



**-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-**

**DATE:** AUGUST 23, 2001

**TO:** DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (BAYÓ)

**FROM:** DIVISION OF COMPETITIVE SERVICES (ISLER) *Pji RW*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (ELLIOTT) *JAE W*

**RE:** CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF PATS CERTIFICATE FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, F.A.C., REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES.

DOCKET NO. 010576-TC - USA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
DOCKET NO. 010635-TC - LINK TEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
DOCKET NO. 010636-TC - SELECT PAYPHONE PROVIDERS OF AMERICA, INC.  
DOCKET NO. 010639-TC - FOX TELECOMMUNICATION ENTERPRISES, INC.  
DOCKET NO. 010686-TC - EQUITY PAY TELEPHONE CO., INC.

**AGENDA:** 09/04/01 - REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

**CRITICAL DATES:** NONE

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** NONE

**FILE NAME AND LOCATION:** S:\PSC\CMP\WP\010576.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

Each of the certificated providers listed on Attachment A were mailed the 2000 Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF) notice. When full payment had not been received by the due date, the Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services mailed a delinquent letter to the companies. As of August 17, 2001, none of the companies have paid the past due amount.

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The Commission is vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.336, 364.285, and 364.3375, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's respective certificate listed on Attachment A for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's certificate as listed on Attachment A if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. 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 regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received, the certificate numbers listed on Attachment A should be canceled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts. (Isler)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Pursuant to Section 364.285, Florida Statutes, the Commission may impose a fine or cancel a certificate if a company refuses to comply with Commission rules. Rule 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the requirements for cancellation of a certificate. The rule provides for the Commission to cancel a certificate on its own motion for violation of Commission Rules and Orders.

Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, which implements Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, 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 delinquent amounts.

The Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services' records show that each of the companies listed on Attachment A had not paid its 2000 regulatory assessment fees, plus statutory penalty and interest charges. Therefore, it appears the companies have failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida

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Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies, and have not requested cancellation of their certificates in compliance with Rule 25-24.514, Florida Administrative Code. This fine is consistent with amounts imposed for recent, similar violations.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel each company's certificate as listed on Attachment A if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received by the Commission within five business days after the issuance of the Consummating Order. 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 regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalty and interest charges, are not received, the certificate numbers listed on Attachment A should be canceled administratively and the collection of the past due fees should be referred to the Office of the Comptroller for further collection efforts.

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ISSUE 2: Should these dockets be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Order issued from this recommendation will become final upon issuance of a Consummating Order, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the Proposed Agency Action Order. These dockets should then be closed upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final. (Elliott)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Whether staff's recommendation on Issue 1 is approved or denied, the result will be a Proposed Agency Action Order. If no timely protest to the Proposed Agency Action is filed within 21 days of the date of issuance of the Order, these dockets should be closed upon issuance of a Consummating Order and upon receipt of the fine and fees or cancellation of the certificate. A protest in one docket should not prevent the action in a separate docket from becoming final.

## ATTACHMENT A

DOCKET NOS. 010576-TC, 010635-TC, 010636-TC, 010639-TC, 010686-TC  
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<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>PROVIDER</u> <u>LAST REPORTED REVENUES &amp; PERIOD COVERED</u>	<u>CERT.</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>RAFs</u>	<u>P and I</u>
010576-TC	USA Communications, Inc. 1999 Revenues - \$6,600.00 For the Period Ended 12/31/99	7069	2000	1999 2000
010635-TC	Link Tel Communications, Inc. No Previous Return Filed	7435	2000	2000
010636-TC	Select Payphone Providers of America No Previous Return Filed	7450	2000	2000
010639-TC	Fox Telecommunication Enterprises, Inc. No Previous Return Filed	7463	2000	2000
010686-TC	Equity Pay Telephone Co., Inc. 1999 Revenues - \$0 For the Period Ended 12/31/99	5073	2000	2000