STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JEFFERSON CITY July 6, 2000

CASE NO: TE-2000-791

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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

Dale Hardy Roberts

Ask Hard Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Filing of)		
GTE Communications Corporation's 1999)	Case No.	TE-2000-791
Annual Reports.)		

ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND LATE FILING OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-10.080(1), "[a]11 public utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file an annual report with the commission on or before April 15 of each year."

On May 30, 2000, GTE Communications Corporation (GTECC) filed a motion with the Commission requesting permission to file its 1999 annual reports out of time and requesting a protective order. GTECC states that on or before April 15, 2000, it attempted to file its 1999 verified annual reports with the Commission (two interexchange and one alternative basic local exchange reports). GTECC states that it sought confidential treatment of portions of these annual reports as was the case in the past. GTECC notes that it attempted to make this filing directly and without a pleading by counsel requesting confidential treatment. The 1999 annual reports were rejected for filing and were returned to the company with instructions to refile them along with a pleading, signed by counsel, requesting an extension and requesting confidential treatment. GTECC states that the notice received by the company also indicated that all information would need

to be typed directly onto the forms without attachments, despite the prior Commission orders which had provided otherwise in the past.

GTECC indicates that counsel was unable to file this motion prior to this time due to various reasons, including certain internal staffing changes, the fact that the Commission recently revised its rule regarding protective orders, and because of scheduled hearings before the Commission (e.g., MCA case) and other caseload commitments.

The motion further indicates that due to a heavy caseload schedule, counsel will not be able to resubmit the annual reports immediately. In the meantime, GTECC requests that the Commission issue its standard protective order pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.085. GTECC states that it is seeking confidential treatment for only portions of its 1999 annual reports, namely its balance sheet, statement of income, and statement of cash flows. GTECC deems such information to be proprietary and highly confidential financial information, disclosure of which to GTECC's many competitors would be competitively detrimental to GTECC.

On June 29, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed its Recommendation and Memorandum. Staff recommends that the Commission grant GTECC's request for an extension of time within which to file its annual reports. Staff further recommends that the Commission permit GTECC to file its annual reports under seal, in order to maintain the confidential nature of certain proprietary information contained in GTECC's annual reports for 1999, to expire on April 15, 2001. Finally, Staff recommends that GTECC be

required to file both a confidential version and a redacted, public version of its annual reports.

The Commission has reviewed GTECC's motion and Staff's Recommendation and Memorandum. The Commission finds that GTECC has shown good cause sufficient to support an extension of the annual report filing deadline. The Commission further finds that GTECC has shown that the annual reports, when filed, will contain highly confidential and proprietary business information which should be protected from further disclosure. Therefore, the Commission will grant GTECC's motion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That GTE Communications Corporation's request for confidential treatment of portions of its 1999 annual reports is granted, and that information shall be filed under seal and shall be maintained under seal until April 15, 2001.
- 2. That GTE Communications Corporation's request to file its 1999 annual reports out of time is granted. The same shall be filed within 30 days of the effective date of this order, in both proprietary and public versions.
 - 3. That this order shall become effective on July 18, 2000.

4. That this case may be closed on July 19, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

Ask HARED Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Vicky Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 6th day of July, 2000.

STATE OF MISSOURI OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this $\underline{6^{th}}$ day of July 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Hole Hard Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge