

DATE: 11/05/98

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

- FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (MCCOY)
- RE: DOCKET NO. 981249-TI CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CERTIFICATE NO. 3977 ISSUED TO MULTIMEDIA TELEPHONE SERVICE, INC. FOR VIOLATION OF RULES 25-4.043, F.A.C., RESPONSE TO COMMISSION STAFF INQUIRIES, AND 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.
- AGENDA: 11/17/98 REGULAR AGENDA PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION -INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: I:\PSC\CMU\WP\981249TI.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- Multimedia Telephone Services, Inc. (Multimedia) was granted a Florida Public Service Commission Interexchange Telecommunications certificate number 3977 on May 10, 1995.
- The Division of Communications received a request from the Division of Consumer Affairs to research complaints registered against Multimedia for non-response to Commission inquiries.
- The Division of Communications was provided a memorandum dated April 7, 1998, from the Division of Records and Reporting stating that a certified letter had been mailed to Multimedia on December 22, 1997, to determine the status of Multimedia's operations. This letter was returned by the U.S. Postal Service stamped "Return To Sender", "Moved, Left No Forwarding Address" and "Forwarding Order Expired". (Attachment A)

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ET 10-RECORDS/REPORTING

DOCKET 981249-TI DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 1998

- Staff attempted unsuccessfully to reach Multimedia by calling the telephone number listed for Multimedia in the Master Commission Directory. This number has been disconnected. Staff attempted to fax a letter to Multimedia at the fax number listed for Multimedia in the Master Commission Directory. The fax number has also been disconnected.
- On May 22, 1998, staff contacted the Multimedia Liaison Tariff Consultant listed in the Master Commission Directory and was told by the consultant that Multimedia was no longer in business.
- Multimedia's Florida corporation status was 'Revoked For Annual Report' as of September 26, 1997.
- On September 17, 1998, staff was notified by the Division of Administration that Multimedia had not submitted its regulatory assessment fees for 1996 or 1997.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

<u>ISSUE 1:</u> Should the Commission impose a \$10,000 fine or cancel Multimedia's Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 3977 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries?

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Yes. The Commission should impose a \$10,000 fine for failure to respond to the Commission or cancel certificate number 3977 issued to Multimedia within 5 business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. 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 is not received, certificate number 3977 should be canceled. (McCoy)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission may impose a fine or cancel a certificate if a company fails to comply with Commission rules. Rule 25-4.043, Florida Administrative Code, Response to Commission Staff Inquiries, requires a reply to an inquiry by the Commission to be furnished in writing within (15) days of the Commission inquiry. Certified mail sent to Multimedia has been returned and Multimedia's telephone number has been disconnected. Staff is unaware of another existing telephone number or forwarding address for Multimedia. Accordingly, staff recommends the Commission assess a \$10,000 fine for failure to comply with Commission rules or cancel certificate number 3977 if the fine is not paid within the specified time.

<u>ISSUE 2</u>: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel Multimedia's Interexchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 3977 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees?

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel Multimedia's certificate number 3977 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest are not received by the Commission within 5 business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. 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 the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest are not received, certificate number 3977 should be canceled. (McCoy)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, 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 delinguent amounts.

On September 17, 1998, staff learned that Multimedia had not submitted the regulatory assessment fees for the years 1996 and 1997, along with the statutory penalties and interest charges. Multimedia has failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

Staff recommends the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with Commission rules or cancel certificate number 3977 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, along with the statutory penalties and interest, are not paid within the specified time. DOCKET NO. 981249 I DATE: November 5, 1998



ISSUE 3: Should this docket be closed?

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a protest within 21 days of the issuance date of the Order, the Order will become final. Upon payment of the fines and fees, or cancellation of Multimedia's certificate, this docket should be closed. (Cox)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If the Commission adopts staff's recommendation in Issue's 1 and 2, then Multimedia will have 21 days from the issuance date of the Order to file a timely protest to the Commission's Proposed Agency Action. If no protest is filed, the docket should be closed upon payment of the fines and receipt of the required information or upon cancellation of Multimedia's certificate.

MEMORANDUM ATTACHMENTA

DOCKET NO. 981249-TI DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 1998

April 7, 1998

TO: Rick Moses, Division of Communications

Nonnye Grant, Division of Records and Reporting FROM:

RE: Returned Mail

We have received returned mail from the United States Post Office on

the following Company:

MULTIMEDIA TELEPHONE SERVICE, INC. (TI342)

The Post Office returned the mail on the above Company stating the

following reason(s):

| Addressee Unknown | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Attempted - Not Known | | |
| Box Closed - No Order | | |
| XXX Forwarding Order Expired | | |
| Insufficient Address | | |
| XXX Moved, Left No Forwarding | Advers | |
| | Address | |
| No Forward Order on File | | |
| No Mail Receptacle/Vacant- | | |
| No Such Person or Number | | |
| No Such Office in State | | |
| No Such Street | | |
| Not at this Address | | |
| Refused | | |
| XXX Return to Sender | | |
| Return for Better Address | | |
| Unable to Forward | | |
| | | |
| Unable to Locate | | |
| Unclaimed | | |
| Undeliverable as Addressed | a | |
| Vacant | and the second second | man and a second |
| XXX Verification of Address for | urnished by Po | st Office |

Please furnish us with a current address, both for mail and location. Also, we need to have new phone and fax numbers since they have moved. Should you not be able to get a current address, can staff initiate proceedings to have the Company's certificate canceled?

Copy of returned envelope attached for your information.

/nbg Attachment(s)

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ATTACHMENT A

DOCKET NO. 981249-TI DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 1998 Florida Public Service Coumission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0870

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MultiMedia Telephone Service. Inc. 450 Mission Street. Suite 407 San Francisco CA 94105

MULT450 941053007 1597 15 03/16/98 NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS MULTIMEDIA TELEPHONE SERVICES - MTS 1255 POST ST / E M WALSH STE 946 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-6712

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DOCKET NO. 981249-TI DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 1998

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