BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Resolution by the Palm) Beach County Board of County) Commissioners for extended area) service (EAS) between all) exchanges in Palm Beach County.	DOCKET NO.	921193-TL
In Re: Petition by the) residents of Polo Park) requesting extended area service) (EAS) between the Haines City) exchange and the Orlando, West) Kissimmee, Lake Buena Vista,) Windermere, Reedy Creek, Winter) Park, Clermont, Winter Garden) and St. Cloud exchanges.	DOCKET NO.	930173-TL
In Re: Resolution by the Lake) County Board of Commissioners) for extended area service (EAS)) between the Mt. Dora exchange) and the Sanford, Geneva, and) Oviedo exchanges.	DOCKET NO.	930234-TL
In Re: Resolution by the TAYLOR) COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS) for countywide extended area) service (EAS) within Taylor) County.	DOCKET NO.	930235-TL
In Re: Resolution by City of) Fort Meade requesting extended) area service (EAS) from Fort) Meade to the Lakeland, Winter) Haven, Wauchula, Zolfo Springs,) and Mulberry exchanges.	DOCKET NO.	930978-TL
In Re: Resolution by Putnam) County Board of Commissioners) for extended area service (EAS)) between all exchanges in Putnam) County, and petition by) residents of the Florahome 659) exchange for EAS to the Keystone) Heights exchange in Putnam) County.	DOCKET NO.	940026-TL

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In Re: Resolution by Lake Wales) DOCKET NO. 940406-TL City Commission requesting) ORDER NO. PSC-95-1262-FOF-TL extended area service throughout) ISSUED: October 16, 1995 Polk County.

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

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER REGARDING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

I. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

We postponed making decisions in these dockets until after the conclusion of the extended area service (EAS) rulemaking docket, Docket No. 930220-TL. This delay was to enable our staff to investigate the problems regarding EAS and to revise the rules. InterLATA (local access and transport area) traffic information was one area to review. We granted relief to BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell) and GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL) from conducting interLATA traffic studies, because they no longer perform the billing and collection functions on these routes for AT&T and do not have access to the necessary data. We intended to use rulemaking to determine whether the local exchange company (LEC) or interexchange carrier (IXC) was to provide the interLATA traffic information.

In the EAS rulemaking docket, several workgroups were held to discuss whether the LECs or the IXCs should provide the interLATA traffic data. The primary concern from both groups was that they

did not capture interLATA traffic data in a manner that would comply with the EAS rules regarding traffic studies. The LECs and the IXCs stated that major modifications to their billing systems would be necessary that require many man hours and extensive expense. Our staff had proposed in the new rules to require the LECs to provide the data.

Because of the recently enacted revisions to Chapter 364¹, Florida Statutes, the proposed EAS rules will not be considered. The EAS rulemaking docket was closed at the August 15, 1995, agenda conference. We will address the pending EAS dockets grouped together based on the subject areas, such as intraLATA alternative plan, interLATA alternative plan, pocket situations, interLATA traffic studies, supplemental community of interest criteria. This order addresses the pending EAS dockets for which interLATA traffic information is not available.

By Order No. PSC-93-1168-FOF-TL, in Dockets Nos. 921193-TL, 930173-TL, 930234-TL, and 930235-TL, issued August 10, 1993, we granted Southern Bell's Motion for Stay of Order No. PSC-93-0437-PCO-TL. The order specified that Southern Bell shall not be required to file traffic data on the interLATA routes in these dockets. We granted Southern Bell the same relief for modification of Orders Nos. PSC-94-0169-PCO-TL and PSC-94-0136-PCO-TL in Dockets Nos. 940026-TL and 940027-TL, respectively. <u>See</u> Order No. PSC-94-0763-FOF-TL, issued June 21, 1994.

Likewise, by Order No. PSC-94-0304-FOF-TL, issued March 16, 1994, in Docket No. 930173-TL, we granted GTEFL's Motion for Modification of Order No. PSC-94-0091-PCO-TL. The order further specified that GTEFL shall not be required to file traffic data on the interLATA routes in that docket. We granted GTEFL's motions for modifications of orders requiring traffic studies for Docket No. 930978-TL, by Order No. PSC-94-0167-FOF-TL, issued February 10, 1994; and for Docket No. 940406-TL, by Order No. PSC-94-1019-FOF-TL, issued August 23, 1994.

II. Docket No. 921193-TL

The issue before us in this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the Southern Bell interLATA routes listed below in Table A:

¹See Chapter 95-403, Laws of Florida, 1995.

TABLE A

REQUESTED INTERLATA ROUTES FOR EAS		
FROM:	TO:	
Clewiston	Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glade, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton	
Clewiston (Palm Beach County Pocket)	Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glade, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton	

Southern Bell and United provided traffic information on 48 of the 60 routes requested in the Palm Beach County EAS docket. We granted Southern Bell's motion for relief from filing the traffic studies on the 12 interLATA routes. Southern Bell stated that it no longer performs the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, it no longer has the data nor does it have access to the data.

By Order No. PSC-93-1828-FOF-TL, issued December 27, 1993, we ordered Southern Bell to survey the Belle Glade, Pahokee, Delray Beach and Boca Raton routes for EAS to West Palm Beach. In addition, the Boynton Beach exchange, which has the \$.25 plan to Boca Raton, was to be balloted for EAS to the Boca Raton exchange. We also specified that the Clewiston/Belle Glade route should be evaluated when an acceptable interLATA alternative toll plan was approved. None of the five routes passed the ballot.

At the August 15, 1995 agenda conference, we ordered extended calling service (ECS) on the following five routes within Palm Beach County: Boca Raton/West Palm Beach, Delray Beach/West Palm Beach, Belle Glade/West Palm Beach, Pahokee/West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach/Boca Raton. ECS rates residential calls at \$.25 per call regardless of duration, and rates business calls at \$.10 for the first minute and \$.06 for each additional minute. With the exception of the Boynton Beach/Boca Raton route, these routes failed the ballot for nonoptional, flat rate, two-way EAS. The Boynton Beach/Boca Raton route already has the \$.25 plan, for which both residential and business calls are rated at \$.25 per call, so it will be converted from the \$.25 plan to ECS.

Traffic data was available on the majority of routes in the Palm Beach County EAS request, and traffic information was available on the routes from the Clewiston pocket into Palm Beach County. The interLATA data from Palm Beach into the Clewiston pocket was not available. The primary calling interest is from the Clewiston pocket into Palm Beach County. This traffic data was

provided by United. The reverse traffic data, from Palm Beach County into Clewiston, has not been provided. In past dockets, traffic studies have shown very low calling rates in the reverse direction, indicating that the community of interest is from the smaller exchange into the larger exchanges.

We do not believe the additional interLATA traffic information will change the result in this docket. Thus, we find that no further traffic data shall be required in this docket. Since traffic data was available in the pertinent direction and historic cases indicate very little community of interest in the reverse direction, we do not believe that a sufficient community of interest exists to warrant EAS or an alternative toll plan. We note that the decision in the Clewiston/Belle Glade route is pending a for an interLATA alternative toll plan.

III. Docket No. 930173-TL

The issue before us in this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the GTEFL and Southern Bell interLATA routes listed below in Table B:

REQUESTED INTERLATA ROUTES FOR EAS		
FROM:	TO:	
Haines City (Except Poinciana 427 pocket)	Kissimmee, West Kissimmee	
Haines City	Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, Windermere, Reedy Creek, Winter Park, Clermont, Winter Garden, St. Cloud	
Haines City (including 427 Poinciana pocket)	Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, Windermere, Reedy Creek, Winter Park, Clermont, Winter Garden, St. Cloud	

TABLE B

The traffic information on the requesting exchanges is unavailable. United and Vista-United provided traffic studies on their interLATA routes. We granted GTEFL and Southern Bell's motion for relief from providing their interLATA traffic data. GTEFL and Southern Bell stated that they no longer perform the

recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, they no longer have the data nor do they have access to the data.

Because traffic data could not be provided by GTEFL in the format required by the EAS rules from the requesting exchanges or from Southern Bell in the reverse direction, we do not have sufficient information to determine whether routes in Table B qualify to be balloted for EAS. In order to be considered for balloting for EAS, Rule 25-4.060(3), Florida Administrative Code, requires a calling rate of at least three (3) Messages per Access Line per Month (M/A/Ms) in cases where the petitioning exchange contains less than half the number of access lines as the exchange to which extended area service is desired. This rule further requires that at least 50% of the subscribers in the petitioning exchange make two or more calls per month to the larger exchange to qualify for traditional EAS.

As stated previously, we recognize the complications and expense associated with providing the required interLATA traffic information in rule format, if it can be provided at all by the LEC or IXCs. However, the rules require traffic data or other community of interest data to make a determination on whether the routes should be balloted for nonoptional, two-way, flat rate EAS.

This pocket area is located in the northeast portion of Polk County and borders on Polk, Orange, Lake and Osceola counties and three LATAs: Tampa Market Area, Orlando, Gainesville. Based on our analysis, the subscribers' desire to call these interLATA points does not involve calling to local government offices, schools, or emergency services but rather calling into the Orlando, Kissimmee and Clermont areas.

Since it appears it is not feasible to request interLATA traffic data consistent with the existing rules on these pocket routes, we believe that it is appropriate to evaluate this docket along with the other pending dockets that have concerns regarding pocket areas so that we can apply the same criteria to all the pending dockets in this area.

Therefore, because interLATA traffic data could not be provided by GTEFL and Southern Bell as required by the EAS rules, we do not have sufficient information to make a recommendation regarding whether any routes in Table B qualify to be balloted for EAS. Since this EAS request involves a pocket, we shall consider this docket when we evaluate dockets regarding pocket areas.

IV. Docket No. 930234-TL

The issue in this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the Southern Bell interLATA traffic routes from Mount Dora to the Geneva, Oviedo, and Sanford routes.

United provided traffic information from the Mount Dora exchange, which was the requesting exchange, to the Geneva, Oviedo and Sanford exchanges. By Order No. PSC 94-1379-FOF-TL, issued November 14, 1994, we denied EAS on all routes for which traffic data was available.

We granted Southern Bell's motion for relief from filing the traffic studies on the remaining interLATA routes. Southern Bell stated that it no longer performs the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, it no longer has the data nor does it have access to the data.

Traffic data was available from the requesting exchange. The interLATA data that was not available in the format required by the EAS rules was in the reverse direction. In past dockets, traffic studies have shown very low calling rates in the reverse direction, indicating that the community of interest is from the smaller exchange into the larger exchanges.

We do not believe the additional interLATA traffic information would change the outcome of this docket, since traffic data was available from the requesting exchange. Therefore, we find that no further traffic data shall be required in this docket. Since traffic data was available in the pertinent direction and historic cases indicate very little community of interest in the reverse direction, we find that a sufficient community of interest does not exist to warrant EAS or an alternative toll plan.

V. Docket No. 930235-TL

The issue before us in this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the following Southern Bell interLATA routes: Cross City to Keaton Beach and Perry; and Cross City (Taylor County pocket) to Keaton Beach and Perry.

This Taylor County pocket area, known as Steinhatchee, is served from the Cross City exchange which is primarily located in Dixie County. Taylor County residents served from the Cross City exchange cannot call their county government offices, schools or emergency services, which are located in Perry; which is the county seat, without incurring a toll charge.

The traffic information is unavailable in the format required by the EAS rules on the requesting exchanges. Gulf Telephone Company provided traffic studies on their interLATA routes; however, Southern Bell was unable to provide the traffic studies in rule format from the requesting exchange. We granted Southern Bell's motion for relief from providing interLATA traffic data. Southern Bell stated that they no longer perform the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, it no longer has the data nor does it have access to the data.

Because traffic data could not be provided by Southern Bell from the requesting pocket exchange, we do not believe we have sufficient information to determine whether any of the routes identified above qualify to be balloted for EAS. To be considered for balloting for EAS, Rule 25-4.060(3), Florida Administrative Code, requires a calling rate of at least three (3) Messages per Access Line per Month (M/A/Ms) in cases where the petitioning exchange contains less than half the number of access lines as the exchange to which extended area service is desired. This rule further requires that at least 50% of the subscribers in the petitioning exchange make two or more calls per month to the larger exchange to qualify for traditional EAS.

As stated previously, we recognize the complications and expense associated with providing the required interLATA traffic information consistent with the EAS rules, if it can be provided at all by the LEC or IXCs. However, the rules require traffic data or other community of interest data to make a determination on whether routes should be balloted for nonoptional, two-way, flat rate EAS.

Our staff has received numerous calls and letters from the Taylor County Commission, Taylor County, Steinhatchee Community Projects Board and the residents of Steinhatchee requesting our assistance to resolve this problem. Taylor County also took an active role in the EAS rulemaking docket by participating in the workgroup assigned to resolve the pocket and interLATA traffic problems.

Because traffic data could not be provided by Southern Bell in the format required by the EAS rules, we find that we do not have sufficient information to determine whether the routes stated above for this docket qualify to be balloted for EAS. Since it appears it is not feasible to request interLATA traffic data consistent with the staff's proposed EAS rules on this pocket route, we find that it is appropriate to evaluate this docket along with the other pending dockets that have pocket area concerns.

This will enable us to apply the same criteria and considerations to all the pending pocket area dockets.

VI. Docket No. 930978-TL

The issue regarding this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the following GTEFL interLATA routes: Lakeland, Winter Haven, and Mulberry to Fort Meade.

United provided traffic information from the Fort Meade exchange, which was the requesting exchange, to the Lakeland, Winter Haven and Mulberry exchanges. By Order No. PSC 94-1379-FOF-TL, issued November 14, 1994, we ordered the Fort Meade exchange to be balloted for EAS to the Lakeland exchange. We further specified that none of the remaining routes warranted any form of toll relief. The survey passed and EAS was implemented on the Fort Meade/Lakeland route on May 13, 1995.

We granted GTEFL's motion for relief from filing the traffic studies on the remaining interLATA routes. GTEFL stated that it no longer performs the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, it no longer has the data, nor does it have access to the data.

Traffic data was available in this docket from the requesting exchange. The interLATA data was not available in the format required by the EAS rules in the reverse direction. In past dockets, traffic studies have shown very low calling rates in the reverse direction, indicating that the community of interest is from the smaller exchange into the larger exchanges.

We do not believe the additional interLATA traffic information would change our decision since traffic data was available from the requesting exchange. Therefore, we find that no further traffic data shall be required in this docket. Since traffic data was available in the pertinent direction and historic cases indicate very little community of interest in the reverse direction, we find that a sufficient community of interest does not exist to warrant EAS or an alternative toll plan.

VII. Docket No. 940026-TL

The issue in this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the Southern Bell interLATA routes listed below in Table C:

REQUESTED INTERLATA ROUTES FOR EAS		
FROM:	то:	
Hawthorne (and pocket)	Crescent City, Florahome, Pomona Park, Welaka, Hastings (and pocket)	
Pomona Park	Melrose (and pocket), Orange Springs (and pocket)	
Keystone Heights	Crescent City, Pomona Park, Welaka, Hastings (and pocket),	
Welaka	Melrose (and pocket), Orange Springs	

TABLE C

ALLTEL and Southern Bell provided traffic information on 66 of the 84 routes. At the August 29, 1995 agenda conference, we denied EAS on all of the routes for which traffic data was available and further decided that none of these routes warranted an alternative toll plan.

We granted Southern Bell's motion for relief from filing the traffic studies on the remaining interLATA routes. Southern Bell stated that it no longer performs the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore, it no longer has the data nor does it have access to the data.

Traffic data was available in this docket on a majority of the routes. Since most of the exchanges, except for the Keystone Heights, Melrose and Orange Springs pocket areas, have EAS or the \$.25 plan to Palatka, their county seat, we do not believe any further traffic data is warranted. The \$.25 plan was ordered on these three interLATA routes in an earlier Putnam County EAS docket, in Docket No. 910528-TL but was subsequently denied by Judge Greene. The Keystone Heights/Palatka, Melrose/Palatka, and Orange Springs/Palatka interLATA routes that were denied by Judge Greene will be considered with other pending dockets regarding "interLATA toll alternatives." Based on the traffic data that was available, none of the routes warranted EAS or the \$.25 plan. We do not believe any additional traffic data will change our decision

in this docket. Therefore, no further traffic data be required in this docket.

VIII. Docket No. 940406-TL

The issue regarding this docket is whether traffic studies should be required on the following GTEFL interLATA routes: Lake Wales to Avon Park, Bowling Green and Fort Meade.

GTEFL and United provided traffic information on the Polk County routes involving the Lake Wales exchange. By Order No. PSC-94-1470-TL, issued November 30, 1994, we denied EAS on all the routes for which traffic data was available.

We granted GTEFL's motion for relief from filing the traffic studies on the remaining interLATA routes. GTEFL stated that it no longer performs the recording and rating of interLATA traffic for AT&T; therefore it no longer has the data nor does it have access to the data.

Traffic data was available in this docket on many of the requested routes. All of the requested routes involve Lake Wales, which has toll-free calling to Bartow, its county seat. Based on the traffic data provided on Lake Wales, none of the routes warranted any form of toll relief. Therefore, we do not believe the additional interLATA traffic information would change our finding in this docket since traffic data was available from the requesting exchange. Accordingly, we find that no further traffic data shall be required in this docket.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that no further traffic studies shall be required on the Southern Bell interLATA routes for Docket No. 921193-TL identified in Table A of this Order. We find there is not a sufficient community of interest to warrant extended area service or an alternative toll plan for these routes. It is further

ORDERED that Docket No. 921193-TL shall remain open pending a decision regarding an interLATA alternative toll plan for the Clewiston/Belle Glade route. It is further

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the GTEFL and Southern Bell interLATA routes for Docket No. 930173-TL identified in Table B of this Order. We shall consider this request for extended area service when we evaluate dockets regarding pocket areas. It is further

ORDERED that Docket No. 930173-TL shall remain open. It is further

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the Southern Bell interLATA routes for Docket No. 930234-TL from Mount Dora to the Geneva, Oviedo, and Sanford routes. We find that there is not a sufficient community of interest to warrant extended area service or an alternative toll plan on these routes. It is further

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the following Southern Bell interLATA routes for Docket No. 930235-TL: Cross City to Keaton Beach and Perry; and Cross City (Taylor County pocket) to Keaton Beach and Perry. We shall consider this request for extended area service when we evaluate dockets regarding pocket areas. It is further

ORDERED that Docket No. 930235-TL shall remain open.

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the following GTEFL interLATA routes in Docket No. 930978-TL: Lakeland, Winter Haven and Mulberry to Fort Meade. We find that there is not a sufficient community of interest to warrant extended area service or an alternative toll plan on these routes. It is further

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the Southern Bell interLATA routes for Docket No. 940026-TL identified in Table C of this Order. We find there is not a sufficient community of interest to warrant extended area service or an alternative toll plan for these routes. It is further

ORDERED that no further traffic studies shall be required on the following GTEFL interLATA routes in Docket No. 940406-TL: Lake Wales to Avon Park, Bowling Green and Fort Meade. We find that there is not a sufficient community of interest to warrant extended area service or an alternative toll plan on these routes. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that Dockets Nos. 930234-TL, 930978-TL, 940026-TL, and 940406-TL shall be closed if no protests are filed within 21 days of the issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that a protest regarding one route shall not keep the action regarding the other routes from becoming final.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this <u>16th</u> day of <u>October</u>, <u>1995</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

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 action proposed herein is preliminary in nature and will not become effective or final, except as provided by Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.029(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a) and (f), 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 November 6, 1995.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become effective on the day subsequent to the above date as provided by Rule 25-22.029(6), Florida Administrative Code.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket 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 and effective on the date described above, any party substantially 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 effective date 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.