

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for cancellation of CLEC
Certificate No. 6040 by Reliant
Communications, Inc., effective October 27,
2008.

DOCKET NO. 080653-TX
ORDER NO. PSC-09-0020-PAA-TX
ISSUED: January 6, 2009

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MATTHEW M. CARTER II, Chairman
LISA POLAK EDGAR
KATRINA J. McMURRIAN
NANCY ARGENZIANO
NATHAN A. SKOP

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER
CANCELLING COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMPANY CERTIFICATE ON THE COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION

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.

Reliant Communications, Inc. currently holds Certificate No. 6040, issued by this Commission on April 17, 1999, authorizing the provision of competitive local exchange telecommunications service. Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, competitive local exchange telecommunications companies (CLECs) must pay a minimum annual Regulatory Assessment Fee if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161(2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. Pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the Regulatory Assessment Fee return forms, for the period of January 1 through December 31, are mailed to entities at least 45 days prior to the date that payment of the fee is due. In addition, Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, provides that a competitive local exchange telecommunications company requesting cancellation of its certificate must state its intent and date to pay the current Regulatory Assessment Fee (RAF).

On October 27, 2008, this Commission received a letter dated October 17, 2008, from Mr. Robert Sorrentino, President, requesting cancellation of its certificate because the company's CLEC operations were "dormant" and stated that no customers would be affected. Our staff sent

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Mr. Sorrentino an e-mail informing him that in order to be granted a voluntary cancellation, the 2008 RAF needed to be paid. The RAFs remain unpaid.

For the reasons described above, we deny Reliant Communications, Inc.'s request for voluntary cancellation of its CLEC certificate. However, we find it appropriate to involuntarily cancel the competitive local exchange telecommunications certificate, effective October 27, 2008, on this Commission's own motion for failure to comply with Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, and pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes.

The cancellation of the CLEC certificate in no way diminishes the entity's obligation to pay the RAF, including any applicable late payment charges. If this Order is not protested, the company's CLEC Certificate No. 6040 shall be cancelled, effective October 27, 2008. If the company pays the RAF, including any applicable late payment charges, prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the cancellation of the company's CLEC certificate shall be voluntary. If the company fails to protest the Order or pay the RAF, including any applicable late payment charges, prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, then the company's CLEC certificate shall be cancelled administratively, and the collection of the unpaid RAF shall be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. If the company's CLEC certificate is cancelled in accordance with this Order, the company shall be required to immediately cease and desist providing CLEC telecommunications service in Florida. This docket shall be closed administratively either upon receipt of the payment of the RAF, including any applicable late payment charges, or upon cancellation of the company's CLEC certificate. If Reliant Communications, Inc.'s CLEC certificate is cancelled on this Commission's own motion and it subsequently decides to reapply for a certificate as a telecommunications company, Reliant Communications, Inc. shall be required to first pay any outstanding fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. We are vested with jurisdiction over these matters pursuant to Sections 350.113, 364.336, 364.337, and 364.285, Florida Statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that pursuant to Rule 25-24.820, Florida Administrative Code, Reliant Communications, Inc.'s CLEC Certificate No. 6040 is hereby cancelled effective October 27, 2008, on this Commission's own motion for failure to pay the 2008 Regulatory Assessment Fee pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that the cancellation of the certificate in no way diminishes Reliant Communications, Inc.'s obligation to pay the applicable Regulatory Assessment Fee, including any applicable late payment charges. If the company's CLEC certificate is cancelled and the company subsequently decides to reapply for a certificate as a telecommunications company, that company shall be required to first pay any outstanding fees, including accrued statutory late payment charges. It is further

ORDERED that if Reliant Communications, Inc. pays the Regulatory Assessment Fee, including any applicable late payment charges, prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, the cancellation of the certificate shall be deemed voluntary. It is further


ORDERED that if Reliant Communications, Inc. does not pay the Regulatory Assessment Fee, including any applicable late payment charges, prior to the expiration of the Proposed Agency Action Order, the collection of the Regulatory Assessment Fee shall be referred to the Florida Department of Financial Services for further collection efforts. It is further

ORDERED that if Reliant Communications, Inc.'s certificate is cancelled in accordance with this Order, Reliant Communications, Inc. shall immediately cease and desist providing competitive local exchange telecommunications service 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 the Office of Commission Clerk, 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 administratively either upon receipt of the Regulatory Assessment Fees, or upon cancellation of the CLEC certificate.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 6th day of January, 2009.



ANN COLE
Commission Clerk

(S E A L)

JLM

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 Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on January 27, 2009.

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.