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## ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION TO CLOSE ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

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<sup>1</sup> All references herein to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo), unless otherwise specified, are to the revision of 1994.

the closure of annual report information where a utility considers the information requested to be confidential and states good cause (the need or basis) to maintain the information as confidential. Where such an application is made and the information is not otherwise required to be open by law, the Commission may approve the application.

On March 1, 1999, the Commission issued its Order Directing Staff Response. The staff's response was filed on May 19, 1999. The staff has had extensive communications with GTE Long Distance to document the company's application. In its most recent communication dated April 14, 1999, GTE Long Distance maintains "that its 1997 financial information should remain under seal." GTE Long Distance has stated that it limits access to the company's financial information on a "need to know" basis and that this information is not required to be publicly disclosed and has not been publicly disclosed. GTE Long Distance also stated that disclosure of the financial information to competitors would result in competitive harm.

Based on the information provided by GTE Long Distance, staff recommended confidential treatment of the company's financial statements, specifically for the company's balance sheet, statement of income, and statement of cash flows.

The information provided shows that services provided by GTE Long Distance are provided in a competitive market, that the company has taken appropriate measures to protect this information from public disclosure, and that the company would suffer competitive harm if the financial information were disclosed.

Upon review of the application of GTE Long Distance, the Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information, that the application complies with 4 CSR 240-10.080, and that the information is not otherwise required by law to be open. Therefore, certain information in the 1997 annual report of GTE Long Distance may be closed. The information that is not closed should be filed in an appropriate manner.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the 1997 annual report filed by GTE Communications Corporation d/b/a GTE Long Distance, on April 16, 1998, is closed.

2. That GTE Communications Corporation d/b/a GTE Long Distance, shall file a public copy of its 1997 annual report by omitting or blacking out the confidential financial information appearing on the balance sheet, statement of income, and statement of cash flow; and shall mark the pages with omitted or blacked out information "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OMITTED"; and shall attach a copy of this Order to the public copy of its 1997 annual report.

3. That GTE Communications Corporation d/b/a GTE Long Distance, shall comply with this Order by June 30, 1999.

4. That the staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall monitor compliance with this Order and take further actions, if necessary, to enforce this order, or notify the Commission that this Order has been complied with and that this case may be closed, or otherwise apprise the Commission of the status of this case by July 15, 1999.

5. That this order shall become effective on June 15, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Keith Thornburg, 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 3rd day of June, 1999.

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JUN 02 1999  
COMMISSION COUNSEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION