STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 16th day of October, 1997.

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In the Matter of the Application of Fast)
Connections, Inc. for Certificates of Service)
Authority to Provide Basic Local Telecommunica-)
tions Service and Local Exchange Telecommunica-)
tions Service in Portions of the State of)
Missouri and to Classify Said Services and the)
Company as Competitive.)

ORDER DENYING CONTINUANCE

Fast Connections, Inc. (Fast Connections) submitted a tariff to the Commission on May 19, with an effective date of June 18. Fast Connections subsequently withdrew this tariff and filed a new tariff for approval on June 5, 1997, with an effective date of July 6. Fast Connections submitted substitute sheets on June 23, July 18 and July 28, and extended the effective date of its tariff to August 7.

On August 5, the Commission suspended Fast Connections' tariff until December 5 so that the Commission would have additional time to make a well-reasoned policy decision regarding what protections, if any, should be guaranteed for end users before providers are permitted to offer prepaid services. On September 19, the Commission issued an order setting a hearing on Fast Connections' tariff for October 9. This hearing date was continued to October 20 in response to Fast Connections' first motion for continuance.

Fast Connections filed a second motion for continuance on October 15, requesting that the Commission hold the hearing after it has issued a decision regarding the tariff filed by Max-Tel Communications, Inc., another prepaid basic local services provider, in Case No. TA-97-342. In its motion, Fast Connections stated that it would like to have the opportunity to revise its tariff, if necessary, to conform to the Commission's forthcoming decision in Case No. TA-97-342, prior to any hearing on the Fast Connections tariff. Fast Connections further stated that the motion is unopposed by other parties, and that Fast Connections will extend the effective date of its tariff to January 8, 1998, in order to accomplish its objectives.

The Commission has reviewed Fast Connections' tariff filing, the case papers in this case and in Case No. TA-97-342. The Commission finds that it is inappropriate for Fast Connections to unilaterally extend its tariff effective date when the tariff has already been suspended by the Commission. In addition, the Commission takes official notice that its hearing room will not be available at an early enough date prior to the effective date of the tariff at issue to permit a second continuance. Therefore, the Commission finds that Fast Connections' motion for continuance should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Fast Connections, Inc.'s motion for continuance is denied.

2. That the Commission shall conduct a hearing on Monday, October 20, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 520B, Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, as previously ordered on October 3.

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3. That this order shall become effective on October 16, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

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Cecil I. Wright Executive Secretary

(SEAL)

Lumpe, Ch., Drainer and Murray, CC., concur. Crumpton, C., absent.

Randles, Regulatory Law Judge