UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

Timothy J. Muris, Chairman

Mozelle W. Thompson

Orson Swindle

Thomas B. Leary

Pamela Jones Harbour

In the Matter of

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Docket No. 9311

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTION AND RESPONSE THERETO

This matter is before the Commission on a Joint Motion to Amend Briefing Schedule ("Joint Motion") filed on October 8, 2003 by Respondent and Counsel for the Complaint. The Commission issued the administrative complaint in this matter on September 12, 2003, and Respondent was served with the complaint on September 17, 2003. The complaint provides, *inter alia*, that Respondent has until thirty days from the date of service of the complaint "to file either an answer or a dispositive motion." Respondent therefore must file either an answer or a dispositive motion by October 17, 2003. If Respondent files a dispositive motion, then -- pursuant to Commission Rule 3.22(c), 16 C.F.R. § 3.22(c) (2003) -- Counsel for the Complaint must file their answer within ten days after they are served with Respondent's motion.

The Joint Motion indicates that Respondent "intends to file a dispositive motion," and requests that the Commission modify the schedule set forth in the complaint so that (1) Respondent would have to file its dispositive motion on or before October 24, 2003, and (2) Counsel for the Complaint would have to file their answer thereto on or before November 25, 2003.

The Commission has determined to grant these requests. As the Commission has previously indicated, the time periods provided in the Commission's Rules of Practice ordinarily should afford parties to FTC proceedings sufficient time to file pleadings and briefs of sufficient

See In the Matter of Chicago Bridge & Iron Company N.V., Chicago Bridge & Iron Company, and Pitt-Des Moines, Inc., Docket No. 9300, Order Granting Extensions of Time to File Appeal and Answering Briefs, at 2 (July 17, 2003).

quality and detail to aid in the preparation of Commission opinions and orders, and the Commission is therefore reluctant to extend those time periods. Nevertheless, the Commission has determined that in this matter, the time required to effect complete and thorough preparation of a dispositive motion, and of an answer thereto, makes a limited extension of time for the filing of these pleadings appropriate. Accordingly, upon consideration of the Joint Motion,

IT IS ORDERED THAT (1) Respondent shall file its dispositive motion on or before October 24, 2003, and (2) Counsel for the Complaint shall file their response on or before November 25, 2003.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark Secretary

ISSUED: October 15, 2003