OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

E. Wayne Taff,)
Complainant,)
V.) <u>Case No. IC-2007-0102</u>
Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Embarq,)
Respondent.)

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME

Issue Date: November 15, 2006 Effective Date: November 15, 2006

On September 13, 2006,¹ E. Wayne Taff filed a complaint with the Commission against Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Embarq. On September 18, the Commission issued a notice informing Embarq of the complaint and directing it to file an answer by October 18. On October 12, Embarq filed a request for mediation, indicating its willingness to enter into third-party mediation. On October 13, the Commission ordered Mr. Taff to respond to Embarq's request and file a pleading with the Commission either agreeing to mediate or refusing to mediate.

On October 24, Mr. Taff filed a pleading requesting an extension of time to respond to the Commission's order. Mr. Taff indicated that the parties may be resolving the complaint, and that he would be able to verify resolution of this matter upon receipt of his

¹ All dates throughout this order reference the year 2006 unless otherwise noted.

November billing statement. If the matter was resolved, Mr. Taff stated he would file a notice of dismissal. The Commission granted Mr. Taff's request and directed him to file a status report or notice of dismissal no later than November 23.

On November 14, Mr. Taff again requested an extension of time to respond to Embarq's mediation request. Mr. Taff states that he received his November billing statement and that it still contained erroneous and improper charges. He further states that Embarq's executive office has represented that all such errors will be corrected. Verification of those corrections will appear on Mr. Taff's December billing statement.

Mr. Taff requests that his decision on mediation be postponed until December 27.

At that date, Mr. Taff will know for certain if his complaint will be settled and whether he will be dismissing his complaint. The Commission finds Mr. Taff's request to be reasonable and will grant the request for an extension of time.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. E. Wayne Taff's motion for an extension of time is granted.
- 2. No later than December 27, 2006, E. Wayne Taff shall file with the Commission either a status report stating if he intends to further prosecute his complaint or a notice of dismissal.
- 3. If E. Wayne Taff files a status report indicating his intention to further prosecute his complaint, as part of that pleading he shall respond to Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Embarq's request to mediate and shall state if he agrees to mediate or refuses to mediate his complaint.
- 4. The deadline for Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Embarq's answer to the complaint shall remain tolled pending E. Wayne Taff's December 27, 2006 pleading.

5. This order shall become effective on November 15, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION

Colleen M. Dale Secretary

(SEAL)

Harold Stearley, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 15th day of November, 2006.