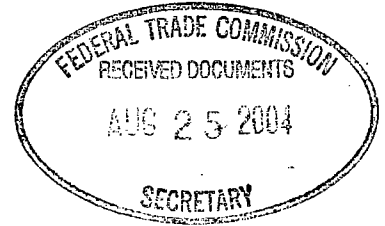


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



In the Matter of _____)
_____))
North Texas Specialty Physicians, _____)
Respondent. _____)
_____)

Docket No. 9312


**CERTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION
OF TIME TO FILE INITIAL DECISION**

Rule 3.51(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice states that an Initial Decision shall be filed "within ninety (90) days after closing the hearing record pursuant to § 3.44(c) . . . or within such further time as the Commission may by order allow upon written request from the Administrative Law Judge." 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a). Pursuant to Commission Rule 3.44(c), the hearing record was closed on June 8, 2004. Ninety days from the close of the record will be September 7, 2004. For the reasons set forth below, pursuant to Rule 3.51(a), the undersigned seeks an extension of 60 days to file the Initial Decision in this case.

Rule 3.51(a) also states that an Initial Decision shall be filed within one year "after the issuance of the administrative complaint, except that the Administrative Law Judge may, upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances, extend the one-year deadline for a period of up to sixty (60) days." 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a). The Complaint in this matter was issued on September 16, 2003. One year from the issuance of the Complaint is September 16, 2004. By separate order, that deadline will be extended by the Administrative Law Judge.

The trial in this matter commenced on April 27, 2004 and concluded on May 25, 2004. Closing arguments were heard on July 21, 2004. Nearly 1,500 exhibits were admitted, 17 witnesses testified, either live or by videotape, and there are 2,958 pages of trial transcript. The parties' proposed findings of fact, replies to proposed findings of fact, post trial briefs, and reply briefs total 893 pages. The parties' final post trial briefs were filed on July 8, 2004.

The extensive record must be thoroughly reviewed. Additional time is necessary to properly develop the findings of fact and legal analysis. Accordingly, the Commission is requested to extend the time for filing the Initial Decision by 60 days to November 8, 2004.


D. Michael Chappell
Administrative Law Judge

Date: August 25, 2004