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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

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

**ORDER SETTING EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a complaint against Long Distance Services, Inc. (LDS) on February 9, 1998. On the same date Staff filed a motion for a protective order. The Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Complaint and an Order Establishing Protective Order on February 11. The Commission subsequently issued an Amended Notice of Complaint on March 6.

On March 10, LDS filed a timely answer, as well as a separate pleading containing its affirmative defenses. LDS admits some of the allegations contained in the complaint, but denies other allegations.

The Commission finds that there are contested issues in this case. Thus the Commission finds that it would be appropriate to set a date for an early prehearing conference. The parties should use the early prehearing conference to determine which facts are uncontested, to delineate and narrow the issues, to discuss the possibility of settlement, and to discuss dates for a proposed procedural schedule. The procedural schedule must include either dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing, or a date for the filing of a Stipulation and Agreement. The

Commission will set an early prehearing conference for April 14. The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule by April 21.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That Michelle E. Vocht has complied with 4 CSR 240-2.040, and will be permitted to appear before the Commission *pro hac vice* on behalf of Long Distance Services, Inc.

2. That an early prehearing conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 1998 in Conference Room 3 located at the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

3. That anyone with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.

4. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule by April 21, 1998. The procedural schedule shall include either dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing, or a date for the filing of a Stipulation and Agreement.

5. That this order shall become effective on March 25, 1998.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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)

Elaine E. Bensavage, 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 25th day of March, 1998.

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 25 1998**

**COMMISSION COUNSEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**