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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT, OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of

Docket No. 7990

TOBY RAY NELSON; COLONIAL BONDS, INC.; ST. LOUIS FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.,

ORDER ON ADOI REQUEST FOR REHEARING

Respondents.

On August 30, 1993, counsel for the Arizona Department of Insurance ("ADOI") filed a request for rehearing pursuant to A.A.C. R4-14-114(B)(6). On September 27, 1993, counsel for St. Louis Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Ltd. ("St. Louis") filed a response to the ADOI's request. Based upon a review of the ADOI's request and St. Louis' response and upon a review of the record in this matter, we find as follows.

The July 30, 1993 Order of the Director ("the Order") included a finding that "we expressly do not make any findings of fact or conclusions of law as to whether issuance of these policies by St. Louis in Illinois, California or Florida was in compliance with the laws of those respective states." The ADOI is seeking review of this finding.

A.R.S. §20-401.01(A) provides in pertinent part that it is unlawful for any insurer to transact insurance business in Arizona without a certificate of authority from the Director.

On September 29, 1993, counsel for ADOI filed a motion to strike St. Louis' response on the ground it was not timely filed. We find that no prejudice resulted from this delay in filing and that the response time may be extended. The ADOI's motion to strike is denied.

A.R.S. §20-401.01(B)(3) states that A.R.S. §20-401.01(A) is not applicable to "transactions in this state involving a policy lawfully solicited, written and delivered outside of this state covering only subjects of insurance not resident, located or expressly to be performed in this state at the time of issuance, and which transactions are subsequent to the issuance of such policy."

For the ADOI to prove that St. Louis violated A.R.S. §20-401.01(A) by issuing policies in Illinois, California and Florida, the ADOI had to show that A.R.S. §20-401.01 was applicable to those transactions. It was the ADOI's burden to show that the policies were not lawfully solicited in those states and therefore A.R.S. §20-401.01(A) was applicable.

At the hearing, the ADOI presented testimony from representatives from the Illinois and California Departments of Insurance and from insurance brokers in Illinois, California and Florida regarding St. Louis' compliance or noncompliance with statutory requirements in those states. While these individuals opined that St. Louis failed to satisfy statutory requirements, no hearings on St. Louis had been held in those states and none of these states had issued any formal findings of noncompliance. For the Arizona Director of Insurance to find as a matter of fact and to conclude as a matter of law that St. Louis was not in compliance with the laws of these other states when such a final determination of noncompliance has not been made by those states would effectively deny St. Louis of due process. For the reasons stated above, in the absence of a formal determination of noncompliance by the Illinois, Florida or California

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