

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

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry)
into Affordable Heating Energy for)
Customers of Regulated Missouri Utilities)
and Possible Changes to the Cold Weather)
Rule.)

Case No. GW-2004-0452

TASK FORCE REPORT

1. The Commission established this Task Force by its March 3, 2004 Order. The Commission noted that the price of natural gas had increased from \$2.50 per MCF in 2000 to more than \$5.00 per MCF at that time. The Task Force notes that the futures price of natural gas is now more than \$8.00 pr MCF for the heating season months of 2005/2006. The Task Force was able to recommend improvements to the Commission's Cold Weather Rule in time for implementation for the 2004/2005 heating season, and completes its commitment to the Commission by filing its final Report today.

2. The attached Report represents a substantial investment of time, and effort by every member of the Task Force. It reflects areas of agreement on a number of steps that would make energy bills more affordable for Missourians, and a number of items for Commission consideration on which there was not consensus.

WHEREFORE, the Task Force respectfully submits its Final Report for the Commission's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ Thomas R. Schwarz, Jr. _____
Thomas R. Schwarz, Jr.
Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 29645

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-5239 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
E-mail: tschwarz@mail.state.mo.us

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or emailed to all counsel of record this 31st day of March, 2005.

/s/ Thomas R. Schwarz, Jr. _____