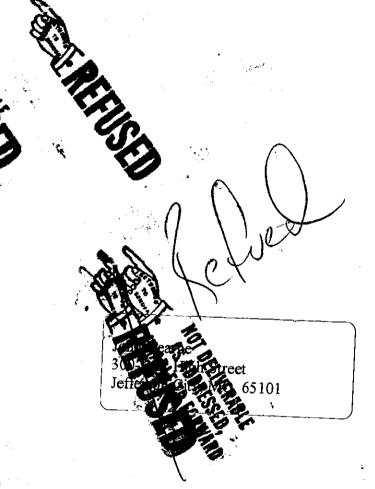
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1st NOTICE\_ 2nd NOTICE\_ RETURNED\_

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	J-4-04 TC - 04-0316 COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse</li> </ul>	A. Signature  X □ Agent □ Addressee
so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by ( Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery  D. Is delivery address different from Item 1?   Yes
John Hearne 300-B E. High Street	If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
Jefferson City, MO 65101	3. Service Type ☐ Certified Mail ☐ Express Mail ☐ Registered ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise ☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes
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PS Form 3811, August 2001 Domestic Retu	urn Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

# OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,	}
Complainant,	<b>\</b>
V.	<u>Case No. TC-2004-0316</u>
TelecomEZ Corp.,	
Respondent.	}

# **NOTICE OF COMPLAINT**

TelecomEZ Corp. 113A-3 Coronado Court Fort Collins, CO 80525

John Hearne, Esq. 300-B E High Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

#### **CERTIFIED MAIL**

On January 29, 2004, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a complaint with the Commission against the Respondent listed above, a copy of which is enclosed. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.070, Respondent shall have 30 days from the date of this notice to file an answer or to file notice that the complaint has been satisfied.

In the alternative, the Respondent may file a written request that the complaint be referred to a neutral third-party mediator for voluntary mediation of the complaint. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, the 30-day time period shall be tolled while the Commission ascertains whether or not the Complainant is also willing to submit to voluntary mediation. If the Complainant agrees to mediation, the time period within which an answer is due shall be suspended pending the resolution of the mediation process. Additional information regarding the mediation process is enclosed.

If the Complainant declines the opportunity to seek mediation, the Respondent will be notified in writing that the tolling has ceased and will also be notified of the date by which an answer or notice of satisfaction must be filed. That period will usually be the remainder of the original 30-day period.

All pleadings (the answer, the notice of satisfaction of complaint or request for mediation) shall be mailed to:

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

A copy shall be served upon the Complainant at the Complainant's address as listed within the enclosed complaint. A copy of this notice has been provided to the Complainant.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Hold Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 4th day of February, 2004.

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

# OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,	)
Complainant,	)
v.	) Case No. TC-2004
TelecomEZ Corp.,	)
Respondent.	) ) )

# **COMPLAINT**

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 TelecomEZ Corp. (the "Company") for violation of the Commission's statutes and rules relating to annual report filings and annual assessment payments. In support of its complaint, Staff respectfully states as follows:

#### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Respondent TelecomEZ Corp. 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. TelecomEZ Corp. has provided the following contact information to the Commission:

TelecomEZ Corp. 113A-3 Coronado Court Fort Collins, CO 80525

The Company's registered agent with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office is:

John Hearne, Esq. 300-B E High Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

- 2. Section 386.390.1 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.
- 3. Commission practice Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(1) provides that the Commission's Staff, through the General Counsel, may file a complaint.
- 4. 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 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**

- 5. 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."
- 6. 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.

- 7. On February 3, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent all regulated utilities, including TelecomEZ Corp., 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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...."

#### **COUNT TWO**

- 10. Section 386.370 authorizes the Commission to determine the amount of an annual assessment for expenses of the Commission to be collected from public utilities operating in this state. This statute provides that the public utility shall pay the amount assessed by July 15 or may at its election pay the assessment in four equal installments not later than July 15, October 15, January 15 and April 15.
- 11. Pursuant to Section 386.370, the Commission promulgated its Assessment Order for Fiscal Year 2004 in Case No. AO-2003-0573, "In the Matter of the Assessment Against the Public Utilities in the State of Missouri for the Expenses of the Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2003."

- 12. As called for by the *Assessment Order* in Case No. AO-2003-0573, the Budget and Fiscal Services Department calculated the amount of the 2004 Fiscal Year annual assessment for the Company and the Commission's Director of Administration rendered the statement of its assessment on behalf of the Commission by letter on June 27, 2003.
- 13. Also in the Assessment Order, the Commission directed "[t]hat each public utility shall pay its assessment as set forth herein."
- 14. If the Company elected to pay on a quarterly basis, quarterly installments were due on July 15, 2003; October 15, 2003; and January 15, 2004. Thus, the Company is delinquent on at least the first three-quarters of its 2004 annual assessment.
- 15. On October 29, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent a letter to to an address that the Company had provided and that was contained in the EFIS system, informing the Company of its unpaid assessment for Fiscal Year 2004.
- 16. The Company, as of the date of this pleading, has not paid its Fiscal Year 2004 assessment and therefore has not complied with the Commission's Assessment Order. See Affidavit of Helen Davis, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.
- 17. Any public utility that fails, omits, or neglects to obey an order of the Commission "is subject to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars" for each offense, if there is no penalty otherwise provided. Section 386.570.1. No penalty for failing to pay annual assessments is set forth in the Commission's statutes.
- 18. As part of the Commission *Order* in this case, the Staff requests that the Commission formally find that it may publicly release the amount of the overdue assessment. As the assessment is derived from statements of revenue provided by regulated utilities and thus subject to the provisions of Section 386.480 ("No information furnished to the commission by a

... public utility ... shall be open to public inspection or made public except on order of the commission ..."), Staff is concerned that in the absence of a Commission order directing its release, the revelation of the assessment amounts in circuit court or elsewhere may be improper.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Staff now requests that the Commission open a complaint case pursuant to Section 386.390; and, after hearing, find that TelecomEZ Corp. 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 Section 392.210.1 (for failing to file annual reports) and Sections 386.570 and 386.590 (for failing to pay assessments); and order that the amount of the overdue assessment may be publicly released.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE General Counsel

/s/ David A. Meyer

David A. Meyer Associate General Counsel Missouri Bar No. 46620

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8706 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
david.meyer@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 the following this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2004.

/s/ David A. Meyer

TelecomEZ Corp. 113A-3 Coronado Court Fort Collins, CO 80525

John Hearne, Esq.
Registered agent for TelecomEZ Corp.
300-B E High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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 swom on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the 2002 Annual Report from TelecomEZ Corp.

Jahrs E. Fischer

Janis & Rivitier

Subscribed and swom to before me this 29 day of

D SUZIE MANKIN
NOISTY PUBLIC - Norsty Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
COLE COUNTY
BY COMMISSION EXP. JUNE 21,2006

NOTARY PUBLIC

#### AFFIDAVIT

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I, Helen Davis, Accountant II in the Commission's Budget and Fiscal Services Department, first being duly swom on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004 annual assessments from TelecomEZ Corp.

> Leten Daniel Helen Davis



Commissioners

STEVE GAW
Chair
CONNIE MURRAY
ROBERT M. CLAYTON III

# Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360 JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI 65102 573-751-3234 573-751-1847 (Fax Number) http://www.psc.state.mo.us ROBERT J. QUINN, JR. Executive Director

WESS A. HENDERSON Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. PRENGER Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

> DANA K. JOYCE General Counsel

### Information Sheet Regarding Mediation of Commission Formal Complaint Cases

Mediation is a process whereby the parties themselves work to resolve their dispute with the aid of a neutral third-party mediator. This process is sometimes referred to as "facilitated negotiation." The mediator's role is advisory and although the mediator may offer suggestions, the mediator has no authority to impose a solution nor will the mediator determine who "wins." Instead, the mediator simply works with both parties to facilitate communications and to attempt to enable the parties to reach an agreement which is mutually agreeable to both the complainant and the respondent.

The mediation process is explicitly a problem-solving one in which neither the parties nor the mediator are bound by the usual constraints such as the rules of evidence or the other formal procedures required in hearings before the Missouri Public Service Commission. Although many private mediators charge as much as \$250 per hour, the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law has agreed to provide this service to parties who have formal complaints pending before the Public Service Commission at no charge. Not only is the service provided free of charge, but mediation is also less expensive than the formal complaint process because the assistance of an attorney is not necessary for mediation. In fact, the parties are encouraged not to bring an attorney to the mediation meeting.

The formal complaint process before the Commission invariably results in a determination by which there is a "winner" and a "loser" although the value of winning may well be offset by the cost of attorneys fees and the delays of protracted litigation. Mediation is not only a much quicker process but it also offers the unique opportunity for informal, direct communication between the two parties to the complaint and mediation is far more likely to result in a settlement which, because it was mutually agreed to, pleases both parties. This is traditionally referred to as "win-win" agreement.

The traditional mediator's role is to (1) help the participants understand the mediation process, (2) facilitate their ability to speak directly to each other, (3) maintain order, (4) clarify misunderstandings, (5) assist in identifying issues, (6) diffuse unrealistic expectations, (7) assist in translating one participant's perspective or proposal into a form that is more understandable and acceptable to the other participant, (8) assist the participants with the actual negotiation process, (9) occasionally a mediator may propose a possible solution, and (10) on rare occasions a mediator may encourage a participant to accept a particular solution. The mediator will not possess any specialized knowledge of the utility industry or of utility law.

In order for the Commission to refer a complaint case to mediation, the parties must both agree to mediate their conflict in good faith. The party filing the complaint must agree to appear and to make a good faith effort to mediate and the utility company against which the complaint has been filed must send a representative who has full authority to settle the complaint case. The essence of mediation stems from the fact that the participants are both genuinely interested in resolving the complaint.

Because mediation thrives in an atmosphere of free and open discussion, all settlement offers and other information which is revealed during mediation is shielded against subsequent disclosure in front of the Missouri Public Service Commission and is considered to be privileged information. The only information which must be disclosed to the Public Service Commission is (a) whether the case has been settled and (b) whether, irrespective of the outcome, the mediation effort was considered to be a worthwhile endeavor. The Commission will not ask what took place during the mediation.

If the dispute is settled at the mediation, the Commission will require a signed release from the complainant in order for the Commission to dismiss the formal complaint case.

If the dispute is not resolved through the mediation process, neither party will be prejudiced for having taken part in the mediation and, at that point, the formal complaint case will simply resume its normal course.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary of the Commission

Hole Hard Roberts

Date: February 4, 2004

## 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 4th day of Feb. 2004.

**Dale Hardy Roberts** 

Hole Hred Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION February 04, 2004

#### Case No. TC-2004-0316

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

TelecomEZ Corp.
Official Representative
113A-3 Coronado Court
Fort Collins, CO 80525

TelecomEZ Corp. John Hearne 300-B E. High Street Jefferson City, MO 65101

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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