

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application)	
of Fidelity Telephone Company)	
for authority to file, establish,)	Case No. IR-2004-0272
and put into effect new, increased,)	
or revised rates and charges for)	
telephone service.)	

**Response of Fidelity Telephone Company to
Staff's Proposed Procedural Schedule**

Comes now Fidelity Telephone Company (Company or Fidelity) and for its response to Staff's proposed procedural schedule states to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) as follows:

1. On February 10, 2004, Staff filed its Motion for Establishment of Procedural Schedule in the above referenced matter. In its Motion, Staff recommends to the Commission two (2) alternative procedural schedules: the first culminating in an evidentiary hearing on May 3-6, 2004 (Option A); and the second culminating in an evidentiary hearing on April 7-9, 2004 (Option B).

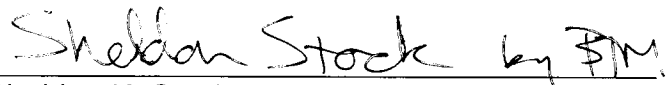
2. Option B, as filed by Staff, did not include a specific briefing schedule. Fidelity proposes that Option B include the filing of initial briefs on April 29, and reply briefs on May 6. This is 18 days earlier than the briefing schedule under Option A.

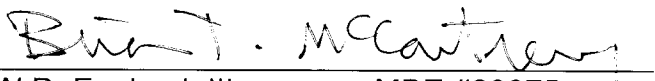
3. Fidelity is willing to proceed under either of Staff's two proposed procedural schedules but would note that Option B contains an evidentiary hearing (i.e., April 7-9) that is very similar to that previously established by the Commission (i.e., April 5-8). In addition, Option B allows significantly more time for the parties to file initial and reply briefs and for the Commission to issue a decision. If, however, the Commission is inclined to adopt

Option A (with evidentiary hearings on May 3-6), Fidelity believes that it is critical that the Commission allow the opportunity for Parties to file reply briefs. Under Option A, initial briefs would be due May 19, 2004 with reply briefs due May 24, 2004. This does not materially extend the process (as it only allows for five days for the filing of reply briefs), but it nevertheless preserves the opportunity for all Parties to respond to matters that were not reasonably anticipated in their initial briefs.

WHEREFORE, Fidelity requests the Commission establish a procedural schedule in the above referenced matter consistent with the recommendations contained in Staff's Motion for Establishment of Procedural Schedule and as modified by this response thereto and for such other orders as are reasonable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

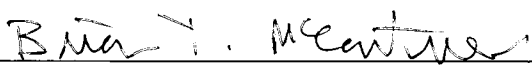
I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered on this 13th day of February, 2004, to the following parties:

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