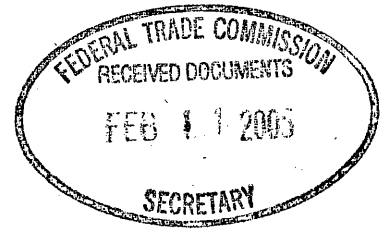


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



\_\_\_\_\_  
In the Matter of )  
 )  
 )

UNION OIL COMPANY OF )  
CALIFORNIA, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

DOCKET NO. 9305

**ORDER EXTENDING THE ONE YEAR  
DEADLINE FOR FILING THE INITIAL DECISION**

Commission Rule 3.51(a) requires that initial decisions be filed within one year following the issuance of the complaint, but allows the Administrative Law Judge to extend the one year deadline by an additional period of up to sixty days, upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances. 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a). Such extension, upon its expiration, may be continued for additional consecutive periods of up to sixty days, provided that each additional period is based upon a finding by the Administrative Law Judge that extraordinary circumstances are still present. 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a).

The Complaint in this matter was issued on March 4, 2003. On November 25, 2003, an Initial Decision was filed in this matter pursuant to Rule 3.22(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice which requires that "[w]hen a motion to dismiss a complaint . . . is granted with the result that the proceeding before the Administrative Law Judge is terminated, the Administrative Law Judge shall file an initial decision in accordance with the provisions of § 3.51." 16 C.F.R. § 3.22(e). Complaint Counsel appealed the November 25, 2003 Initial Decision to the Commission.

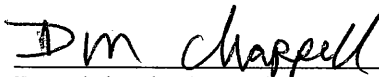
While the case was on appeal to the Commission, the one year time period from the filing of the Complaint passed. The length of time that the case was before the Commission was 224 days (from November 25, 2003 to July 6, 2004). Adding 224 days to the date of one year from the issuance of the Complaint resulted in a deadline of October 14, 2004 for filing an initial decision.

By Orders dated October 14, 2004, and December 13, 2004, the one year deadline was previously extended by two additional periods of sixty days each to extend the deadline for filing an initial decision to February 11, 2005.

The trial in this matter concluded on January 28, 2005. The parties properly requested and were given reasonable time for filing their proposed findings of fact and post trial briefs, which have not yet been filed. Accordingly, extraordinary circumstances continue to exist.

The one year deadline is hereby extended from February 11, 2005, by an additional period of sixty days, extending the deadline for filing the Initial Decision in this case to April 14, 2005.

ORDERED:

  
D. Michael Chappell  
Administrative Law Judge

Date: February 11, 2005