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December 15, 2000

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FILED³

DEC 15 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

RE: Case No. TT-2001-117

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**.

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,

Wm K Haas

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WKH/lb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

FILED³

DEC 15 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Access Tariff Filing of)
Ozark Telephone Company.)

Case No. TT-2001-117
Tariff File No. 200100203

JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COME NOW the Parties and for their joint motion state:

1. On August 23, 2000, Ozark Telephone Company (Company) submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) a revised tariff sheet designed to make permanent certain interim access rates that it implemented pursuant to Reports and Orders issued in Case Nos. TO-99-519 and TO-99-254. The Company filed the direct testimony of Robert C. Schoonmaker in support of the revised tariff sheet.

2. By an Order issued October 27, 2000, the Commission established a procedural schedule for this case. The next item on the procedural schedule is a list of issues, order of witnesses and order of cross-examination to be filed on December 15, 2000.

3. On November 30, 2000, the Staff of the Commission filed the rebuttal testimony of three witnesses. In the rebuttal testimony of Mark L. Oligschlaeger, the Staff proposes that the Commission delay ruling on the Company's revised tariff sheet while the Staff continues its earnings investigation of the Company and explores the possibility of settlement, with the results to be presented to the Commission on or before January 31, 2001.

4. During discussions at the prehearing conference held on December 8, 2000, the parties agreed to present this joint motion to the Commission. The Parties ask the Commission to suspend the procedural schedule to allow the Staff additional time to continue its earnings investigation of the Company and to explore the possibility of settlement. The results would be

presented to the Commission on or before January 31, 2000, through supplemental rebuttal testimony in this case, through a stipulation and agreement in this case, or through direct testimony in conjunction with an earnings complaint, as the circumstances warrant.

5. If requested by the Commission, the Parties would be available on January 4, 2001, the previously scheduled hearing date, to answer Commission questions about this proposed process.

6. Because of the uncertain path which the Staff's earnings investigation and settlement negotiations may follow, the parties are not, at this time, proposing dates for a procedural schedule following the January 31, 2000, filing.

7. In consideration for the Commission granting this motion, the Company hereby agrees to a 90 day waiver or extension of the 150 day maximum suspension period set forth in § 392.230.5 RSMo 1994.

8. Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.050(3) provides that when an act is required or allowed by order of the Commission within a specified time, the Commission at its discretion may order the period enlarged before the expiration of the period originally prescribed.

WHEREFORE, the Parties request the Commission to suspend the procedural schedule in this case and to allow the Staff until January 31, 2001 to report on the result of its earnings investigation and settlement negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

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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 15th day of December 2000.

Wm K Hoas

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Case No. TT-2001-117
Revised: November 30, 2000 (lb)**

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