



Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer Bulletin

E. Leon Jacobs, Jr., Chairman



DETARIFFING

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the "detriffing" of domestic interstate long distance telephone service. You may be asking yourself, "what is detriffing and what does it mean for me?"

Beginning July 31, 2001, interstate long distance companies will no longer be required to have on record at the FCC documentation of their charges and terms of service. A tariff is a legal document filed by a company with a regulatory agency describing the rates, terms and conditions of the services it provides. In the past, interstate long distance service providers filed these tariffs with the FCC, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC), and other regulatory agencies that oversee the telephone industry. The FCC will now allow these companies to make this information available directly to you.

This also means that the terms and conditions of service are enforceable under state contract law rather than the regulatory powers of the FCC. Generally, your interstate long distance company will now deal with you by means of an individual contract, similar to other entities, such as a credit card company. Your long distance company must make available to you the rates, terms, and conditions of your service, and you may or may not choose to agree to them. If you do not approve of your company's terms, you may find another company that offers you terms that may better suit your needs.

Can detriffing benefit you? Yes, detriffing makes it easier for you to find out what you are paying for your service and to scrutinize whether the billed charges agree with your terms and conditions of service. This way, you can compare the terms of your service to the terms offered by other companies. This will also give companies a greater incentive to reduce prices and improve their terms in order to remain competitive.

If you would like more information on detriffing, please call the FCC's Call Center at **1-888-CALL-FCC** and request a copy

of their free brochure on detriffing. You may also contact the PSC by calling **1-800-342-3552**; e-mailing us at **contact@psc.state.fl.us.**, or by visiting our home page at **http://www.floridapsc.com.**

Where Can You Go To Get Information About A Company's Interstate Long Distance Service?

Under FCC detriffing rules, long distance companies are required to post a schedule of their rates, terms and conditions on their web page. Each company must also keep copies of their schedule at a business place of their choosing. You can call or write a company to find out the location of the company's place of business or to learn how you can obtain information about the terms and conditions of your service and of all services and rate plans the company offers.

The PSC encourages you to be a smart consumer. Make sure you read your bill inserts and letters from your interstate long distance company. Many companies are using these methods to inform you of their rates and conditions.

E. Leon Jacobs, Jr. is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. The PSC sets the rates utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 36 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately-owned.

