

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

The Office of the Public Counsel,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2006-0180</u>
)	
Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

PUBLIC COUNSEL’S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel and for its Status Report states as follows:

1. On January 26, 2006, the Commission ordered Public Counsel to file a status report no later than February 14, 2006.

2. Public Counsel has met in person and by telephone several times with representatives of Southern Missouri Natural Gas (f/k/a Southern Missouri Gas Company), and the Staff of the Commission. In those meetings, the parties have been discussing the possibility of a negotiated settlement. The meetings have been productive, but because of other workload, a final agreement has not yet been reached. Public Counsel believes that the parties will be able to resolve this matter by agreement, and requests a week to finalize the agreement.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission accept this status report, and allow Public Counsel until February 21, 2006 to file a Stipulation and Agreement, another status report, or a pleading recommending a procedural schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Lewis R. Mills, Jr.

By: _____
Lewis R. Mills, Jr. (#35275)
Public Counsel
P. O. Box 2230
Jefferson City MO 65102
(573) 751-1304
(573) 751-5562 FAX
lewis.mills@ded.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 14th day of February 2006:

General Counsel
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573-751-1248
Fax: 573-751-1928
GenCounsel@psc.mo.gov

Lera Shemwell
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Lera.Shemwell@psc.mo.gov

James Fischer
Southern Missouri Natural Gas
101 Madison--Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573-636-6675
Fax: 573-636-6038
jfischerpc@aol.com

/s/ Lewis R. Mills, Jr.
