

P-443/EM-89-305 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Tariff Filing by MCI to Provide Operator Assisted Calling to Its Dial "1," Prism III and Prism Plus Customers, and to Introduce Payphone, Institutional Phone Service, and LEC Calling Card Service	ISSUE DATE: July 20, 1992 DOCKET NO. P-443/EM-89-305 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION
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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 16, 1990, the Commission issued its ORDER GRANTING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN OPERATOR SERVICES, GRANTING INTERIM AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN OPERATOR SERVICES, AND REQUIRING REFUND PLAN in this docket. In that Order the Commission required MCI Telecommunications Corporation, now known as MCI Telecommunications, Inc. (MCI or the Company), to file a proposed refund plan within 30 days. The refund was to cover the total intrastate revenue collected by MCI through providing operator services from locations serving transient end-users (AOS) prior to receiving interim authority from the Commission.

On February 26, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER REJECTING REFUND PLAN AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS. In that Order the Commission rejected MCI's proposed refund plan and required the Company to file tariffs reflecting the appropriate refund within 30 days of the Order. The Commission ordered the refund to be completed within 12 months from the date the new tariffs went into effect. Based on this calculation, the refund would be completed by September 9, 1992. The refund would be effected by reducing rates for AOS until the refund amount was reached.

On May 28, 1992, MCI filed a petition requesting that the Commission extend the refund deadline from September 9, 1992 to March 9, 1993. MCI gave three reasons for its request:

1. MCI would be faced with an administrative burden if it were required to file a new refund plan;

2. MCI would be forced to lower its AOS rates further to complete the refund within the September 9, 1992 deadline. A further reduction, followed by a substantial rate increase once the refund is complete, would result in customer confusion;
3. Extending the deadline would enable MCI to spread the benefits of the refund among a broader customer base.

The matter came before the Commission for consideration on July 7, 1992.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Company's request for a time extension is based upon sound reasons. No party will be prejudiced by the delay. There were no comments in opposition to the requested extension. The Commission agrees that the delay will serve to spread the refund among a broader customer base. This will slightly increase the likelihood that parties who were AOS customers during the pre-approval period may be AOS customers receiving the benefit of the rate decrease during the refund period.

The Commission will grant MCI's request for an extension of its refund deadline from September 9, 1992 to March 9, 1993.

ORDER

1. MCI is granted a time extension from September 9, 1992 to March 9, 1993 in which to complete the AOS refund required under the Commission's August 16, 1990 Order.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

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