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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
Green Hills Communications, Inc., for)
a Certificate of Service Authority to)
Provide Local Exchange and Intrastate)
Interexchange Telecommunications)
Services to the Public Within the)
State of Missouri.)

CASE NO. TA-98-157

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO BE EXCUSED FROM HEARING

On February 5, 1998, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) filed a motion asking to be excused from the hearing, which is currently scheduled for Friday, February 13. OPC states that it has no witness, that no one will be prejudiced by its absence, and that its position will be adequately represented by the Staff of the Commission (Staff). However, OPC wishes to retain the right to file a brief or other post-hearing motions.

The Commission finds that OPC should be excused from the hearing as requested, and allowed to retain the right to file a brief or other post-trial motions. However, the Commission does not totally agree with OPC's statement that no one will be prejudiced by its absence. The Commission regrets that the entity charged with the representation of the public interest will not be present at the hearing to represent the public and offer witnesses and evidence in support of its position. Given the position of OPC regarding the Primary Toll Carrier (PTC) Plan, the Commission would have been particularly interested in hearing its witnesses and evidence in this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the motion to be excused from the hearing filed by the

Office of the Public Counsel on February 5, 1998, is granted.

2. That this order shall become effective on February 17, 1998. (

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 17th day of February, 1998.

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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL
OF THE SERVICE COMMISSION