# State of Florida



# Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOUL TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE:

November 18, 2004

TO:

Director, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services (Bayó)

FROM:

Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement (Isler)

Office of the General Counsel (Scott)

RE:

Docket No. 041148-TP - Bankruptcy cancellation by Florida Public Service

Commission of IXC Registration No. TJ702 and CLEC Certificate No. 8198

issued to Litestream Technologies, LLC, effective 9/22/04.

AGENDA: 11/30/04 - Regular Agenda - Interested Persons May Participate

**CRITICAL DATES:** 

None

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** 

None

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\CMP\WP\041148.RCM.DOC

### **Discussion of Issues**

Issue 1: Should the Commission grant Litestream Technologies, LLC cancellation of its IXC Registration No. TJ702 and tariff and CLEC Certificate No. 8198 with an effective date of September 22, 2004, due to bankruptcy; notify the Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services that any unpaid Regulatory Assessment Fees, including statutory late payment charges, should not be sent to the Florida Department of Financial Services and request permission to write-off the uncollectible amounts; and require the company to immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange telecommunications and competitive local exchange services in Florida?

Recommendation: Yes. (Isler; Scott)

Staff Analysis: See attached proposed Order.

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**Issue 2**: Should this docket be closed?

<u>Recommendation</u>: Yes, if no protest is filed and upon issuance of a Consummating Order. (Scott)

<u>Staff Analysis</u>: The Order issued from this recommendation will become final upon issuance of a Consummating Order, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Commission's decision files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the Proposed Agency Action Order. The docket should then be closed upon issuance of a Consummating Order.

Docket No. 041148-TP Attachment A

Date: November 18, 2004

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Bankruptcy cancellation by Florida DOCKET NO. 041148-TP Public Service Commission of IXC Registration No. TJ702 and CLEC Certificate No. 8198 issued to Litestream Technologies, LLC. effective 9/22/04.

ORDER NO. ISSUED:

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

BRAULIO L. BAEZ, Chairman J. TERRY DEASON RUDOLPH "RUDY" BRADLEY CHARLES M. DAVIDSON LILA A. JABER

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER GRANTING CANCELLATION OF INTRASTATE INTEREXCHANGE COMPANY TARIFF AND REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER AND CANCELLATION OF COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY CERTIFICATE DUE TO CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

### 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.

Litestream Technologies, LLC currently holds Registration No. TJ702, issued by the Commission on November 12, 2002, authorizing the provision of intrastate interexchange telecommunications company (IXC) service and Certificate No. 8198 issued on November 13, 2002, authorizing the provision of competitive local exchange company (CLEC) service.

Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, telecommunications companies must pay a minimum annual Regulatory Assessment Fee of \$50 by January 30 of the subsequent year and provides for late payment charges as outlined in Section 350.113, Florida Statutes, for any delinquent amounts.

On April 19, 2004, this Commission received notice that this company had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on February 26, 2004. On September 22, 2004, this Commission received a letter from Mr. Francis J. Sivard, Vice President of Finance, which advised this Commission that the company's assets had been sold at a bankruptcy auction and

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that Litestream Technologies, LLC had ceased being a telecommunications provider in Florida. Our staff attempted to call the company at their listed telephone numbers, but the numbers had been disconnected.

The company has filed for bankruptcy, and pursuant to Section 362(b)(5) of the US Bankruptcy Code, the filing of a petition for bankruptcy relief acts as an automatic stay that enjoins a governmental entity from exercising its regulatory authority to collect a pre-petition debt. Additionally, in any bankruptcy liquidation or reorganization, secured creditors are given the highest priority in the distribution and, normally, receive all of the distributed assets. Regulatory Assessment Fees, late payment charges, and penalties owed by a company to the Florida Public Service Commission, as well as monetary settlements of cases resolving issues of failure to pay such fees, are not secured debts and, as a practical matter, are uncollectible in a bankruptcy proceeding where liquidation occurs. Therefore, this Commission would be prevented from collecting the Regulatory Assessment Fees owed by this company, and from assessing and collecting a penalty for failure to pay the fees.

We are vested with jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 364.02, 364.336, 364.337, and 364.285, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, we hereby find that Litestream Technologies, LLC shall be granted cancellation of its IXC Registration No. TJ702 and CLEC Certificate No. 8198 due to Chapter 11 bankruptcy, effective September 22, 2004. In addition, the 2004 Regulatory Assessment Fees and the statutory late payment charges for the year 2002 for the company's CLEC certificate, shall not be sent to the Florida Department of Financial Services for collection, and permission for this Commission to write-off the uncollectible amount shall be requested. Litestream Technologies, LLC shall immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange telecommunications and competitive local exchange services in Florida.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Litestream Technologies, LLC's Registration No. TJ702 to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications and Certificate No. 8198 to provide competitive local exchange services are hereby cancelled, effective September 22, 2004. It is further

ORDERED that the outstanding Regulatory Assessment Fees, including statutory late payment charges, shall not be sent to the Department of Financial Services for collection. The Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, instead, shall request permission to write-off the uncollectible amount. It is further

ORDERED that if Litestream Technologies, LLC's Registration No. TJ702 and CLEC Certificate No. 8198 are cancelled in accordance with this Order, it shall immediately cease and desist providing intrastate interexchange company and competitive local exchange services in Florida. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by

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the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services

(SEAL)

KS

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## NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, 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 will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.