

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

GENERAL ORDER NO. 26

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served September 21, 2020

Commission Operations in Exigent)
Circumstances Caused by the)
COVID-19 Pandemic)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's office was closed to the public by General Order No. 23, served March 30, 2020. In order to prevent prejudice to parties with matters pending before the Commission, General Order No. 23 also tolled filing deadlines while the office is closed.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, the Commission's office closure has endured longer than originally anticipated, with the result that response deadlines set to expire on March 31, 2020, or later have been delayed indefinitely.

It is now apparent that the pandemic may continue into the foreseeable future and the Commission must adapt to this new reality. The Commission has already responded by ending the tolling of protest deadlines in application proceedings, thereby allowing new applications for operating authority to move forward and reach a decision.¹ Continuation of the tolling period for other deadlines is delaying resolution of formal proceedings pending before the Commission.

Despite the office closure, most common types of filings can be electronically submitted through the Commission website. In addition, applicants, carriers, and members of the public may continue to file pleadings, documents, and other papers by mail or delivery service. Commission staff is working remotely and continues to process filings. Therefore, ending the deadline tolling period will not prejudice parties with matters before the Commission or the public.

Accordingly, we find that it is in the public interest to end the tolling of all filing deadlines while the office continues to be closed to the public.

Pursuant to General Order No. 23:

except as otherwise provided by law, in computing
any period of time prescribed or allowed by any

¹ See *In re Empire Coach Line, Inc.*, No. MP-20-124, Gen. Order No. 25 (July 28, 2020).

rule, regulation, correspondence, or order of the Commission or by the Compact pursuant to Commission Rule No. 7-01, the time period from March 31, 2020, until the last day before the Commission's physical office reopens to the public, shall not be included.

As described below, the preceding provision of General Order No. 23 shall cease to apply and calculation of filing deadlines and other periods of time pursuant to Rule No. 7-01 shall resume.

Deadlines calculated pursuant to Rule No. 7-01 not involving an application protest period and set between March 31, 2020, and today shall commence to run on the date of this order. When calculating such deadlines where the period of time commenced to run before March 31, 2020, but has yet to elapse due to General Order No. 23, the days within the period of March 31, 2020, through October 6, 2020, shall be excluded.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS MAROOTIAN, HOLCOMB, AND RICHARD:



Jeffrey M. Lehmann
Executive Director