

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff to increase) DOCKET NO. 900540-TL
 the charge for returned checks by)
 ST. JOSEPH TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH)
 COMPANY.)

In re: Proposed tariff to increase) DOCKET NO. 900610-TL
 the charge for returned checks by) ORDER NO. 23355
 QUINCY TELEPHONE COMPANY.) ISSUED: 8/15/90

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MICHAEL MCK. WILSON, Chairman
 THOMAS M. BEARD
 BETTY EASLEY
 GERALD L. GUNTER
 FRANK S. MESSERSMITH

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING

BY THE COMMISSION:

St. Joseph Telephone Company (St. Joe) and Quincy Telephone Company (Quincy) currently charge \$10 or 5% of the face value, whichever is greater, for returned checks. These proposed tariffs were filed to increase the charge to \$15 or 5%, whichever is greater.

The increased charge proposed in these tariff filings merely track the revisions to Sections 68.065 and 832.07, Florida Statutes, that became effective July 1, 1989. By filing these tariffs to increase the penalty for bad checks, St. Joe and Quincy intend to discourage ratepayers from submitting bad checks. To the extent that some dishonored checks are never made good, they represent a potential or actual uncollectable expense to the Companies, which is eventually passed onto the general body of ratepayers. Increasing the penalty for tender of bad checks is one means to deter such checks. The companies maintain that such deterrent is in the best interest of the general body of ratepayers. We concur with this argument.

The companies have calculated that the change in their rate of return (ROE) would be negligible. Based on the number

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of returned checks in 1989, the proposed increase would amount to a 0.02% increase in St. Joe's return on earnings and 0.06% on Quincy's.

The expected impact on Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Inc. in Docket No. 900243-TL was an increase in earnings of two basis points (0.02%). Similar impacts would be expected for other local exchange companies. The revenue impact of a 50% increase in the returned check charge is likely to be negligible for all LECs.

Because such tariffs have little effect upon the ROE and will be transparent to the overwhelming majority of ratepayers, we find it appropriate to authorize our Staff to administratively approve similar tariff filings from other LECs.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the proposed tariff of St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Company to increase the charge for returned checks from \$10 to \$15 is approved. It is further

ORDERED that the proposed tariff of Quincy Telephone Company to increase the charge for returned checks from \$10 to \$15 or 5% of the value of the check, whichever is greater is approved. It is further

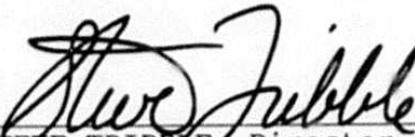
ORDERED that the additional revenue generated by the increased service charges need not be specifically allocated or offset. It is further

ORDERED that our Staff is hereby authorized to administratively approve any similar filings by the other local exchange companies. It is further

ORDERED that these dockets be closed.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission,
this 15th day of AUGUST, 1990.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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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 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 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 or sewer 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 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.