

Talbott : *wr*  
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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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MEMORANDUM

SEP 24 1997

September 25, 1997

FPSC - Records/Reporting

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)

FROM: DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (BIEGALSKI) *KB* *MD*  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION (LAKE) *AK*  
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (BOWMAN) *MB*

RE: DOCKET NO. 971132-TX - CANCELLATION BY FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF ALTERNATIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CERTIFICATE NO. 4447 ISSUED TO NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF FLORIDA, INC. D/B/A NATIONALTEL FOR VIOLATION OF RULE 25-4.0161, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, REGULATORY ASSESSMENT FEES.

AGENDA: 10/07/97 REGULAR AGENDA - PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: S:PSC/CMU/WP/971132TX.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

- National Telecommunications of Florida, Inc. d/b/a NationalTel (NationalTel) obtained Florida Public Service Commission Alternative Local Exchange Telecommunications certificate number 4447 on June 14, 1996.
- On June 3, 1997, the Division of Administration mailed a certified letter to the address listed in the Master Commission Directory informing NationalTel that it was delinquent on its regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996. The letter was signed for and received, but to date, no response has been received (Attachment A, Page 4).
- As of September 16, 1997, the delinquent regulatory assessment fees for 1996, along with statutory penalties and interest charges, have not been submitted by NationalTel.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DOCKET NO. 971132-TX  
DATE: September 25, 1997

### DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission impose a \$500 fine or cancel NationalTel's Alternative Local Exchange Telecommunications Certificate No. 4447 for apparent violation of Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, Regulatory Assessment Fees?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should impose a \$500 fine or cancel the company's certificate if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received by the Commission within 5 business days after the conclusion of the 21 day protest period. 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 the regulatory assessment fees, including statutory penalties and interest, are not received, certificate number 4447 should be canceled. (Biegalski)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, 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.

On September 16, 1997, staff learned that NationalTel had not submitted the regulatory assessment fees for the year 1996, along with statutory penalties and interest charges. Therefore, the company has failed to comply with Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$500 fine for failure to comply with Commission rules or cancel certificate number 4447 if the fine and the regulatory assessment fees, along with statutory penalties and interest, are not paid within the specified time.

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ISSUE 2: Should the Commission order all certificated local exchange companies (LECs) to discontinue providing service to NationalTel if certificate number 4447 is canceled?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should order all certificated local exchange companies to discontinue providing service to NationalTel if NationalTel's certificate is canceled at the conclusion of the protest period for failure to submit the delinquent regulatory assessment fees, and pay the fines as required in Issue 1. The Order should state that any LEC providing service to NationalTel must contact the Commission at the conclusion of the protest period as set forth in the Order to determine whether the certificate has been canceled. (Biegalski)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If NationalTel's certificate is canceled, any service offered by NationalTel would be in violation of Rule 25-24.805, Florida Administrative Code. Since the Commission cannot readily identify which LEC provides service to NationalTel, the Commission should order all certificated LECs to discontinue service to NationalTel if NationalTel fails to comply with the terms of the Commission's order resulting from these recommendations. The Order should state that any LEC providing service to NationalTel must contact the Commission at the conclusion of the protest period as set forth in the Order to determine whether the certificate has been canceled.

ISSUE 3: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a protest within 21 days of the issuance date of the Order, the Order will become final. Upon payment of the fines and fees, or cancellation of the certificate, this docket should be closed. (Bowman)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If the Commission adopts staff's recommendation in Issue 1, then NationalTel will have 21 days from the issuance date of the Order to file a timely protest to the Commission's Proposed Agency Action. If no protest is filed, the docket should be closed upon payment of the fines and fees, or upon cancellation of the certificate.

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3. Article Addressed to: <b>TX 028</b>	4a. Article Number	
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PS Form 3811, December 1994

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