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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 16th
day of December, 1998.

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	<u>Case No. TC-98-337</u>
)	
Long Distance Services, Inc.)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER REGARDING JOINT MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE
STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OR HEARING MEMORANDUM

On February 9, 1998, the Commission established this case for consideration of the complaint filed by the Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) against Long Distance Services, Inc. (LDSI). On October 1, the Commission granted Staff's Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule. The October 1 order canceled the previously established procedural schedule based on representations that the parties believed that they would be able to reach a settlement of the complaint against LDSI. Staff was directed to file, no later than December 1, either a joint stipulation and agreement or a hearing memorandum and proposed procedural schedule.

On November 30, Staff and LDSI filed a Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Stipulation and Agreement or Hearing Memorandum. The motion indicates that LDSI is involved in a bankruptcy proceeding and is attempting to negotiate a settlement with the Attorneys General of several states. Due to unanticipated events, including the appearance

of an additional interested party in the bankruptcy proceeding, the Attorneys General and LDSI had not yet signed a final settlement. The Attorneys General and LDSI have obtained approval from the bankruptcy court to permit them until April 1, 1999 to complete their settlement.

The Joint Motion requests that the Commission extend the date for filing of a stipulation and agreement or hearing memorandum until April 9, 1999. The extension of time would allow: 1) the Attorneys General to conclude their settlement discussions; 2) the bankruptcy court time to approve or disapprove any proposed settlement; and 3) the Staff an opportunity to review any settlement approved by the bankruptcy court prior to finalizing a settlement of this complaint. The Joint Motion states that the Office of the Public Counsel does not oppose the extension of time.

The Commission has reviewed the Joint Motion and concludes that the motion should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Stipulation and Agreement or Hearing Memorandum is granted.

2. That no later than April 9, 1999, the Staff of the Public Service Commission shall file either a joint stipulation and agreement or a hearing memorandum and proposed procedural schedule setting out any unresolved issues between the parties.

3. That this order shall become effective on December 29, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

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

Woodruff, Regulatory Law Judge