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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 11th
day of May, 1999.

In the Matter of the Application of Least Cost)
Routing, Inc., d/b/a Long Distance Charges,)
Inc., for a Certificate of Service Authority to) Case No. TA-99-393
Provide Interexchange Telecommunications)
Services.)

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF

Least Cost Routing, Inc., d/b/a Long Distance Charges, Inc. (LCR) applied to the Public Service Commission on March 16, 1999, for a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri under Section 392.440, RSMo 1994¹. Along with its application, LCR submitted a tariff with an effective date of April 30, 1999, which it later extended to May 15, 1999.

On May 5, 1999, the Staff of the Public Service Commission filed a memorandum recommending that the Commission reject the application. Staff states that LCR has a history of slamming, and that the Commission's Consumer Services Department reported seven complaints against LCR between December 26, 1996, and February 22, 1999. Staff researched LCR's record with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and learned that the FCC ranks LCR's California and Florida companies as sixth and twentieth, respectively, when measuring complaints per million

¹ All statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri 1994 unless otherwise indicated.

dollars of revenue between January 1, 1998, and June 30, 1998. In addition, Staff indicates that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has received a number of complaints against LCR, and that LCR has been sued under the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act by the Illinois Attorney General.

The Staff memorandum did not state the disposition of that litigation.

Staff further notes that it has contacted the attorney for LCR several times and requested that LCR provide information regarding its history of slamming and that LCR explain what changes it has made to its business practices. As of May 3, 1999, Staff had not received the requested information. Staff states that due to LCR's history of slamming and its lack of cooperation to supply information demonstrating changed business practices, Staff believes it is not in the public's interest for LCR to be certificated in the state of Missouri. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission reject LCR's application.

The Commission has reviewed LCR's application, tariff filing, and the Staff's memorandum, and finds that the tariff sheets should be suspended for 30 days to allow LCR to respond to the Staff memorandum, and to give the Commission time to review any response that LCR might file.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the following tariff submitted on March 16, 1999, by Least Cost Routing, Inc., d/b/a Long Distance Charges, Inc., is suspended to June 10, 1999, or until otherwise ordered by this Commission:

P.S.C. MO. TARIFF NO. 1

Original Sheet 1 through Original Sheet 30

2. That this order shall become effective on May 15, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Drainer,
Murray and Schemenauer, CC.,
concur.

Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge

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