

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

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

- FROM: DIVISION OF AUDITING AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (REVELL) MAUREY) DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS (FAVORS) CRF DIVISION OF ELECTRIC AND GAS (LEE) DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (COLLINS) CRF JDT
- RE: DOCKET NO. 990688-EI PETITION FOR APPROVAL, PURSUANT TO SECTION 34(I) OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1935, AS AMENDED, OF INTER-AFFILIATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GULF POWER COMPANY AND POWERCALL, INC.
- AGENDA: 10/05/99 REGULAR AGENDA PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE
- CRITICAL DATES: NONE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\AFA\WP\990688.RCM ATTACHMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE

CASE BACKGROUND

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 in part amended the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA) to authorize exempt telecommunications companies. This enables registered holding companies such as Southern Company (Southern), to acquire those telecommunications companies. In accordance with revised Section 34, subpart (I) of PUHCA, a public utility company may enter into contracts with a telecommunications company that is an affiliate or associate company, if "...every State commission having jurisdiction over the retail rates of such public utility approves such contract...". Gulf Power Company (Gulf or the Company) is seeking approval of a contract with PowerCall, Inc. (PowerCall). Both companies are subsidiaries of Southern, and contracts between these companies are governed by the provisions of Section 34.

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DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the contract between Gulf Power Company and PowerCall, Inc. be approved? (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. (REVELL, MAUREY)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Gulf is requesting approval of a contract with PowerCall, a subsidiary of Southern, to provide various internal telecommunications services. These services will include installation, service and repair of Gulf's or other customers' electronic equipment, closed circuit television, video alarm or access control equipment, and providing security monitoring services. PowerCall will not use any electronic or other equipment owned by Gulf Power. Gulf pays approximately \$158,000 yearly to a private company to provide the services PowerCall will now provide. At this time, Gulf is unable to provide any estimates of cost savings that may result from switching to PowerCall.

The Company's petition states that its ratepayers will not be harmed by this agreement since any services obtained by PowerCall will be based on the market price for such services. A limitation on such pricing is that the price will be no more than PowerCall's fully distributed costs for the provided services.

The Commission's approval of this contract between Gulf and PowerCall does not indicate specific approval of rates, terms, or conditions associated with the contract. Such matters are properly reserved for review by the Commission within the context of a rate proceeding.

It is recommended that the contract be approved subject to the Commission's authority to disallow any of the costs for rate making purposes, including surveillance.

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ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a request for a Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, hearing within 21 days of the order, the order will become final and effective upon the issuance of a consummating order. Because no further action will be required, this docket should be closed. (COLLINS)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If no person whose substantial interests are affected files a request for a Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, hearing within 21 days of the order, the order will become final and effective upon the issuance of a consummating order. Because no further action will be required, this docket should be closed.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made as of ______, 1999 ("Effective Date") between Gulf Power Company, a Maine corporation ("Customer"), and PowerCall, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Contractor").

PREMISES

Both parties are Southern Company subsidiaries.

Contractor is an Exempt Telecommunications Company pursuant to Section 34 of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended (the "PUHCA").

Contractor is authorized, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 79z-5c, to engage in the business of providing telecommunications and information services, as defined in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, other services or products subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission, and other products or services related or incidental to the provision of those products or services (collectively, "Telecommunications Services").

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Contractor is willing, upon Customer's request, to provide Telecommunications Services to Customer at costs determined in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations and orders of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the PUHCA.

Accordingly, the parties agree as follows:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Telecommunications Services.

1.1. (a) Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Contractor will provide Customer Telecommunications Services at such times, for such periods and in such manner as Customer may from time to time request and as Contractor may agree to provide. The price for such services shall be agreed upon by the parties at the time of each specific request and agreement to provide, subject to the limitation set forth in Section 2 of this agreement. Nothing contained herein imposes on Customer any obligation to purchase or request from Contractor Telecommunications Services.

(b) Contractor intends initially to offer Customer Telecommunications Services which include: installation service and repair of Customer's electronic, closed circuit television, video, alarm and access control equipment; and provision of security monitoring services. Such Telecommunications Services will be provided for such periods and in such manner as Customer may from time to time request and as Contractor may agree to provide. Contractor will notify the appropriate state and federal agencies as necessary when it intends to offer Customer additional Telecommunications Services.

1.2. Contractor will provide Customer Telecommunications Services after Contractor receives and accepts Customer's work order or other service request. Customer will give Contractor access without charge to Customer's premises and facilities to the extent Contractor needs that access to efficiently and reliably provide Telecommunications Services.

1.3. The Telecommunications Services Contractor provides ander this Agreement are subject to all limitations contained in authorizations, rules and regulations of governmental agencies having jurisdiction over Contractor, Customer or the Telecommunications Services provided hereunder.

2. <u>Costs</u>.

2.1. As consideration for the Telecommunications Services Contractor provides hereunder, Customer will pay to Contractor an amount that is agreed upon for each specific request for Telecommunication Services subject to the limitation that such agreed upon compensation shall not be more than Contractor's fully distributed costs ("Costs") for those Telecommunications Services. Costs will be determined in accordance with standard Southern Company accounting procedures for inter-affiliate transactions. Contractor will invoice Customer for those Telecommunications Services on or before the 10th day of the succeeding month and Customer will pay those invoices on or before the 20th day of that month.

2.2. Contractor will notify Customer of any changes in Contractor's accounting procedures and any other change or event that materially affects the Costs (collectively "Events"), no later than 10 business days after the Event. Further, within 30 days after an Event occurs, Contractor will recalculate its Costs, provide Customer with documentation supporting the recalculation, and adjust all invoices for Telecommunications Services it thereafter renders to Customer to reflect such changes in Costs. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, Contractor and Customer will review Contractor's Cost information every year.

3. Work Orders.

Contractor will provide Telecommunications Services to Customer in accordance with work orders or requests issued or made by or on Customer's behalf and accepted by Contractor. Customer may amend, alter or rescind any work order, provided that (a) Contractor agrees to any amendment or alteration that materially changes the scope of the work it must perform or equipment it must provide; (b) the Costs covered by the work order include any expense Contractor incurs as a result of the amendment, alteration or rescission; and (c) the amendment, alteration or rescission does not release Customer from liability for any costs already incurred or contracted for pursuant to the work order, regardless of whether contractor or its agent has completed the work associated with those Costs.

4. Warranty and Limitation of Liability.

4.1. Contractor will exercise due care to assure that the Telecommunications Services are performed in a workmanlike manner, meet the standards and specifications set forth in the applicable work order or request, and comply with any applicable legal standards. Contractor makes no other warranty with respect to the Telecommunications Services provided hereunder.

4.2. If Contractor fails to perform any Telecommunications Services as warranted, then Customer's sole and exclusive remedy will be re-performance by Contractor of the Telecommunications Services to comply with the applicable work order, request or standard.

5. <u>Term</u>. Subject to any required regulatory approval, this Agreement becomes effective on the Effective Date and terminates on the first anniversary thereof. This Agreement will automatically renew for successive one year terms unless either party provides the other with notice of nonrenewal at least 30 days prior to the end of the then current term.

6. <u>Regulatory Requirements</u>. This Agreement and all services provided hereunder are only effective in accordance with all legal requirements imposed by state or federal agencies having jurisdiction over this Agreement or the parties, and will be administered in accordance with the terms of such orders, rules and regulations.

7. Miscellaneous.

7.1. <u>Assignment</u>. This Agreement will bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, but Contractor may not assign any of its obligations under this Agreement or under any purchase order or work order issued hereunder without Customer's prior approval.

7.2. <u>Choice of Law</u>. The laws of the state of Florida, (excluding any choice of law principle that would result in the application of the laws of any other jurisdiction) govern the validity, construction, and enforcement of this Agreement and the determination of the parties' rights and duties hereunder.

7.3. <u>Notice</u>. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices, requests, demands and other communications in connection with this Agreement must be in writing and may be mailed or delivered via facsimile or by courier to the parties at the addresses shown on the signature page below (or at such other addresses as will be given in writing by the parties to one another) and will be effective when delivered.

7.4. <u>Severability</u>. If a court or agency of competent jurisdiction holds any one or more provisions of this Agreement or any application thereof to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such holding will not in any way affect or impair the validity, legality and

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enforceability of the remaining provisions in this Agreement and all other applications of the remaining provisions.

7.5. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes any prior statement or writing not a part of this Agreement or otherwise referenced in this Agreement.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED.

POWERCALL, INC.

robar 1 E. TSWA

By: Michael E. Britt

Bin 10198 241 Ralph McGill Blvd NE Atlanta GA 30308

Its:	Vice President	
{INSE	RT MAILING ADDRESS}	
Facsim	ile No. (104) 506-4370	
ATTN		
Date:	May 25, 1999	

GULF POWER COMPANY

By: <u>A. E. Scarbrough</u>

Its: <u>Vice President</u> One Energy Place Pensacola, Florida 32520 Facsimile No. <u>850-444-6744</u> ATTN: <u>A. E. Scarbrough</u> Date: <u>May 26, 1999</u>