

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOTE SHEET

MARCH 16, 1999

RE: DOCKET NO. 971627-TL - Petition by residents of Ft. White requesting extended area service between Ft. White exchange in Columbia County and Gainesville exchange in Alachua County.

Issue 1: Is there a sufficient community of interest on the Ft. White/Gainesville route to justify non-optional extended area service (EAS) as currently defined in Commission Rules or implementing an alternative toll plan?

Recommendation: Yes. Based on the testimony in the record, staff believes there is a sufficient community of interest to warrant surveying the Ft. White subscribers for non-optional, two-way EAS to the Gainesville exchange.

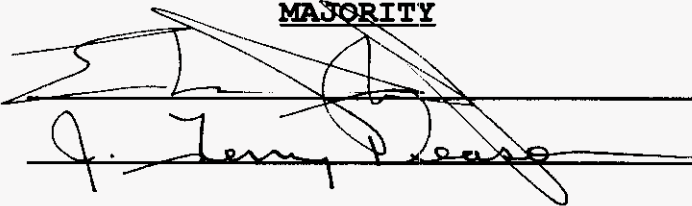
**APPROVED**

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: DS JC

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

  
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REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03431 MAR 17 8

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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Issue 2: If a sufficient community of interest is found to exist, what is the economic impact for the subscribers and the involved companies in implementing an alternative plan on the Ft. White/Gainesville route? (Summarize and discuss in detail the alternative toll plan and its rate structure.)

- A) EAS with a 25/25 plan and re-grouping
- B) One-way extended calling service (ECS)
- C) Other (specify)

Recommendation: A) If EAS with the 25/25 plan and regrouping were approved on these routes, the residential rates would increase from \$9.95 to \$12.24, an increase of \$2.29. Business customers' rates would increase from \$24.70 to \$30.93, an increase of \$6.23. If EAS is determined to be appropriate, the Ft. White subscribers should be balloted for non-optional, flat-rate, two-way EAS to the Gainesville exchange. The survey should be conducted in accordance with Rule 25-4.063, Florida Administrative Code. The survey should be conducted within forty-five (45) days of the date the order from this recommendation is issued. ALLTEL should submit the newspaper advertisement for staff's review prior to publication. The survey letter and ballot should be submitted to staff for review prior to distribution to ALLTEL customers. In addition, ALLTEL should provide staff with a copy of the published newspaper advertisement.

If the ballot for EAS with the 25/25 plan is approved, BellSouth should be ordered to submit an application to the FCC for a waiver request pursuant to FCC Order 97-244, and should be ordered to implement EAS on the Ft. White/Gainesville route within twelve (12) months of receiving said waiver.

B) If one-way ECS is approved, the subscribers in the Ft. White exchange would not realize an increase in basic local rates. However, if a customer chose to use ECS, residential customers would be charged \$.25 per call regardless of duration, and business calls would be rated at \$.10 for the first minute and \$.06 for each additional minute. If one-way ECS is found to be appropriate, the Ft. White subscribers should not be balloted. In addition, one-way ECS should be implemented within six (6) months from the issue date of the order.

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C) Staff does not support any other plan.

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Issue 3: What are the appropriate rates, charges, or additives, if any, for EAS or for the alternative toll plan on the Ft. White/Gainesville route? If an additive is required, what should the amount be and how long should it remain in effect?

Recommendation: If the Commission adopts staff's recommendation in Issue 1, the appropriate rates, charges, and additives for EAS would be determined under the 25/25 plan with regrouping. The Ft. White subscribers would be balloted for EAS at the rates listed in Table B. Staff recommends the additives remain in place for a four-year period, beginning on the date EAS is implemented.

TABLE B

	PRESENT RATE	25/25 ADDITIVE	RE-GROUP ADDITIVE	TOTAL OF ADDITIVES	NEW RATE
R-1	\$ 9.95	\$ 0.00		\$ 2.29	\$12.24
B-1	\$24.70	\$ 6.23	\$ 0.00	\$ 6.23	\$30.93
PBX	\$47.20	\$10.58	\$ 0.00	\$10.58	\$57.78

If the Commission denies staff's recommendation in Issue 1, and one-way ECS is approved, the subscribers in the Ft. White exchange would not realize an increase in basic local rates. Residential customers would be charged \$.25 per call regardless of duration, and business calls would be rated at \$.10 for the first minute and \$.06 for each additional minute.

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Issue 4: What dialing pattern should be implemented if the Commission determines that toll relief is appropriate?

Recommendation: Staff recommends that a 10-digit dialing pattern be implemented for the Ft. White/Gainesville route, if the Commission determines that toll relief is appropriate.

**APPROVED**

Issue 5: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: If the Commission determines that the Ft. White subscribers should be surveyed for EAS, then this docket should remain open pending the outcome of the survey. If the Commission determines that one-way ECS is appropriate, then this docket should be closed and staff should ensure that ALLTEL and BST file appropriate tariffs. If the Commission denies staff's recommendation in Issue 1 and determines that no toll relief is warranted on this route, this docket should be closed.

**APPROVED**