



Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

February 14, 2000

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Acting Executive Director
Director, Research and Public Affairs

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

ROBERT G. SCHEMENAUER

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

FILED³

FEB 14 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Case No. TF-2000-428

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **STAFF'S RESPONSE**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Frey
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-8700
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

DLF/lb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³

FEB 14 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of Le-Ru)
Telephone for Authority to Borrow an)
Amount Not to Exceed \$9,164,700 from)
the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural)
Telephone Bank and the Federal)
Financing Bank and in Connection)
Therewith to Execute an Amending)
Telephone Loan Contract Amendment,)
Promissory Notes, and a Restated)
Mortgage, Security Agreement and)
Financing Statement.)

Case No. TF-2000-428

STAFF'S RESPONSE

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") and for its Response in the above-styled case, respectfully states as follows:

1. On January 18, 2000, Le-Ru Telephone Company ("Le-Ru" or "Company") filed with the Commission an Application requesting authority under Section 392.310 RSMo 1994 and 4 CSR 240-2.060 to borrow an amount not to exceed \$9,164,700 from the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Telephone Bank and the Federal Financing Bank in order to fund capital improvements and to finance Le-Ru's operating needs.

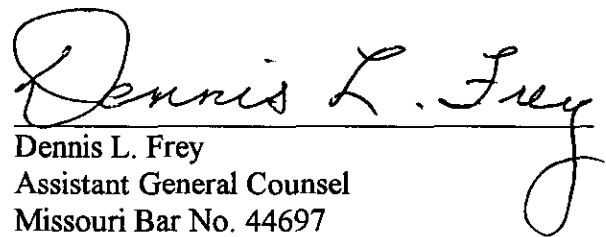
2. Also on January 18th, Le-Ru filed a motion requesting expedited treatment of its Application in order to allow the Company to fill all of the requests of its customers for additional lines and service. Le-Ru's motion did not request action by a date certain.

3. On February 1, 2000, the Commission issued its Order Directing Response, requiring, among other things, that the Staff file by February 14, 2000 a response to advise the Commission of the earliest date by which it could file a recommendation regarding the aforementioned Application. The Order directed Staff to contact the Company and attempt to reach an agreement on a target date for the filing of Staff's recommendation, and further stated that in the event such agreement could be reached, the Commission would take no further action on the Company's request for expedited treatment.

4. Staff and Le-RU, by and through the Company's counsel, have reached an agreement as to the target date for the filing of Staff's recommendation. Accordingly, the Staff hereby advises the Commission that it expects to file its recommendation in this case no later than April 7, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

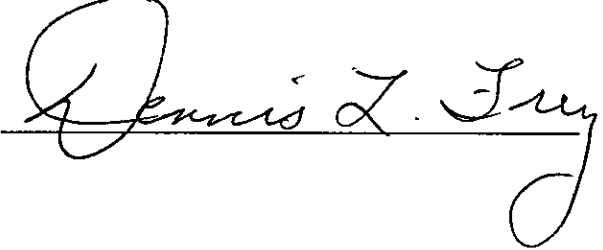
DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel


Dennis L. Frey
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 44697

Attorney for the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8700 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 14th day of February 2000.



**Service List for
Case No. TF-2000-428
February 14, 2000**

**Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102**

**W. R. England/Sondra B. Morgan
312 E. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65105**