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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 27th
day of June, 1997.

In the Matter of the Application of U.S. Long)
Distance, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to)
provide Basic Exchange and Local Exchange Intra-)
state Telecommunications Services in the State of)
Missouri.)
)

Case No. TA-97-90

ORDER REGARDING SUSPENSION PERIOD

The Missouri Public Service Commission granted a certificate of service authority to provide basic local and local exchange intrastate telecommunications services to U.S. Long Distance, Inc. (USLD) on March 18, 1997. USLD filed a set of tariff sheets on April 18 which were reviewed by the Staff of the Commission (Staff). On Staff's recommendation, the Commission suspended the effective date of the tariff sheets until September 25, set an early prehearing conference, and directed the parties to file a procedural schedule by July 14.

The Commission was advised that the proper suspension period for new service offerings was limited to 60 days under Section 392.220.4¹, RSMo Supp. 1996. The Commission issued a notice directing parties to file their comments on the available suspension period by June 13. The Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) filed a pleading on June 11 arguing that Section 392.220.4 contemplates the offering of a new service by a carrier that is already certificated and providing services. OPC stated that

¹All statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1994, or to the 1996 Supplement.

USLD's tariff does not represent a new service under an existing certificate of service authority, but is part of the process of obtaining a certificate to provide basic local service. OPC stated that the Staff and the Commission should have the necessary time to assure that the initial tariff structure of a new provider is consistent with statutory law and Commission rules and that the Commission is not required to act within 60 days. The Small Telephone Company Group filed concurring comments on June 13. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed comments on June 13, also concurring with OPC's position.

Staff filed comments on June 13 arguing that, because USLD currently has Missouri customers to whom it provides interexchange services, its basic local services qualify as new services and the company is entitled to the 60-day suspension period provided by Section 392.220.4.

The Commission has considered the comments filed and finds that the tariff submitted in this case is a part of the certification process and that the Commission is not limited to a 60-day suspension period. Although USLD may have Missouri customers for its interexchange services, basic local services are clearly of a different character and are thus subject to a separate certification process in which the company must satisfy different criteria. The tariff sheets submitted continue to be suspended until September 25.

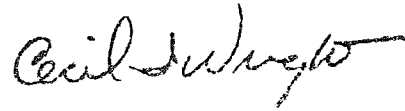
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Commission's Order Suspending Tariff Sheets and Setting Prehearing Conference issued On May 22, 1997, shall remain in full force and effect.

2. The parties shall meet in a prehearing conference on July 7, 1997 and shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than July 14, 1997.

3. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cecil I. Wright", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Crompton, Drainer, Murray
and Lumpe, CC., concur.
Zobrist, Chm., absent.

ALJ: Wickliffe