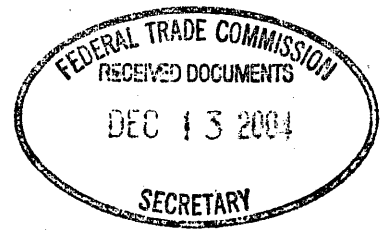


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



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 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 before the Commission, the one year from the filing of the Complaint date, March 4, 2004, passed. The Commission issued its opinion reversing the November 25, 2003 Initial Decision on July 6, 2004. The length of time between November 25, 2003 and July 6, 2004 is 224 days. One year from the issuance of the Complaint plus the 224 days the case was before the Commission is October 14, 2004.

By Order dated October 14, 2004, the one year deadline was extended to December 13, 2004. The trial in this matter is still proceeding. It is, therefore, not possible to issue an initial decision by December 13, 2004. Accordingly, extraordinary circumstances continue to exist.

The one year deadline is hereby extended from December 13, 2004 by an additional period of sixty days, extending the deadline for filing the Initial Decision in this case to February 11, 2005.

ORDERED:



D. Michael Chappell
Administrative Law Judge

Date: December 13, 2004