

TORONTO COMPUTER LEASING INQUIRY

The Honourable Denise Bellamy, Commissioner

Ruling

Regarding a Motion by the City of Toronto To Extend the Deadline for Closing Submissions

At the end of the day this past Friday, the City brought a motion on short notice to extend by two weeks the deadline for closing submissions to the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry. The City's position is that, despite its best efforts, it simply will not be able to meet the deadline of November 22, 2004, without seriously prejudicing the City's interests. The City's motion was either supported or unopposed by counsel present.

I will grant the City's request, although I do so reluctantly. As I have said many times previously, I remain committed to controlling costs. Every delay increases the costs of this Inquiry. On the other hand, I am well aware that there is a substantial amount of material to synthesize. Indeed, in support of her motion for the extension, counsel for the City reported that the City's written materials would likely exceed 1200 pages organized into 29 chapters.

It would not be fair for me to extend the deadline for the City and not for others. Nor does the City take that position. Accordingly, I make the following ruling:

1. All those who were to provide their closing submissions by November 22 will now have until 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 6, 2004 to do so, although I encourage and welcome submissions earlier than that date;
2. The submissions will be posted on our website shortly thereafter. Our goal is to have them up by the morning of Friday, December 10. If there is any change to this, it will be posted on our website;
3. It follows that if the deadline for submissions is extended, so too is the deadline for the presentation of oral or written reply submissions. I have asked Commission Counsel, Daina Groskaufmanis, to invite all those who might be making reply submissions to inform us by the end of next week whether they expect to be making those submissions orally or in writing. This will enable us to set the appropriate amount of time for the submissions. For now, I will tentatively set the week of January 10, 2005 to hear oral reply submissions, and a deadline of Monday, January 17, 2005 for the receipt of written reply submissions;
4. Apart from these dates, the other provisions which address Closing Submissions continue to apply. These are posted on our website;

5. In so far as submissions for the Toronto External Contracts Inquiry are concerned, I remind counsel of Ms. Groskaufmanis's e-mail of October 26, 2004. Counsel should expect to submit closing submissions approximately four weeks after the evidence is completed.

Motion Heard: Friday, November 5, 2004
Ruling: Monday, November 8, 2004