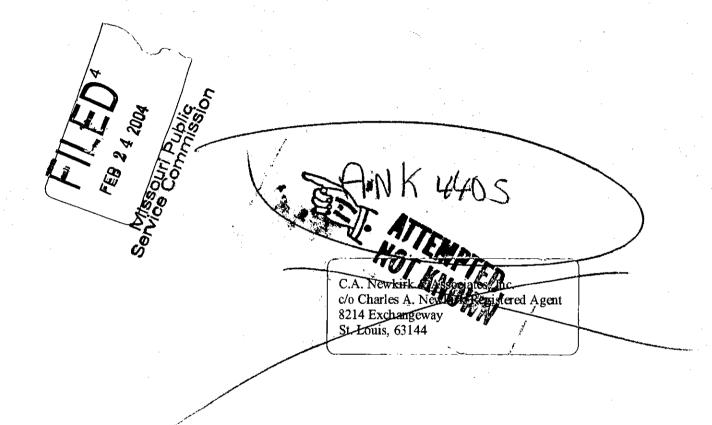
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION P O BOX 360 JEFFERSON CITY MO 65102





MO 41943 (12-91)



	TC-04-379
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OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service () Commission,)	
	Complainant,	
٧.)	Case No. TC-2004-0379
LTS, Inc.,))	
	Respondent.)	

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

LTS, Inc. 1002 East 12th Street Joplin, MO 64801 CERTIFIED MAIL

LTS, Inc. c/o C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. – Owner 2609 Yeager Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129 CERTIFIED MAIL

C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. – owner of LTS, Inc. c/o Charles A Newkirk – Registered Agent 8214 Exchangeway
St. Louis, MO 63144
CERTIFIED MAIL

On February 10, 2004, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a complaint with the Commission against LTS, Inc. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. Under Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070, LTS has 30 days from the date of this notice to file an answer or to file notification that the complaint has been satisfied. LTS is reminded that, as a corporation, it cannot appear before the Commission unless it is represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Missouri. Therefore, its answer must be signed by a Missouri attorney.

All pleadings must be mailed to:

Secretary of the Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

A copy must be served upon the Staff of the Commission at the address listed within the enclosed complaint.

BY THE COMMISSION

Ask Hard Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 19th day of February, 2004.

Jones, Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the N	Missouri Public Servi	ce)	
Commission,)	
	. 16		
	Complaina	int,)	
			Case No. TC-2004
LTS, Inc.,			
		ý	
	Respond	ent.)	

<u>COMPLAINT</u>

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and initiates its complaint pursuant to Section 386.390 and 4 CSR 240-2.070, against LTS, Inc. (the "Company") for violation of the Commission's statutes and rules relating to annual report filings. In support of its complaint, Staff respectfully states as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Respondent LTS, Inc. is a "telecommunications company" and "public utility" as defined in Section 386.020 RSMo (2000) and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to Section 386.250. The Commission granted the Company a certificate of service authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services in Case No. TA-84-150 on July 24, 1986. LTS, Inc. has provided the following contact information to the Commission:

LTS, Inc. 1002 East 12th Street Joplin, MO 64801 The owner of LTS, Inc., a fictitious registration, and the owner's registered agent, according to the records of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, are:

LTS; Inc. c/o C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. - Owner 2609 Yenger Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129

C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. - owner of LTS, Inc. c/o Charles A. Newkirk - Registered Agent 8214 Exchangeway St. Louis, MO 63144

- 2. According to the Office of the Secretary of State of Missouri official web site, C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc., the owner of LTS, Inc., a fictitious registration, was administratively dissolved on August 31, 1995.
- 3. Section 386.396.1 authorizes the Commission to entertain a complaint "setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by a public utility in violation of any law, or of any rule, order or decision," of the Commission.
- 4. Commission practice Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(1) provides that the Commission's Staff, through the General Counsel, may file a complaint.
- 5. The Missouri courts have imposed a duty upon the Public Service Commission to first determine matters within its jurisdiction before proceeding to those courts. As a result, "[t]he courts have ruled that the Division cannot act only on the information of its staff to authorize the filing of a penalty action in circuit court; it can authorize a penalty action only after a contested hearing." State ex rel. Sure-Way Transp., Inc. v. Division of Transp., Dept. of Economic Development, State of Mo., 836 S.W.2d 23, 27 (Mo.App. W.D. 1992) (relying on State v. Carroll, 620 S.W.2d 22 (Mo.App. 1981)); see also State ex rel. Circse v. Ridge, 138 S.W.2d 1012 (Mo.banc 1940). If the Commission determines after a contested hearing that the Company

failed, omitted, or neglected to file its annual report and/or pay its annual assessment, the Commission may then authorize its General Counsel to bring a penalty action in the circuit court as provided in Section 386.600.

COUNT ONE

- 6. Section 392.210.1 states that telecommunications companies must "file an annual report with the Commission at a time and covering the yearly period fixed by the commission."
- 7. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.540(1) requires all telecommunications companies to file their annual reports on or before April 15 of each year.
- 8. On February 3, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent all regulated utilities, including LTS, Inc., a letter notifying them of the requirement to file an annual report covering the calendar year 2002, together with the appropriate form for the Company to complete and return to the Commission and instructions on how the Company may complete its filing electronically. The letter was sent to the address that was current in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System ("EFIS") at that time, and the letter was not returned.
- 9. The Company never returned a completed form, nor did it file its annual report electronically; and as of the date of this pleading, has not filed its 2002 Annual Report. See Affidavit of Janis Fischer, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.
- 10. Section 392.210.1 provides that "[i]f any telecommunications company shall fail to make and file its annual report as and when required or within such extended time as the commission may allow, such company shall forfeit to the state the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every day it shall continue to be in default with respect to such report...."

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COUNT TWO

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- 11. The Commission has the authority to cancel a certificate of service authority if not against the wishes of the certificate holder. State ex rel. City of Sikeston v. Public Serv. Comm'n, 82 S.W.2d 105, 109 (Mo. 1935). Thus, the Commission has the authority to cancel a telecommunications company certificate pursuant to Section 392.410.5, which provides that "[a]ny certificate of service authority may be altered or modified by the commission after notice and hearing, upon its own motion or upon application of the person or company affected." However, the Commission need not hold a hearing, if, after proper notice and opportunity to intervene, no party requests such a hearing. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Serv. Comm'n, 776 S.W.2d 494 (Mo.App. W.D. 1989).
- 12. If the Company fails to respond to this Complaint in a timely manner as required by 4 CSR 240-2.070(8), Staff requests that the Commission find that the Company's default constitutes its consent for the Commission to cancel its certificate and tariff, and therefore cancel the certificate of service authority of LTS, Inc. to provide intereschange telecommunications services and the accompanying tariff, Mo. PSC Tariff No. 1.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Staff now requests that the Commission open a complaint case pursuant to Section 386.390; and, after hearing, find that LTS, Inc. failed, omitted, or neglected to file its 2002 Annual Report as required by Missouri statute; and authorize its General Counsel to bring a penalty action against the Company in the circuit court as provided in Section 386.600, based on the statutory penalties set forth in Sections 392.210.1 (for failing to file annual reports).

Moreover, if the Company fails to respond to this Complaint in a timely manner as required by 4 CSR 240-2.070(8), in addition to a finding in default under 4 CSR 240-2.070(9),

Staff requests that the Commission find that the Company's default constitutes its consent for the Commission to cancel its certificate and tariff, and therefore cancel the certificate of service authority of LTS, Inc. to provide interexchange telecommunications services and the accompanying tariff, Mo. PSC No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE General Counsel

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

Robert S. Berlin Assistant General Counsel Missouri Bar No. 51709

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-7779 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
bob berlin@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 10th day of February 2004.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

LTS, Inc. 1002 East 12th Street Joplin, MO 64801

LTS, Inc. c/o C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. - Owner 2609 Yeager Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129 C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. – Ower of LTS, Inc. C/o Charles A. Newkirk – Registered Agent 8214 Exchangeway St. Louis, MO 63144

John Coffman, Esq.
Office of the Public Counsel
P. O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

AFFIDAVIT

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I, Janis E. Fischer, Utility Regulatory Auditor IV, of the Commission's Auditing Department, first being duly sworn on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the 2002 Annual Report from LTS, Inc.

Janus E. Bischer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this lo day of February 2004

D SUZIE MANKIN
NOTATY Public - MODELY SON
STATE OF MISSOURI
COLS COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP. JUNE 21,2024

NOTARY PUBLIC

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STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,

Missouri, this $\underline{19^{th}}$ day of Feb. 2004.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Ask Hard Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

No. 17

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION February 19, 2004

Case No. TC-2004-0379

Dana K Joyce P.O. Box 360 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 Jefferson City, MO 65102 John B Coffman P.O. Box 7800 200 Madison Street, Suite 640 Jefferson City, MO 65102

LTS, Inc. Legal Department 1002 East 12th Street Joplin, MO 64801 LTS, Inc. c/o C.A Newkirk & Associates, Inc.-Owner 2609 Yeager Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129 C.A. Newkirk & Associates, Inc. c/o Charles A Newkirk-Registered Agent 8214 Exchangeway St. Louis, MO 63144

Enclosed find a certified copy of a NOTICE in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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