

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed tariff filing
by GTE Florida Incorporated to
transfer a portion of the
Sarasota exchange into the
Bradenton exchange.

DOCKET NO. 970990-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-97-1029-FOF-TL
ISSUED: August 27, 1997

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of
this matter:

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

ORDER DENYING TARIFF TRANSFERRING
PORTION OF SARASOTA EXCHANGE
AND REQUIRING SURVEY

BY THE COMMISSION:

On July 10, 1997, GTE Florida Incorporated (GTEFL) filed a proposed tariff that would transfer a portion of the Sarasota exchange (Lakewood Ranch area) into the Bradenton exchange. GTE serves both exchanges. There are 26 business customers and 29 residential customers currently in the area. In proposing this transfer, GTEFL seeks the ability to provide service to the Lakewood Ranch area from one exchange. The area transfer would insure that all Lakewood ranch area residences and businesses pay the same rates and have the same local calling scope. To expedite its request, GTEFL also filed a proposed customer information notice, survey, and ballot. GTEFL requested that the customer information notice be mailed to the affected customers one day after we issue an order on GTEFL's proposed tariff.

Under GTEFL's proposal, the transferred customers' local rates will decrease (\$.45 per month for residential service and \$1.20 per month for business service), telephone numbers will change, and these customers will lose extended area service (EAS) to Venice and

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extended calling service (ECS) to the Palmetto, North Port, and Englewood exchanges. Affected customers will gain EAS to Palmetto. In addition, the transfer will decrease the number of access lines available to the Lakewood Ranch area customers, moving them from a Rate Group 5 to a Rate Group 4. The exchanges' local calling scopes and rates are listed in Table A below.

Table A

EXCHANGE	R-1	B-1	EAS	ECS
Bradenton	\$11.36	\$28.70	Myakka, Palmetto, Sarasota	NONE
Sarasota	\$11.81	\$29.90	Bradenton, Myakka, Venice	Palmetto, North Port, Englewood

Upon consideration, we shall not approve GTEFL's tariff proposal at this time. We shall, instead, require that the 26 business customers and 29 residential customers located in the Lakewood ranch area of the Sarasota exchange be surveyed to determine if they are in favor of moving into the Bradenton exchange.

At least 50 percent of the balloted subscribers must respond to the survey, and at least 60 percent of those responding must vote in favor of the boundary change in order for the survey to pass.

GTEFL submitted a customer information notice, survey letter, and ballot with this tariff filing. Upon review, we find that the customer information notice, survey letter, and ballot submitted by GTEFL sufficiently advise the customers that their rates will decrease, their telephone number will change, and their local calling scope will decrease if they are moved to the Bradenton exchange. The customer information notice will further inform customers that if a protest is not received within the protest period, then GTEFL will mail out the survey letters and ballots no later than 45 days from the date this Order becomes final. The customer information notice shall be mailed one day after the issuance of this order.

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Based on the foregoing, it is therefore

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission, that GTE Florida Incorporated shall ballot the 26 business customers and 29 residential subscribers in the Lakewood Ranch area of the Sarasota exchange, within 45 days from the date this Order becomes final, to determine if they are in favor of the proposed exchange transfer. It is further

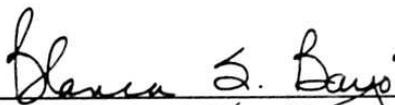
ORDERED that the customer information notice, survey letter, and ballot submitted by GTE Florida Incorporated are approved. It is further

ORDERED that GTE Florida Incorporated's customer information notice shall be mailed to affected customers one day after the issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that, in order for the survey to pass, at least 50 percent of the subscribers balloted must respond, and at least 60 percent of those responding must vote in favor of the exchange transfer. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending the outcome of the subscriber survey.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 27th day of August, 1997.



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.

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 Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on September 17, 1997.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

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

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water 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 of the date this Order becomes final, 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.