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¹ References are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri 1994 unless noted.

Pursuant to Sections 392.210 and 393.140, the Commission requires public utilities to file certain information with the Commission in the form of an annual report. The requirements are implemented by an order of the Commission adopting 4 CSR 240-10.080. Under this rule the Commission treats annual report information as an open public record. However, utilities subject to this rule may make written application for 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.

The Company has requested that information appearing on pages 5 and 6 of its 1998 annual reports be closed. The Company filed public redacted versions of the annual reports with its supplemental motion with pages 5 and 6 marked highly confidential and the financial information omitted. The Company states that pages 5 and 6 of the reports contain market-sensitive information that competitors could use to their economic advantage. The Company states further that it treats this information as confidential and proprietary and does not reveal this information in any public forum.

On February 29, 2000, the Commission's Staff filed its recommendation. Staff stated that the Company's balance sheet and income statements were reflected on pages 5 and 6 of the reports respectively and that this information, as presented, was not in the public domain. The Staff recommended approval of the request.

Upon review of the Company's application and supplemental motion, the Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information and that the application complies with 4 CSR 240-10.080. Therefore, the application may be approved. Because the Company has already filed a redacted public copy of its report and filed the confidential information under seal, the Commission will not order an additional filing in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the request for confidential treatment of pages 5 and 6 of the annual reports filed by Sprint Communications Company L.P. and ASC Telecom, Inc., as filed under seal are closed.
2. That the Commission's records department shall file a copy of this order with the public copy of Sprint Communications Company L.P. and ASC Telecom, Inc.'s, 1998 annual reports.
3. That this order shall become effective on March 21, 2000.
4. That this case shall be closed on March 22, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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 9th day of March, 2000.