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May 22, 2000

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

FILED²
MAY 22 2000

RE: Case No. TO-2000-609

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**.

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,

Dennis L. Frey
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-8700
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

DLF/lb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

MAY 22 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of @link Networks, Inc.'s)
1999 Annual Report to the Commission as)
an Interexchange Carrier and Confidential)
Treatment of a Portion Thereof)
)

Case No. TO-2000-609

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its recommendation respectfully states:

1. On March 29, 2000, @link Networks, Inc. ("@link") filed an Application with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") requesting confidential treatment of the balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flows contained in @link's 1999 Annual Report to the Commission.

2. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-10.080(7), the Commission may grant confidential treatment of information in an annual report for good cause.

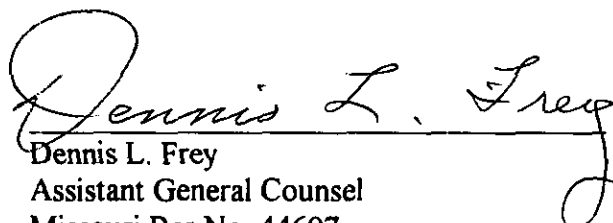
3. In the attached Memorandum, which is labeled Appendix A, the Staff states its opinion that @link has stated good cause for confidential treatment of the subject information

WHEREFORE, the Staff recommends, *inter alia*, that the Commission issue an Order granting @link's request for confidential treatment of its 1999 annual report for a period of one year, and requiring that @link refile the confidential version thereof in accordance with the specifications set forth in the attached Memorandum.

3

Respectfully submitted,

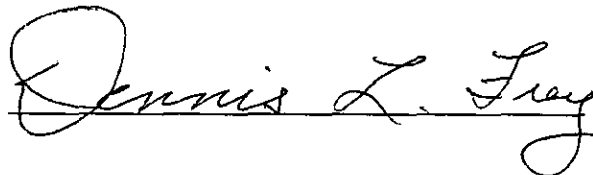
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Certificate of Service

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 22nd day of May, 2000.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. TO-2000-609, @link Networks Inc.

FROM: Bill Meyer, Project Coordinator
Roy Boltz, Regulatory Auditor

MB 5/15/2000
RB 5/15/2000
William Meyer 5/15/2000
Project Coordinator/Date

Wm K Haas 5/22/00
General Counsel's Office/Date

Q. 2.7 5/22/00

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Concerning the Request for Confidential Treatment of portions of the 1999 Annual Report of @link Networks, Inc.

DATE: May 15, 2000

On March 29, 2000, @link Networks, Inc. ("@link"), an interexchange telecommunications carrier, filed with the Commission both a complete and a redacted copy of its 1999 annual report. Accompanying the filing was an Application for Confidential Treatment of Annual Report, wherein @link requested that the Commission afford confidential treatment of the balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows (respectively, pages 5, 6 and 7 of the annual report). In support of its Application, @link asserted that the information for which protection is sought contains "market-sensitive information that competitors could use to their economic advantage," and that @link "treats this information as confidential and proprietary within the company itself and does not reveal this information in any public forum." In the redacted, or public version submitted by @link, asterisks appear in the spaces on the affected pages, along with a notation at the bottom of each stating, "denotes highly confidential material." A separate page follows each affected page, indicating that the information has been filed under seal.

The Staff has reviewed these pages and is of the opinion that this information meets the definition of highly confidential or proprietary, as defined by the protective order issued by the Commission in contested cases, and that, therefore, good cause has been shown based on past Commission practice.

The Staff's review of the proprietary version revealed deficiencies in the report. All financial information was not filled out, rather attachments were substituted instead.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Staff recommends that the Commission issue an Order granting @link Networks, Inc.'s request for confidential treatment of the balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flows contained in its 1999 annual report until April 15, 2001. After this date, the information will be transferred to the public record, unless the Company makes a showing that the information remains confidential.
2. The Staff recommends that upon Commission issuance of an Order granting this request, Records Department be ordered to attach a copy of said Order to the public version already filed.
3. The Staff recommends that the Commission order @link Networks, Inc. to refile a confidential version with the financial information included on the form provided as substitute forms such as stockholder reports and Internal Revenue Service forms are not acceptable.

**Service List for
Case No. TO-2000-609
May 22, 2000**

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