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) CASE NO. TO-97-367

On May 15, the same date Staff's proposed rule was filed, Staff filed a Motion to Set Comment Period and Technical Conference. In its motion, Staff stated that until its proposed rule was filed on May 15, no other party had seen this version of the draft rule. Staff suggested that the Commission set a June 13 deadline for comments on Staff's proposed USF rule, set a technical conference for June 30 to July 2, and order the Staff to file a final draft of its proposed rule on July 11. On May 21, Staff filed a pleading clarifying its May 15 motion. Staff indicates that it intended to request that the May 22 comment date be changed to June 13 to provide parties with additional time to review the draft rule. Staff further indicates that all parties are in agreement that the comment deadline should be extended. The Commission issued a notice the same day

suspending the May 22 filing deadline until further notice.

The Commission has considered Staff's motion, and finds that the deadline for filing comments should be extended to June 5, 1997 to provide the parties with additional time to review Staff's proposed rule. However, because of the time constraints contained in Section 392.248, RSMo Supp. 1996, the Commission cannot accommodate Staff's request to extend the comment date to June 13. An additional technical conference will be scheduled for June 12 through June 13. Finally, Staff should consider the written comments and any suggestions made during the technical conference, make whatever revisions to its proposed rule that it finds necessary, and file the final version of its proposed rule by 12:00 p.m. on June 20, 1997.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Motion to Set Comment Period and Technical Conference filed by the Staff of the Commission on May 15, 1997 is granted in part and denied in part.

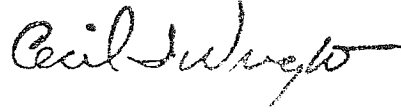
2. That the deadline for the filing of comments on Staff's proposed rule is extended from May 22, 1997 to June 5, 1997.

3. That an additional technical conference is scheduled for June 12 through June 13, 1997. The Staff of the Commission shall make arrangements for the time and place of the conference, shall notify all the parties, and shall file a copy of the notice in the Commission's official case file.

4. That the Staff of the Commission shall file a final version of its proposed rule no later than 12:00 p.m. on June 20, 1997. Staff shall also file an electronic version of its proposed rule on 3.5" high density diskette, in WordPerfect format.

5. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecil I. Wright".

Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Zobrist, Chm., Murray,
and Drainer, CC., Concur.
Crumpton, CC., Absent.

ALJ: Bensavage