

MEMORANDUM

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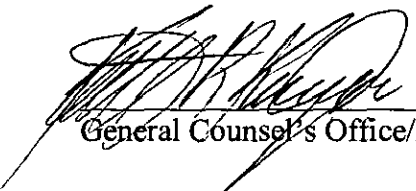
OCT 4 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Tariff File No. 200000260 Case No. TA-2000-240
Alma Long Distance, L.L.C.

From: Sara Buyak  BV
Telecommunications Department

Wes Anderson AH
Utility Operations Division/Date

 10-4-99
General Counsel's Office/Date

Subject: Staff Recommendation, to Grant Temporary Certificate of Service Authority, to Approve
Tariff and to Expedite Determination of Granting of Final Certificate of Service
Authority

Date: October 4, 1999

On April 22, 1999, Alma Telephone Company (Alma) filed its petition with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking approval of its proposed intraLATA dialing parity (ILDP) plan. The Commission assigned the petition Case No. TO-99-524. In the petition, Alma proposed to send a notice to its Customers after the ILDP plan. The notice informed Customers that if they did not select a 1+ intraLATA toll carrier or if approved, the selected interLATA carrier does not provide intraLATA service, the Customer would be assigned to 101XXXX dial around or casual dialing until a carrier is chosen.

On September 17, 1999, Alma Long Distance, L.L.C. (ALD), a newly formed affiliate of Alma, filed an application requesting certification as an intraexchange carrier and a proposed tariff. ALD also requested to Expedite Tariff Approval on or before October 4, 1999. On September 23, 1999, in the Order Directing Staff to Respond, the Commission ordered:

- Staff of the Public Service Commission to file a statement, no later than September 27, 1999, as to whether it will be able to file a Staff recommendation regarding the application of ALD, by October 4, 1999.

On September 27, Staff's Response to Commission's Order Directing Staff to Respond:

- Staff requested ALD to submit an Amended Application and revised tariff sheets by the end of business on September 28, 1999,
- Staff will file a recommendation by October 4, 1999,
- Staff notes the Commission has not yet issued a Notice of Application, nor granted an opportunity to intervene, and
- The intervention deadline may not occur until after the October 20, 1999 effective date that ALD has requested.

On September 29, 1999, the Commission ordered:

- Staff to file a recommendation by October 4, 1999, effective on October 4, 1999.

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The Staff has reviewed the application and proposed tariff. ALD proposes to offer switched long distance network services for voice grade and low speed dial-up data transmission services, direct dial domestic service, inbound toll free service, calling card service, operator services, directory assistance, and dedicated interexchange digital private line services. According to the application, ALD proposes to offer services "throughout the State of Missouri." ALD requests classification as a competitive company. ALD requested waivers that have all been previously granted to other competitive companies.

ALD requests expedited consideration and approval of the proposed Application and the proposed tariff become effective on October 5, 1999, because Alma is in the process of implementing its intraLATA dialing parity plan. Alma's plan calls for the implementation of intraLATA dialing parity in the exchanges served by Alma by October 20, 1999. Those Customers who do not affirmatively select a 1+ intraLATA carrier are defaulted to ALD.

If the Commission does not approve ALD's application and tariff prior to October 5, 1999, Alma customers who have not selected a primary intraLATA toll carrier (PIC) may be without "1+" intraLATA toll service. This fact is the primary reason Staff recommends issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Service Authority as the Commission is authorized to do by 392.410.6, RSMo. Supp. 1998. This statute provides:

The Commission may issue a temporary certificate which shall remain in force, not to exceed one year to assure maintenance of adequate service or to serve particular customers, without notice and hearing, pending the determination of an application for a certificate.

At the request of the Staff, ALD submitted an amended Application and substitute tariff sheets on September 29, 1999. The Staff has no objections to the Application, as amended, and substitute tariff sheets. Staff recommends the Commission issue an order to grant ALD a temporary certificate of service authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services for a period that shall terminate on the earlier of the effective date of the Commission's final order ruling on the application for certificate of service authority or the one year anniversary of the grant of the temporary certificate of authority. Staff has no objections to the applicant's request for competitive classification and request for waivers of certain Missouri statutes and Commission rules. If no parties intervene, Staff recommends the Commission cancel the temporary certificate of service authority and issue a certificate of service authority.

The Staff also recommends the Commission approve the following tariff sheets, as amended:

Alma Long Distance, L.L.C. P.S.C. Mo. No. PSC MO No. 1 Original Sheets 1 - 41

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