

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Requests for approval of )  
tariff filing to offer a )  
Lifeline Assistance Program, )  
required by Chapter 364.10, )  
F.S., by: )  
)  
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ) DOCKET NO. 951011-TL  
SOUTH, INC. (T-95-529 FILED )  
8/21/95) )  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA TELEPHONE ) DOCKET NO. 951012-TL  
COMPANY, INC. (T-95-503 FILED )  
8/10/95) )  
INDIANTOWN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, ) DOCKET NO. 951013-TL  
INC. (T-95-528 FILED 8/21/95) )  
) ORDER NO. PSC-95-1245-FOF-TL  
ISSUED: October 10, 1995

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
JOE GARCIA  
JULIA L. JOHNSON  
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFFS

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Lifeline Assistance Plan (Lifeline) began as a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiative in 1984. The purpose of the plan is to make telephone service more accessible to customers who might otherwise not be able to afford service. Qualified residential subscribers receive a credit on their monthly phone bill consisting of a credit equal to the federal interstate subscriber line charge (SLC) and a matching company provided credit. The SLC is a separate charge from the basic service rate; its waiver has no effect on the basic rate.

Northeast Telephone Company, Inc. (Northeast), Frontier Communications of the South, Inc. (Frontier), and Indiantown Telephone Systems (Indiantown) filed tariffs to offer a Lifeline Assistance Plan as required by the telecommunications law (SB 1554) which became effective on July 1, 1995. Section 364.10 (2),

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Florida Statutes, the prohibitions of subsection (1) notwithstanding, requires that a telecommunications company serving as carrier of last resort shall provide a Lifeline Assistance Plan to qualified residential subscribers, as defined in a commission-approved tariff. Currently, each local exchange company is considered the carrier of last resort in its service area.

Under each tariff, to be eligible for Lifeline, the residential subscriber must be a recipient of public assistance participating in at least one of the following programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps, or Medicaid. All applications for Lifeline are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administering the qualifying program. Each company will process all applications and apply the appropriate credit on the subscriber's monthly bill. In addition, each company will reconcile and confirm eligibility periodically, at minimum semi-annually, by providing the agency with a computer tape of all credit recipients. A verification of eligible recipients will be made. The credit will be discontinued on the bill following written notification to the subscriber of ineligibility. A secondary service order charge will not apply for existing customers that convert to Lifeline. In addition, Northeast's proposed tariff does not allow those customers subscribing to Lifeline service to also subscribe to vacation service. There are no other exclusions.

The proposed tariffs filed by Northeast, Frontier, and Indiantown are substantively similar to those that we approved for other local exchange companies. Upon review, we approve these tariffs with an effective date of September 12, 1995.

Based on the foregoing, it is

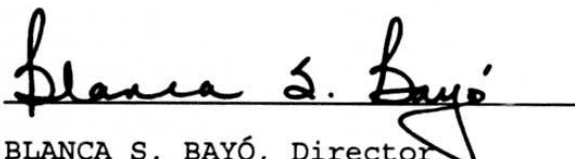
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the proposed tariffs to offer a Lifeline Assistance Plan by Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc., Frontier Communications of the South, Inc., and Indiantown Telephone System, Inc. are hereby approved with an effective date of September 12, 1995. It is further

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ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, these tariffs shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. A protest in one docket shall not keep the other dockets from becoming final. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, these dockets shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 10th day of October, 1995.

  
BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

DLC

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.

The Commission's decision on these tariffs is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida

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Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on October 31, 1995.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in these dockets before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water 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. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, 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.