted. It is further

ORDERED that Dockets Nos. 890487-TL and 900279-TL are hereby closed.

> STEVE TRIBBLE, Director Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

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by: Kay Hugh

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), 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 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 or sewer 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. This 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.