

P-405/AR-95-1048

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs  
Tom Burton  
Marshall Johnson  
Dee Knaak  
Don Storm

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition by Frontier  
Communications of Minnesota, Inc.  
Requesting Adoption of an Alternative  
Regulation Plan

ISSUE DATE: January 5, 1996

DOCKET NO. P-405/AR-95-1048

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On October 10, 1995, Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc. (Frontier or the Company) filed a proposed alternative regulation plan pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 237.76 through 237.772.

On October 31, 1995, the Commission issued its NOTICE OF FILING, ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES, AND ORDER CONVENING SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE in this docket. Among other things, that Order established the following comment deadlines: 1) comments on the merits of the proposed plan--90 days from the filing of the plan; 2) reply comments--30 days thereafter; 3) responses to reply comments--within 10 days of the expiration of the reply comment period. Order at p. 6. The Order also stated that the Commission delegated to its Executive Secretary the authority to vary time lines set under the Order. Order at p. 6.

On December 28, 1995, Frontier filed for a time extension. Frontier stated that fruitful settlement discussions had already taken place, and parties to the proceeding hoped to resolve many of the issues. The Department of Public Service and the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of Attorney General, however, felt that an extension to the comment periods would be necessary to accommodate further settlement discussions. Frontier therefore requested and consented to a 30-day time extension to all dates contained in the October 31 Order, including the deadlines for initial comments, replies, and responses to replies. In addition, Frontier requested and consented to a 30-day extension to the Commission's six-month deadline for a decision on the alternative regulation plan, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.764, subd. 1(e).

No party expressed opposition to Frontier's request for time extensions.

On January 4, 1996, the matter came before the Commission for consideration.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission finds that Frontier's request for an extension of the time periods is reasonable and should be granted. The delay is not lengthy. The additional time should allow parties to prepare thorough comments based upon the series of settlement meetings. The Commission will grant Frontier a time extension of 30 days for the time periods in the October 31 Order, including the deadlines for initial comments, reply comments, and responsive comments.

Under Minn. Stat. § 237.764, subd. 1(e), the Commission is required to issue a decision within six months of the filing of an alternative regulation plan, "unless the commission and the petitioning company agree to an extension of the time for commission action." Frontier has agreed to a 30 day extension of the deadline for a decision on this plan. The Commission will extend the deadline for issuing its decision in this matter by 30 days, to May 10, 1996.

All other pertinent deadlines from the October 31, 1995, Order are extended by 30 days.

### **ORDER**

1. The Commission grants a time extension of 30 days to the time periods set in the October 31, 1995, Order. Initial comments are now due 120 days from the date of the filing of the plan, reply comments are due within 30 days thereafter, and responsive comments are due within an additional 10 days
2. The deadline for Commission action on this alternative regulation plan is extended to May 10, 1996.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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