## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: PROPOSED TARIFF FILING BY

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH

COMPANY TO MODIFY THE BILLING AND

COLLECTION SERVICE OF THE FLORIDA ACCESS

SERVICE TARIFF TO ALLOW CLEARINGHOUSE

AGENTS TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE SERVICE.

(T-89-489 FILED 9/15/89)

ISSUED: 11-29-89

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MICHAEL McK. WILSON, Chairman THOMAS M. BEARD BETTY EASLEY GERALD L. GUNTER JOHN T. HERNDON

## FINAL ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF FILING

## BY THE COMMISSION:

On September 15, 1989, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell) proposed revisions to its Access Service tariff to allow clearinghouse agents representing interexchange carriers (IXCs) to subscribe to its billing and collection service. The Company states that the purpose of this filing is to provide billing and collection service to authorized clearinghouse agents who act on behalf of certificated IXCs. Under the proposed tariff, clearinghouses, acting as agents for IXCs, will comply with the same requirements, except certification, that apply to IXCs under the Florida Access Service Tariff.

This tariff involves Alternative Operator Services (AOS), since billing by clearinghouses in their own name, as opposed to the name of the IXC, would require that clearinghouses be considered IXC/AOS providers, according to our Order No. 20489, issued December 21, 1988, in the AOS docket.

In general, a clearinghouse acts as a middle man between the two parties on behalf of a third party. In this instance,

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the clearinghouse is the middle man between Southern Bell and the IXC. Southern Bell is proposing to offer billing and collection services to clearinghouses who are authorized to act as agents for certificated IXCs. The clearinghouses would be required to comply with the same conditions that apply to IXCs. These conditions are as follows:

- (1) The clearinghouse agent must provide Southern Bell the name, address, telephone number and contact person for each IXC for whom the clearinghouse bills.
- (2) All IXCs represented by the clearinghouse and billed by this tariff must be certificated. Prior to the provision of intrastate billing and collection service, the clearinghouse must provide Southern Bell a copy of the intrastate certification and their agency agreement for each IXC they are providing service.
- (3) Each message sent to Southern Bell must be identified by the appropriate carrier identification code (CIC). In addition, the clearinghouse agent must supply its own identifying CIC to Southern Bell for identification purposes.
- (4) If the clearinghouse agent discontinues service to an IXC, the agent must inform Southern Bell immediately.
- (5) All <u>individual</u> IXCs' names must be printed on the customers' bills.
- (6) Customers subscribing to billing and collection service without inquiry service are required to print their telephone number on the bill.

We believe that this tariff should, perhaps, apply to pay telephone providers (PATS) who may desire to receive billing and collection service. We have learned that the PATS billing and collection tariffs, due to be in place no later than January 1, 1990, will address only intraLATA calls and will not fully address the needs of the PATS provider to have his calls billed by a local exchange

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company. This is especially important should we vote to discontinue AOS service. For these reasons, we have requested that the Company modify its tariff to address our concerns. As of yet, the Company has not complied and it has raised some additional concerns that we must consider. We have also had discussions with a representative of the Florida Pay Telephone Association about the needs of the PATS providers for this service and are not yet satisfied as to how much of a need exists. For these reasons, we find it appropriate to suspend this tariff.

Based on the foregoing, it is, therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's proposed revisions to its access service tariff, to allow clearinghouse agents respresenting interexchange carriers to subscribe to billing and collection service, is hereby suspended.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 29th day of NOVEMBER , 1989 .

STEVE TRIBBLE, pirector

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 120.59(4), 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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, request: 1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.038(2), Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; 2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or 3) 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 or sewer utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.