

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for approval of tariff filing to bundle touch calling (touchtone) into the basic rate for local telecommunications service by Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc. (T-98-0980 filed 7/22/98)

DOCKET NO. 980974-TL  
ORDER NO. PSC-98-1249-FOF-TL  
ISSUED: September 21, 1998

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
JOE GARCIA  
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

On July 22, 1998, the Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc., (Northeast Florida) filed a proposed tariff to bundle touch calling (touchtone) into the basic rate for local telecommunications service effective September 1, 1998, pursuant to Section 364.02(2), Florida Statutes. The statutory definition of basic service is consistent with the company's request to bundle touch calling into the basic rate. Northeast Florida believes that there will be minimal financial impact.

Northeast Florida proposes to eliminate touch-calling as an optional feature and bundle it with its monthly basic rate. As a result, new customers will not have an option of selecting touch calling because it will already be included in the basic rate. Existing customers who do not subscribe to touch-calling will be grand fathered at the current rates. These subscribers will be grand fathered for a period of two (2) years. The rate schedule will expire when a customer's class of service changes, service is transferred to a different premises, or when service is disconnected, or until August 31, 2000, whichever event occurs first. The two (2) year allowance provides an opportunity to

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prepare for the elimination of touch-calling as a service offering for the small number of customers affected by this action.

Northeast Florida states that the vast majority of subscribers already subscribe to touch-calling. Northeast Florida's most recent data (June 1998) indicates that more than ninety-five percent (95%) of residential customers and ninety-seven percent (97%) of business customers subscribe to touch-calling.

We find that Northeast Florida's proposed tariff to bundle touch-calling into its basic rate will have minimal financial impact to Northeast Florida. Additionally, since the cost of providing touch-calling is virtually zero, we find no other financial implications, and we, therefore, approve it, effect September 1, 1998.

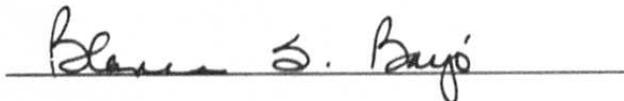
Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc.'s proposed tariff, as more fully described in the body of this order, is approved, effective September 1, 1998. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days from the date of this order, the tariff shall remain in effect with the revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 21st day of September, 1998.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

CBW

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.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on October 12, 1998.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water 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. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, 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.