COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF UNITED)
STATES CELLULAR OPERATING)
COMPANY (FORMERLY KNOWN AS)
KENTUCKY RSA #9-10, INC.) FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY) CASE NO. 97-161
TO CONSTRUCT A CELL SITE)
NORTHEAST OF THE SLADE)
INTERCHANGE ON THE MOUNTAIN)
PARKWAY, OFF NADA TUNNEL ROAD,)
NEAR NADA ARCHES IN POWELL)
COUNTY, KENTUCKY (SLADE SITE))

<u>ORDER</u>

On June 10, 1997, the Commission issued its Order in this case granting U.S. Cellular Operating Company authority to construct and operate a cell site in Slade, Kentucky. Subsequently, on December 16, 1997, the Commission modified its original Order to provide that the cell site would be constructed and operated by Westel-Milwaukee Company, Inc. ("Westel"). On June 2, 1998, Westel filed a motion requesting that the Commission extend the one year period given by KRS 278.020 to construct the site. As ground for its motion, Westel states it has been informed that, because the property on which the facility is to be constructed is in the Daniel Boone National Forest, an officially designated wilderness area, it is required by federal law to file an environmental assessment with, and receive approval from, the Federal Communications Commission prior to beginning construction.

KRS 278.020(1) states that the authority conferred by the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity expires within one year from the date of its issuance "exclusive of any delay due to the order of any court or <u>failure to obtain any necessary grant or consent</u>. . . ." The grounds for Westel's motion are those provided by the statute. Accordingly, the motion to extend the time in which construction must commence should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the period in which Westel is required to exercise the authority granted to it in this case is hereby extended until 90 days after Westel's receipt of all required permits and approvals from applicable government agencies including the FCC.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of June, 1998.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

For the Commission

ATTEST:

Executive Director