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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Alma Long Distance, L.L.C. for a)
Certificate of Service Authority to) Case No. TA-2000-240
Provide IntraLATA and InterLATA)
Interexchange and Basic Interexchange)
Telecommunications Services.)

ORDER DIRECTING STAFF TO RESPOND

On September 17, 1999, Alma Long Distance, L.L.C. (ALD) filed an application with the Commission for a Certificate of Service Authority to provide intraLATA and interLATA interexchange and basic interexchange telecommunications services. ALD's application notes that it wishes to assure that ALD is authorized to provide toll service immediately after termination of the PTC Plan. Therefore, ALD requests that its application and accompanying tariffs be approved and effective by October 5, 1999, so that the proposed modification to the intraLATA Toll Dialing Parity Implementation Plan of ALD's parent company, Alma Telephone Company, can be implemented by October 20.

The Commission will attempt to expedite the consideration of this application to the greatest extent possible while honoring its obligation to carefully consider the application. The Commission must also be mindful of the limitations imposed on the Staff of the Commission (Staff) by the press of other matters. For that reason, it is important that Staff be allowed to give its input on this question.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That no later than September 27, 1999, the Staff of the Public Service Commission shall file a statement advising the Commission as to whether or not it will be able to file, by October 4, 1999, a Staff recommendation regarding the application of Alma Long Distance, L.L.C. for Certificate of Service Authority.

2. That this order shall become effective on October 4, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory
Law Judge by delegation of
Authority pursuant to 4 CSR
240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 23rd day of September, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION