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April 4, 2000

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

FILED²

APR 04 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**Re: Le-Ru Telephone Company
Case No. TF-2000-428**

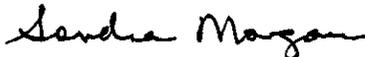
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original plus fourteen (14) copies of Joint Request for Additional Time for Staff Recommendation for filing on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and Le-Ru Telephone Company in the above referenced matter. Please bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel. A copy of this filing is being sent to all parties of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By: 
Sondra B. Morgan

SBM/k

Enclosures

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Dennis L. Frey
Robert Hart

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

APR 04 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of the Application)
of LE-RU TELEPHONE COMPANY)
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

**JOINT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME
FOR STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Come now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and Le-Ru Telephone Company ("Applicant" or "Le-Ru") and for their Joint Request for Additional Time for Staff Recommendation state to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") as follows:

1. On January 18, 2000, Le-Ru filed an application with the Commission requesting authority under § 392.310, RSMo 1994, to borrow certain sums from the Rural Utilities Service ("RUS") and the Rural Telephone Bank ("RTB") to fund capital improvements. On that same date, Le-Ru also filed a motion requesting expedited treatment so that the financing and the necessary construction could be completed expeditiously in order to meet customer requests for additional lines and service.

2. On February 1, 2000, the Commission issued an Order Directing Response in which it directed the Staff to file a response advising the Commission of the earliest date by which it

could file a recommendation regarding the application. Staff was asked to consult with the Applicant and agree on a target date for a recommendation.

3. After consultation, the parties agreed on the date of April 7, and Staff filed a Response on February 14 advising the Commission that it expected to file its recommendation no later than April 7.

4. After some preliminary discussions between the parties, Le-Ru met with several members of the Staff on March 17, 2000. At this meeting, Staff requested that the company provide additional financial information before it made its recommendation. Le-Ru provided this information to the Staff on March 31, 2000.

5. In order to give Staff adequate time to review this information, the parties now request that the Staff be given additional time in which to file its recommendation in this case. The parties agree that it would be reasonable for the Staff to file its recommendation on May 16, 2000.

Wherefore, Staff and Le-Ru respectfully request that the Commission grant Staff additional time up to May 16, 2000, to file its recommendation in this case and for any other relief appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra B. Morgan

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-deliver to counsel for the Office of Public Counsel on April 4, 2000.

Sandra B. Morgan

Sondra B. Morgan