## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service Commission of IXC Certificate No. 3123 issued to Evercom Systems, Inc. d/b/a Correctional Billing Services for violation of Rule 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies.

DOCKET NO. 001296-TI
ORDER NO. PSC-01-1011-AS-TI
ISSUED: April 24, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

E. LEON JACOBS, JR., Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ
MICHAEL A. PALECKI

## ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT

## BY THE COMMISSION:

Evercom Systems, Inc. d/b/a Correctional Billing Services (Evercom) obtained Certificate No. 3123 on September 15, 1998, to provide Interexchange Telecommunications service. Evercom had not paid the 1999 and 2000 Regulatory Assessment Fees (RAFs). Also, accrued statutory penalties and interest charges for late RAFs payments for the years 1999 and 2000 had not been paid. RAFs are required by Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, certificate holders must pay a minimum annual RAFs of \$50 if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161(2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. All entities that apply for

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certification receive a copy of our rules governing Interexchange Telecommunications service.

Pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the RAFs forms, for the period of January 1, through December 31, are mailed to entities at least 45 days prior to the date that payment of the fee is due. Evercom was scheduled to remit its RAFs by January 30, 2001.

After this docket was opened, on December 28, 2000, Amy Sudduth, representative of Evercom, called our staff and advised that the past due amount would be paid, and Evercom would propose a settlement offer. On January 10, 2001, we received the company's proposed settlement amount of \$100 and a proposal to pay future RAFs on a timely basis. However, on January 23, 2001, our staff advised Evercom that they could not recommend acceptance of Evercom's prosposed settlement without payment of the 1999 and 2000 RAFs, including statutory penalties and interest charges. On January 26, 2001, we received the 1999 RAFs, and on January 30, we received the 2000 RAFs, both of which included accrued statutory penalties and interest charges.

We believe that the terms of the settlement agreement represent a fair and reasonable resolution of this matter. Accordingly, we hereby accept the settlement offer. Evercom must comply with these requirements within ten business days from the date this Order becomes final. The contribution should be identified with the docket number and the company name. timely receipt, the contribution will be forwarded to the Office of the Comptroller for deposit in the State General Revenue Fund pursuant to Section 364.285(1), Florida Statutes. Evercom has waived any objection to the administrative cancellation of its certificate if it does not comply with its settlement agreement. Upon remittance of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate, this docket shall be closed. The Commission is vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.337, and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Evercom Systems, Inc. d/b/a Correctional Billing Services' settlement

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proposal set forth in the body of this Order is hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending receipt of the \$100 contribution. The contribution will be transmitted to the Comptroller for deposit in the State of Florida General Revenue Fund. It is further

ORDERED that if Evercom Systems, Inc. d/b/a Correctional Billing Services fails to comply with this Order, its certificate will be canceled administratively. It is further

ORDERED that upon receipt of the \$100 contribution or cancellation of the certificate this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this <u>24th</u> day of <u>April</u>, <u>2001</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director

Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

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## 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.

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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, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, 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 and/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. 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.