

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Resolution by Suwannee Board of County Commissioners for extended area service (EAS) between Dowling Park/Lake City, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City, and Luraville/Lake City.

DOCKET NO. 961238-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-97-0655-FOF-TL
ISSUED: June 9, 1997

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
J. TERRY DEASON
JOE GARCIA
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER ON REQUEST FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

BY THE COMMISSION:

Pursuant to Resolution No. 96-33 filed with this Commission by the Suwannee Board of County Commissioners, we have been asked to consider requiring the implementation of extended area service (EAS) between the Dowling Park, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Luraville exchanges and the Lake City exchange. All of these exchanges are in the Jacksonville LATA (Local Access Transport Area). The Dowling Park, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Luraville exchanges are served by ALLTEL, Florida, Inc. (ALLTEL), and the Lake City exchange is served by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth). Both companies are subject to regulation by this Commission pursuant to Chapter 364, Florida Statutes. ALLTEL has not opted for price regulation and remains under rate of return regulation, pursuant to Section 364.052(2), Florida Statutes.

Under Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, we cannot require BellSouth, which has elected price regulation, to provide EAS for requests made after July 1, 1995. Suwannee County's request was filed on August 26, 1996. Thus, any decision to implement EAS from the Lake City exchange must be made by BellSouth. As such, by Order No. PSC-96-1445-PCO-TL, issued December 2, 1996, we required

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only ALLTEL to provide one-way traffic information on the routes in this docket. On February 24, 1997, ALLTEL submitted the requested traffic information.

Traffic Information

The Dowling Park exchange is located in the northwestern portion of Suwannee County and is served by ALLTEL. This exchange covers approximately 36 square miles, including the unincorporated areas of Lancaster. The subscriber density for the Dowling Park service area for October, 1996, was estimated to be 35.03 customer access lines per square mile. The exchange is served by a Northern Telecom Remote Switch Concentrator (RSC) off the host DMS 100 switch located in the Live Oak exchange. The Dowling Park exchange has EAS to the Live Oak exchange, the county seat.

The Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch exchange is located in the northern section of Suwannee County and is also served by ALLTEL. This exchange covers approximately 34 square miles, including the unincorporated areas of Fort Union. The subscriber density for the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch service area for October, 1996, was estimated to be 15.9 customer access lines per square mile. The exchange is also served by a RSC off the Live Oak switch. The Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch exchange has EAS to the Live Oak exchange, the county seat.

The Luraville exchange is located in the west-central portion of Suwannee County and is also served by ALLTEL. This exchange covers approximately 118 square miles. The subscriber density for the Luraville service area for October, 1996, was estimated to be 10.4 customer access lines per square mile. This exchange is also served by a RSC off the Live Oak switch. The Luraville exchange has EAS to the Live Oak exchange, the county seat.

The Lake City exchange is located primarily in the southern half of Columbia County. This exchange is served by BellSouth. It is a relatively self-sufficient exchange. Most residents travel to Jacksonville if they must obtain services from a major medical facility. In addition, residents do most of their shopping, and obtain other services in Jacksonville, though many amenities exist locally for the Lake City residents. Lake City is the county seat for Columbia County.

The distance between Dowling Park and Lake City is 37 Miles, between the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch and Lake City is 28 miles, and between Luraville and Lake City is 30 miles.

Decision

Rule 25-4.060(3)(a), Florida Administrative Code, requires a calling rate of at least three 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 EAS 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 EAS. The requested routes are subject to this rule since the request originated with Suwannee County, and the number of access lines in the ALLTEL exchanges is less than half the number of the access lines in the Lake City exchange. Listed below is the number of access lines per exchange.

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>Access Lines</u>
Dowling Park	1,242
Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch	483
Luraville	1,134
Lake City	24,783

As stated, we only ordered ALLTEL to perform one-way traffic studies on routes from the Dowling Park, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch, and Luraville exchanges to BellSouth's Lake City exchange. The study results are as set forth below:

<u>ROUTE</u>	<u>M/A/M</u>	<u>% CUSTOMERS MAKING 2 OR MORE CALLS</u>
Dowling Park to Lake City	1.66	23.51
Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch to Lake City	3.32	40.58
Luraville to Lake City	3.69	43.56

While the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch and the Luraville routes met the required three or more M/A/Ms, these routes failed to meet the distribution requirement that at least 50% of the customers make two or more calls each month. Thus, none of the routes would qualify to be surveyed for nonoptional, flat rate,

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two-way EAS, if two-way EAS could be implemented. As previously stated, we could not order the implementation of two-way EAS because BellSouth has chosen to be price regulated under Chapter 364, Florida Statutes. Thus, two-way EAS shall not be implemented.

In view of the fact that the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch and the Luraville routes met the M/A/M requirement, we shall, however, conduct a hearing in order to determine if some type of toll relief plan is appropriate for these routes. A subsequent notice will be issued with the hearing date. Although, historically, we have considered a \$.25 calling plan or an extended calling service (ECS) plan on routes that met the calling rate and exhibited a substantial showing on the distribution requirement, we have not ordered the implementation of the \$.25 plan or ECS on any one-way routes. Due to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the changes in Chapter 364 (1995), we find it appropriate to reevaluate the viability of EAS and ECS on one-way routes, as well as other toll relief options.

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that two-way extended area service shall not be implemented on the Dowling Park/Lake City, Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch/Lake City, and Luraville/Lake City routes. It is further

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held in this docket in order to consider the propriety and feasibility of a one-way alternative toll relief plan for the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch to Lake City route and the Luraville to Lake City route. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 9th
day of June, 1997.

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BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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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 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.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water and/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 after the issuance 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.