



**NORTH FLORIDA WOMEN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

ORIGINAL  
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**IVAN A. BACKERMAN, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**  
Director

January 12, 1997

950814-TL

Bev DeMello  
Director, Division of Consumer Affairs  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0867

RE: Fiberoptic Telephone  
service for Dog Island

Dear Ms. DeMello,

It was with great pleasure that we met you at the PSC hearing concerning the staff's proposal to give the residents of Dog Island fiberoptic phone service.

I have worked with Chief Boatenreiter (Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department) in my capacity as medical advisor to the Dog Island First Responders.

We tried to explain to the PSC what our problems were; and I am not sure that anyone fully understood except the Staff.

Besides having poor quality and intermittent telephone reception and transmission, it is almost impossible to try to have data transfer via computer. The most important point being the inability to transfer Electrocardiographic information from our Automatic External Defibrillator after saving someone's life, to Tallahassee Regional Medical Center.

Other first responder units take the "smart" data cartridge out of the machine and place it in a transmitting modem, to transfer the data to the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, we can not be assured that the transfer will be complete. Our transmission data with our present service is poor; and we must have Chief Boatenreiter go to the mainland by boat and "swap out" cartridges with a paramedic from Appalachicola who then runs it in their transmitter when they get to Emerald Coast Hospital.

We cannot use computers via the modems for telephone service because of the "shielding" on transmitting towers. Even nano-second interruptions cause loss of data and the signal cannot be reduced to a slow enough baud to receive meaningful information.

Our Fax capability is erratic and frequently people are told that the number they are calling is out of service and even disconnected. There have been days

100 Gulfshore Drive • Box 5006 Dog Island • Carrabelle, FL 32322 • (904) 697-4702

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when some or all of the telephones would not function.

We do not wish to cause the St. Joseph Telephone Company a great hardship. We do agree with the PSC's proposal to lay a fiberoptic cable to Dog Island and this this 'expensive' endeavor will reduce the annual loss of monies paid to Sprint for such poor service. In the long run, the St. Joseph Telephone Company will be saving money annually, and providing the residents with service that is equal to the service already provided to the consumers in Carrabelle on the mainland who use the 697 exchange. Lynda Borderillon told us that fiberoptic lines are already in place in Carrabelle.

We have enclosed a petition of signatures from many of the home-owners, property owners and people who share phone service with other Dog Islanders when they are here (part owners, relatives of owners, frequent guests, etc).

I know that last week the Engineers for the St. Joseph Telephone Company were on the island checking signal strength at various points on the island.

Unless the shielding is removed entirely, there will never be a time when we will have a reliable signal or even a useable signal all day, every day and even then, the signal return may be too slow for two way computer operation.

We hope that we can, as consumers, get fiberoptic service and therefore have equal service as the consumer in Carrabella has.

Cordially,



Ivan A. Backerman, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

IAB/esb

Enc.

COPY

TO: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DOG ISLAND RESIDENTS

DUE TO THE POOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE TO DOG ISLAND, I SUPPORT THE INSTALLATION OF FIBEROPTIC CABLE TO DOG ISLAND. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE MINIMAL AND THAT THIS TYPE OF SERVICE WOULD ALLOW TRANSMISSION OF THE INFORMATION FROM THE DEFIBRILATOR TO THE EMT UNIT ON SHORE.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Dog Island Boy 52/6		
Nina Hill	Box H-C. 63 32322	697-4782
David M. Hill	H.C. 63 Dog Island, P.O. 5046 Carroll, GA 32322	697-4782
Maurice Hill	Box 5032 D.I. CARROLL FL.	
Thomas Mason		697-4757 1-2-98
Michael McLean		770-853-2426
Key Palmer	Alb, Ga	697-4774
Leslie Pearson	Alb, Ga	697-4774
Jeanette Robinson	Albany, Ga	697-4774
Chad Smith		
Karyn Stetson	1109 Rosewood Dr Tallahassee FL 32301	11/4/97
Barbara Stilwell	1109 Rosewood Dr Tallahassee	
John W. W. W.	324 W. 8th Ave Tallahassee, FL 32303	
Paul Nichols	D.I. Box 5021	1-4-97
Mrs. Riley D. Akers	Drawer N	697-3770
Gregory	2500 [unclear]	697-
Heather [unclear]	810 Lotman Dr Tallahassee	3232
August [unclear]	3200 [unclear]	Tall 32303
Clifton V. Lewis	3117 Oklawaha Rd Tall.	32303
Doris P. Madrin	1123 Alachua Av. Tall Fla	32308 1/5/97
DYLAN Madonia	1123 Alachua Av. Tall Fla	32308 1/5/97
John Farnsworth	THL	
C LEE FARNSWORTH	THL	
TOM ASBURY	THL	697-4792

TO: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DOG ISLAND INCIDENTS

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Leri Beckman	P.O. Box 5006 Dog Island 32322	12/20/96
Steve Beckman	4023 Army St., San Francisco 94121 (4 <sup>th</sup> )	12/20/96
Leri Anne Beckman	4023 Army St. San Francisco 94121 (4 <sup>th</sup> )	12/20/96
Mudren	P.O. Box 5006 Dog Island	12/20/96
Becker Boatman	Box 5000 Dog Island FLA	12-30-96
Mary Ruth Boatman	6974701	
FIRE CHIEF DOG ISLAND	6974778	
Jim Sutton	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
John Granger	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
Dick Ganga	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
Shari Ganga	P.O. Box 5034 Dog Island 32322	
Catherine Ganga	P.O. Box 5008 Dog Island 32322	
Harold Bell	P.O. Box 5040 Dog Island 32322	
Frank Bell	P.O. Box 5040 Dog Island 32322	
Ed Robinson	Box 5047 Dog Island 32322	
Ed Weigel	118 Parshley Live Oak, FL 32060	
Judy Weigel	" " " " "	
Walter Weigel	2035 NW 36 Ave Gainesville FL 32605	
Jean Weigel	2035 NW 36 Ave Gainesville 32605	
Walter Weigel	Wakecrest Dr Danbury CT 06811	
Chris Howell	8 Oakwood Ave 407 Norman H, CT 06850	
Scott White	409 Talafu St, Tallahassee FL 32308	

TO: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
Peter Barth	215 [unclear]	12/30
Lisa Jankalstein	715 E. Georgia St., Tall, FL 32308	
H Paul Varner	11704 187 Can. Hill	
Dush K. Cronin	PO Box 5036 Carabelle, FL 32322	12/14/96
Ray Jones	PO Box 5036 Carabelle, FL 32322	12/14/96
Daniel J. [unclear]	PO Box 389 Harocet, FL 32316	12/14/96
[unclear]	" 5010 "	"
[unclear]	" 5010 "	"
Kevin D. Colman	PO Box 765 Bronson FL 32621	
John A. Backman	PO Box 5006 Dog Island Carabelle FL 32322	
Bill Backman	4213 Cornell Crossing Kennesaw, GA 30144	
F. Lee Mayo	866 ARLINGTON DR TUCKER GA 30084	
AC Mayo	866 ARLINGTON DR TUCKER GA 30084	
Scott [unclear]	175 Hwy 78 W. W. 40-205 Co. 30010	
E. [unclear]	175 Hwy 78 W. W. 40-205 Co. 30010	
Mike Fleming	Box 5024 Dog Island	
Dotie Rowe	Box 5024 Dog Island	
Errol Rowe	1238 Canellia Dr Tallahassee 32301	
Janet Spelman	Box 5010 Dog Island Fla 32322	
Nate [unclear]	10053 Collins Hls. Rd 6683994 32312	
Valerie [unclear]	" " " "	
Richard M. Powell	1506 Kessel Dr Tall 697-4757	
46 Marilyn Powell	1506 Kessel Dr Tall 697-4755	

TO: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DOG ISLAND RESIDENTS

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
<i>Olivia P. Perry</i>	<i>697-4703</i>	<i>7/9/97</i>
<i>Ineke Harrison</i>	<i>697-4714</i>	<i>7-9-97</i>
<i>Julie Harrison</i>	<i>697-4714</i>	<i>1-9-97</i>
<i>Marilyn Wilken</i>	<i>P.O. Box 695 Eadsport FL</i>	<i>1-10-97</i>
<i>Richard L. Voss</i>	<i>697-4764</i>	<i>1-11-97</i>
<i>Ushi Voss</i>	<i>697-4764</i>	<i>1-11-97</i>
<i>Ron Voss</i>	<i>697-4764</i>	<i>1-11-97</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Srinivasan</i>	<i>904 - 697-4764</i>	
<i>Bonny Balenester</i>	<i>904</i>	
<i>Ted Attdz</i>	<i>404 - 857-1829</i>	
<i>Tom Hancock</i>	<i>770 - 300-9424</i>	
<i>Quinn Perry</i>	<i>904 - 589-6650</i>	
<i>Raymond Williams Franklin County Commission</i>	<i>Box 698 Casselake FL</i>	

State of Florida

Susan F. Clark  
Chairman



Gerald L. Gunter Building  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
(904) 413-6040  
FAX (904) 487-1716

Public Service Commission

November 19, 1996

RECEIVED  
NOV 20 1996

Mr. Lawrence W. Huntsman  
Post Office Box 175  
Panacea, Florida 32346

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Dear Mr. Huntsman:

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 1996, regarding telephone service to Dog Island.

As you may be aware, St. Joe Telephone and Telegraph Company's provision of telephone service to Dog Island using cellular technology is an experimental tariff offering. At the Commission's October 29, 1996, Agenda Conference, the Commission considered its staff's recommendation to not make that offering permanent. The staff had also recommended that St. Joe be required to provide "landline" telephone service to the Island.

The Commission deferred a decision on staff's recommendation and directed staff and the company to work together to identify the best way of providing telephone service to the island. A specific timeframe has not yet been established for bringing this additional information before the Commission for consideration.

Because this matter is a pending docket, I am unable to comment on the merits of the proceeding. However, I will place your letter on the correspondence side of the docket file where it will be available for review.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

*Susan F. Clark*  
Susan F. Clark  
Chairman

c: Division of Records and Reporting (DN 950014-TL)



State of Florida

Susan F. Clark  
Chairman



Gerald L. Gunter Building  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
(904) 413-6040  
FAX (904) 487-1716

Public Service Commission

November 19, 1996

RECEIVED  
NOV 19 1996

Mr. R.L. Caleen, Jr.  
3048 Godfrey Place  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Dear Mr. Caleen:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 1996, regarding telephone service to Dog Island.

As you may be aware, St. Joe Telephone and Telegraph Company's provision of telephone service to Dog Island using cellular technology is an experimental tariff offering. At the Commission's October 29, 1996, Agenda Conference, the Commission considered its staff's recommendation to not make that offering permanent. The staff had also recommended that St. Joe be required to provide "landline" telephone service to the Island.

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Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan F. Clark".

Susan F. Clark  
Chairman

c: Division of Records and Reporting (DN 950814-TL)