

**SARASOTA EQUINE ASSOCIATES**

**ORIGINAL**

JOHNNIE F. COPELAND, Jr., D.V.M.

8325 WHISKEY POND LANE  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34240  
(941) 355-7759

WILLIAM J. MCGINTY, D.V.M.



February 11, 1998

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director  
Division of Records & Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 970990-TL

Proposed tariff filing by GTE Florida Inc. to transfer  
a portion of the Sarasota exchange into the Bradenton  
exchange

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed for filing the Direct Testimony of  
William J McGinty on behalf of Sarasota Equine Associates  
in the above matter.

Sincerely,

William J. McGinty, DVM

- ACK
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- APP
- GAF
- CMU
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- EAG
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SARASOTA EQUINE ASSOCIATES  
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. MCGINTY, DVM  
DOCKET NO. 970990-TL

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

A. My name is William James Bryan McGinty. My business address is 8325 Whiskey Pond Lane, Sarasota, Florida.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am self-employed as a veterinarian, and a partner of Sarasota Equine Associates (SEA). This is a large animal veterinary practice, a majority of which is mobile. Most of our work is done on the farms and at stables.

Q. WILL YOU BRIEFLY STATE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH SEA?

A. I have been a partner since SEA was formed about twelve years ago. I treat and take care of most kinds of large animals, a majority of which are horses. I travel quite a bit as most of our clients can not bring the animals to us.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS DOCKET?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to present SEA's position on the issues in this docket. I will

1 explain SEA's reasons for not wanting the transfer  
2 this part of the Sarasota Exchange to the Bradenton  
3 Exchange.  
4 This transfer will create unreasonable expense to  
5 SEA. In addition to the increased cost of telephone  
6 service to our already established clients in the  
7 Venice area, SEA will have a loss of revenue. Many calls  
8 we receive are from pay phones at stables or near  
9 pastures where horses are kept. These calls often  
10 are for emergency care of the animals. If this becomes  
11 a toll call, these people will call other veterinary  
12 practices thinking that because it is a long distance  
13 call, SEA must be further away, thus having a longer  
14 travel time. In actuality, we are no further away.  
15 SEA specifically remained in Sarasota county so that  
16 we could service both Bradenton and Venice areas.  
17 We need the emergency calls from the Venice area, and  
18 can ill afford to lose them simply from a misconception  
19 that we are too far away to be of help in an emergency  
20 situation. A large portion of our business is emergency  
21 in nature. Furthermore, these emergency calls then  
22 lead to future regular appointments, once we have  
23 shown that we can meet emergency needs.  
24 There are parts of our business that are seasonal. There  
25 is a major horse showground in Venice where people bring

1 their horses down to Florida to show them during the  
2 winter. We have been the normal veterinarians on call  
3 there for the past twelve years. This has occurred  
4 because of our accessibility. Every years there is  
5 a new group of owners who don't know the area  
6 and again, will assume the SEA is too far to be  
7 of service.

8 All suggestions GTEFL has offered will only add to  
9 the cost of telephone service to Venice or make it  
10 more difficult for people to reach SEA.

11 I realize that with the new boundaries that calls  
12 to the Palmetto area will not be a toll call, however  
13 this is like robbing Peter to pay Paul. We are not  
14 ~~we are not nearly as~~ ~~compromised~~ ~~by~~ ~~having~~ Palmetto  
15 a toll call as we would be if this transfer is approved.  
16 I do not believe that we, as a small business should  
17 penalized for what future development may take place.  
18 We have been in this location for over four years and  
19 in moving here we felt that since we remained in  
20 Sarasota County, we would not change our ~~status~~  
21 a Sarasota telephone number. At the time we moved to  
22 this location we even tried to keep our old telephone  
23 number. Even this change led to confusion of our  
24 clients as seldom are there current telephone directories  
25 kept in stables. The telephone is a very integral

1 part of our business and can ill afford any changes  
2 that may make it more difficult for our clients  
3 to contact us. Any nominal decrease in monthly  
4 telephone rates will not make up for a reduced  
5 number of calls from the Venice area.

6  
7 Q. SHOULD AFFECTED CUSTOMERS BE BALLOTTED IN ORDER TO  
8 DETERMINE IF THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF THE BOUNDARY CHANGE?

9  
10 A. No. There is a large number of transient customers  
11 in the proposed area. All residents in the area  
12 are located in the Sarasota Polo Club. This Club is  
13 actively in operation only a few months of the year.  
14 These people are not local nor are they aware of any  
15 boundaries. They are not making calls to the  
16 Venice area for business purposes. Local boundaries  
17 have no affect on them. SEA is afraid that the other  
18 customers will agree to a change of boundaries  
19 simply because of indifference, not knowing that  
20 it will adversely affect those neighbors that do  
21 call the Venice area. As I have stated this is  
22 not a normal neighborhood, otherwise SEA would  
23 agree to a balloting. If the commision decides that  
24 a ballot is absolutely necessary, SEA needs to  
25 be able to contact all of the involved customers

1 to be able to explain our reasons for not wanting  
2 the transfer and how it may affect them in the future.

3 Q WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE BEST CASE SCENARIO?

4 A The boundary should remain where it is, along the  
5 county line. This is where it makes most sense.

6 It will not lead to confusion in the future. Those who  
7 wish to have the amenities of Sarasota County will  
8 live in Sarasota County, those who like Manatee, will  
9 live in Manatee. It does not make sense, nor is it  
10 fair for a small business, already in location to  
11 have to change either for future growth nor because  
12 it may be more economically feasible for a large company  
13 to change the existing boundaries. Especially when  
14 there is no other choice but to use GTEFL

15

16 Q. DOES THIS END YOUR TESTIMONY?

17 A. Yes it does.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of William J McGinty's Direct Testimony on behalf of Sarasota Equine Associates in Docket No. 970090-TL wre sent via U.S. mail on Feruary 11,1998, to the parties listed below.

Kimberly Caswell  
PO Box 110, FLTC 0007  
Tampa, Florida 32399-0850

Mrs Blanca S Bayo  
Director Division of records and recording  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Mary Beth Keating  
same address as above



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William J McGinty DVM