

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

UNITED STATES ARMY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY 901 NORTH STUART STREET **ARLINGTON VA 22202-1837** 

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF Regulatory Law Office U-4147

18 April 2006

SUBJECT: Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission v. Missouri Pipeline Company, LLC; Missouri Gas Company, LLC; Omega Pipeline Company, LLC, Mogas Energy, LLC; United Pipeline Systems, Inc., Gateway Pipeline

Company, LLC, Missouri PSC Case No. GC 2006-0378

Hon. Colleen M. Dale Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission Governor Office Building 200 Madison Street Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED**<sup>4</sup>

APR 1 9 2006

Missouri Public Service Commission

Dear Ms. Dale:

Enclosed for filing find the original and eight copies of the petition for leave to intervene on behalf of the consumer interest of the United States Department of Defense and other affected Federal Executive Agencies (hereinafter "DOD/FEA") in the above styled proceeding. Also enclosed find the original and eight copies of the statement of visiting attorney and entry of appearance.

Copies of these pleadings are being sent in accord with the Certificate of Service. Inquiries regarding this proceeding should be directed to the undersigned at the address above or at telephone number (703) 696-1646.

Sincerely yours

David A. McCormick General Attorney

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CF: Certificate of Service

# STATE OF MISSOURI



APR 1 9 2006

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

v.

Case No. GC 2006-0378

Missouri Pipeline Company, LLC; Missouri Gas

Company, LLC; Omega Pipeline Company, LLC

Mogas Energy, LLC; United Pipeline Systems, Inc. )

Gateway Pipeline Company, LLC

)

#### PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE

Robert N. Kittel
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For

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND OTHER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

David A. McCormick Attorney

Of Counsel

Dated: 18 APRIL 2006

# STATE OF MISSOURI

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission	)	
v.	)	Case No. GC 2006-0378
Missouri Pipeline Company, LLC; Missouri Gas Company, LLC; Omega Pipeline Company, LLC Mogas Energy, LLC; United Pipeline Systems, Inc. Gateway Pipeline Company, LLC	)))))	

## PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE

In accord with 4 CSR 240-2.075, the Secretary of Defense, through duly authorized counsel, on behalf of the consumer interest of the United States Department of Defense and other affected Federal Executive Agencies (collectively referred to as "DOD/FEA"), requests leave to intervene in the above styled proceeding which has been instituted by the Commission to investigate the Complaint of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed on or about 31 March 2006. As grounds for this petition, your petitioner states:

I.

That he is duly authorized by law to make and file this petition. <sup>1</sup>

The Secretary of Defense has been delegated authority by the General Services Administration to represent, through Department of the Army counsel, the consumer interest of all the Federal Executive Agencies in this proceeding under 40 U.S.C.A. 481(a)(4) and 486(d) in this regulatory proceeding. See also: 48 CFR § 41.101 for intervention definition.

That the name, address, telephone and facsimile copier numbers of the person to whom communications in regard to this petition should be addressed are:

David A. McCormick, General Attorney Regulatory Law Office U.S. Army Legal Services Agency JALS-RL 4147 901 N. Stuart Street, Room 713 Arlington, VA 22203-1837

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III.

That the interest of DOD/FEA, as a rate paying customer, in this proceeding is manifest:

- \* The United States maintains military and civilian activities within the State of Missouri.<sup>2</sup> Some of these federal customers (at least indirectly) procure gas utility service via the respondents: Missouri Gas Company (MGC), and Missouri Pipeline Company (MPC). Fort Leonard Wood is the major federal installation receiving such utility service. Respondent Omega Pipeline Co. LLC (OMEGA) is an Army contractor with gas distribution operations within the federal enclave,<sup>3</sup> of Fort Leonard Wood and whose sole customer is the federal government (including various federal non-appropriated fund instrumentalities, federal agencies and other tenants.).<sup>4</sup>
- \* The total attributable intrastate gas utility billings for Fort Leonard Wood, alone,

For instance, there are federal agencies with offices in Rolla, St. James, Waynesville, Cuba and St. Robert, MO. Of course, the Army, at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, is the primary federal agency herein affected.

The undersigned counsel cannot waive federal supremacy, only <u>Congress</u> can do that. Commentary on State regulatory jurisdiction related to on-post (within a federal enclave) utility system privatization contractors is made in discussed <u>Baltimore Gas & Electric Company v. United States</u>, 133 F. Supp. 2d 721 (2001), <u>Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. v. United States</u>, 290 F3d 734 (CA4 2002). Disputes, grievances and contract interpretations involving <u>federal</u> contracts would be subject to a federal dispute resolution process rather than adjudication before a State tribunal.

Commentary on State regulatory jurisdiction and utility franchise territory matters within a federal enclave is made in *Black Hills Power and Light Co. v. Weinberger*, 808 F.2d 665, cert. denied, 108 Sup. Ct. 73, 484 U.S. 818 (1987), and see also *West River Electric Association v. Black Hills Power and Light Co.*, 719 F.Supp. 1489 (1989), 107 P.U.R.4th 558 (1989), aff'd, *West River Electric Association v. Black Hills Power and Light Co.*, 918 F.2d 713, 118 P.U.R. 4th 510 (CA-8 1990).

[not including commodity (gas) cost, or any costs of on-post contractor services] was over \$1,770,000, in calendar 2005. The gas services contract applicable to Fort Leonard Wood gas utility service incorporates and is tied to tariff rates of MGC and MPC. The reasonableness of those MGC and MPC tariff rates are a legitimate concern of the consumer interest of DOD/FEA. Total billings for gas service at Fort Leonard Wood in calendar 2005 [including commodity (gas) cost and on-post contractor services] exceeded \$7.5 million.

- \* That there are a variety of end uses for such gas utility service, such as: troop and family housing, mess halls, class room and office building heating and cooling, laundry and small amounts of industrial process usage, and use by non-appropriated fund instrumentalities (post exchange, commissary and clubs), federal agency and other tenant offices and uses such as those buying gas services under Army Regulation 420-41.<sup>5</sup>
- \* The bulk of the gas commodity procured by Fort Leonard Wood is received at high volumes and high pressures, from MPC for distribution through the gas system on federal property by Army contractor, OMEGA.<sup>6</sup> As a load on the MPC and MGC systems, Fort Leonard Wood, is similar to the load shape of a municipal utility. Fort Leonard Wood has a lower load factor than most large industrial process customers, but a higher load factor than residential customers Much of the gas commodity is received from MGC and MPC by transportation service.
- \* That the consumer interest of DOD/FEA was a party and presented evidence in past proceedings before this Commission.<sup>7</sup>

IV.

That the interest of DOD/FEA is such that it cannot be adequately protected by any other party. From the viewpoint of DOD/FEA, the bulk of billings herein involved relate to the Army at Fort Leonard Wood. To the extent that the issues raised by the Staff in its complaint and later on the record tend to reduce the "burner-tip" cost of gas to the Army

Under 10 USCS § 2686, Congress pre-empted certain utility sales contracting to tenant activities on military reservations. Army Regulation (AR) 420-41 is the current regulation implementing that statutory authority. While the pre-emption can apply to sales outside a federal enclave, normally this provision applies within a federal enclave where a State regulator would lack jurisdiction to franchise territory to any utility.

While Congress has place limited constraint on the <u>competitive</u> acquisition of <u>electric</u> utility services, no similar constraint is applicable to <u>competitive</u> federal acquisition of <u>gas</u>, telephone, water and sewer utility services. See: 48 CFR § 41.201 (d) (1) and 48 CFR § 52.241-1 (a-c).

Among prior these proceedings would be: <u>Southwest Bell Telephone Company</u>, Missouri PSC Case No. TC 89-14; <u>Investigation of United Telephone Co. of Missouri proposed increase in rates</u>, Mo. PSC

at Fort Leonard Wood, it is likely that DOD/FEA will be supportive of Commission Staff positions. However, to the extent that positions of the Commission Staff have the effect of increasing the cost of gas service at the "burner tip" to the Army at Fort Leonard Wood, it is possible DOD/FEA might have a different interest to protect in this proceeding than the Commission Staff.<sup>8</sup> The combination of load factor, load characteristics, and rate schedules upon which the federal installations acquire gas utility service make their usage distinct from the other large customers. The intervention of petitioner will neither unduly broaden the issues nor unduly delay the proceeding.

V.

That, at this time, the DOD/FEA has not determined whether it will be necessary to present any expert direct testimony or exhibits in this proceeding. Some prior proceedings were litigated and some may have settled. If this proceeding goes to hearing, DOD/FEA may (or may not) present expert testimony and exhibits on overall revenue requirement (including cost of equity capital) and rate design, (including jurisdictional and class cost allocation). Having not seen the Staff Audit Report, it is premature for DOD/FEA to determine the scope (and/or final assignment) of expert witness testimony, if any. If the proceeding goes to hearing, evidence which DOD/FEA may present will

Case TR 93-181; <u>In the Matter of Southwest Bell Telephone Co.</u>, Mo. PSC Case No. TT 93-224; <u>In the Matter of Southwest Bell Telephone Co.</u>, Mo. PSC Case No. TT 94-218.

Paragraph 8, and footnote 2 to that paragraph and paragraph 16 of the Complaint of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed in this proceeding mention a high confidential Audit Report which has <u>not</u> been seen by this petitioner. Positions taken in the Audit Report and any Staff testimony filed herein could affect or alter the position of this petitioner (DOD/FEA) relative to the Staff position on some issues. Having not seen the Staff Audit Report petitioner is unable at this juncture to fully articulate its support, or lack of support, for the totality of the Staff position in the Complaint. Nevertheless, because of the large consumer interest of DOD/FEA in the level of MGC and MPC tariff rates, petitioner has a substantial interest in the outcome of this proceeding. An April 5, 2006 press report by a Mr. Jeffrey Tomich of the <u>St. Louis Post Dispatch</u> stated as to the relief sought in the Complaint, "the impact as to individual customers has not been determined." The press story apparently arose from an interview by Mr. Tomich with Mr. Robert Schallenberg of the PSC Staff. That press report gives rise to concern and uncertainty as to whether all are proposed by the Compalint to receive lower burner tip costs of gas service.

likely be of value to the Commission in its determination of the issues involved in this proceeding. If DOD/FEA determines that it will offer direct testimony or exhibits, the two most likely witnesses that DOD/FEA would present would be Mr. Kenneth L. Kincel<sup>9</sup> and/or Mr. Thomas J. Prisco.<sup>10</sup> DOD/FEA will advise all parties of its intent as to offering any expert witnesses in this matter as soon as possible.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner prays for leave to intervene and be treated as a party hereto with right to have notice of and appear at the taking of testimony, produce and cross examine witnesses, and be heard through counsel, upon brief and at oral argument, if oral argument is granted.

David A. McCormick

Attorney

Pennsylvania Attorney ID No. 17357<sup>11</sup>

Regulatory Law Office U.S. Army Legal Services Agency JALS-RL 4147 901 N. Stuart Street, Room 713 Arlington, VA 22203-1837

For

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND OTHER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

Mr. Kincel has participated in a number of pipeline proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and in a number of gas and electric utility proceedings in State tribunals.

Mr. Prisco has participated in over 30 regulatory proceedings involving both pipelines at the FERC and gas, electric and other utility proceedings in State tribunals. Mr. Prisco appeared and offered expert testimony as a witness before the Missouri Public Service Commission in: <u>Southwest Bell Telephone</u> <u>Company</u>, Missouri PSC Case No. TC 89-14.

In accord with the Rules of Practice, 4 CSR 240-2.040(3)(C), a Statement of Visiting Attorney on admission to practice and entry of appearance, acknowledged by, Mr. Jeffrey H. Rohrer, a sponsoring member of the bar of the State of Missouri is being filed with this intervention request.

#### STATE OF MISSOURI

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission	_ ) )	
V.	) )	Case No. GC 2006-0378
Missouri Pipeline Company, LLC; Missouri Gas	)	
Company, LLC; Omega Pipeline Company, LLC	)	
Mogas Energy, LLC; United Pipeline Systems, Inc. Gateway Pipeline Company, LLC	)	
	)	

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused a copy of the foregoing document to be sent this day, by first class, postage prepaid, properly addressed US Mail (or by private courier) to the all persons listed below:

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Dated this 18th day of APRIL, 2006 at Arlington County, Virginia

DAVID A. McCORMICK