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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of GTE Communications Corporation's)
Request for Confidential Treatment) Case No. TO-99-480
of Portions of its 1998 Annual Reports)

ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND LATE FILING

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-10.080, "[a]ll 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 April 22, 1999, GTE Communications Corporation (GTECC) filed a request to file out of time and for confidential treatment of portions of its 1998 annual reports.

GTECC stated that for the calendar year 1998, it provided competitive intrastate interexchange telecommunications services pursuant to two separate interexchange certificates. The first interexchange certificate is in the name of GTE Communications Corporation and the second interexchange certificate is in the name of GTE Communications Corporation d/b/a GTE Long Distance. GTECC prepared two 1998 Annual Reports for its interexchange operations.

GTECC also stated that for the calendar year 1998, GTECC did not provide competitive basic local telecommunications service in Missouri. However, on April 6, 1999, GTECC did receive its certificate to provide competitive basic local telecommunications service in portions

of Missouri. GTECC has not yet filed nor received approval of its competitive basic local telecommunications service tariff; thus as of the date of its filing the request, GTECC was not yet providing such service. Nonetheless, GTECC prepared a 1998 Annual Report for its CLEC operations.

GTECC stated that on or about April 12, 1999, Mark Stovic, Manager Regulatory for GTECC (Stovic), attempted to timely file the three Annual Reports in the same manner as in previous years with a portion of the reports filed under seal. However, the filings were rejected on two grounds: that Stovic's cover letters requested confidential treatment of portions of GTECC's annual reports and that the request was not filed by an attorney.

GTECC stated that it is filing certain portions of its Annual Reports under seal, specifically its balance sheet, statement of income and statement of cash flows. GTECC deems such information to be proprietary and highly confidential, disclosure of which to GTECC's competitors could be competitively detrimental to GTECC. GTECC stated that it discloses such information only on a confidential basis and only to banks, financial institutions and others who have a need to know. GTECC maintains that making this information available would reveal information to the public and GTECC's competitors which would allow them to know GTECC's cash position, liabilities, marketing expenditures and other data which GTECC does not wish to disclose without the benefit of a protective order. GTECC stated that in those states where this type of information is required to be filed, GTECC files similar written requests for protection from disclosure of its financial statements with

all public utility commissions. To date, GTECC stated, no other state utility commission has denied GTECC's request for confidential treatment of this type of information and the specific financial information sought to be protected has not been publicly disclosed in another jurisdiction.

GTECC asked that the Commission enter its order allowing it to file its Annual Reports out of time and also granting confidential treatment to those portions identified as confidential.

Upon review of GTECC's motion, the Commission finds that there is good cause shown for the request to protect confidential information and that the request substantially complies with the above-cited rule. Therefore, confidential treatment for those portions identified as confidential of the annual reports filed by GTECC in 1999 should be granted. The Commission also finds that there is good cause to extend the filing date of the annual reports for GTECC since GTECC made a good-faith attempt to file on time. Therefore, an order allowing GTECC to file out of time should also be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the request for confidential treatment of GTE Communications Corporation's balance sheet, statement of income and statement of cash flows filed in its annual reports is granted, that such information shall be filed under seal, and shall be maintained under seal.

2. That the request by GTE Communications Corporation to file its annual reports out of time shall be granted.

3. That this order shall become effective on May 19, 1999.

4. That this case shall be closed on May 20, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of
authority pursuant to 4 CSR
240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

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MAY 20 1999

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 19th day of May, 1999.