

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Proposed Emergency Amendment)
to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-13.055) **Case No. GX-2006-0181**

ORDER DIRECTING FILING

Issued: December 21, 2005

Effective: December 21, 2005

On or before December 16, 2005, various persons interested in this matter filed comments concerning the proposals outlined in Ms. Jacqueline A. Hutchinson's December 12, 2005 Comments on the Emergency Amendment to the Cold Weather Rule. In its review of those responsive comments, the Commission finds that it needs additional information. Specifically, the Commission requires interested persons to file responses to the following questions on or before December 23, 2005:

1. What is your expectation of the Mid-Continent price of natural gas per mmBTU during the years 2006 and 2007? On what do you base this expectation?
2. The PSC Staff roughly estimates that application of the \$60/month payment proposal on natural gas bills for low-income may cost in the tens of millions of dollars. How may the Commission allow for the recovery of those costs? Specifically, who will ultimately pay those costs?
3. If the average winter heating bill is expected to be approximately \$1200, how will low-income customers ever clear their arrearages if the most the utility can require is \$60/month? Taking into account the current retail price of gas,

including PGA amounts for January through March, at what point will gas prices be sufficiently low to allow an average-using customer to enter the 2006-2007 winter heating season on November 1, 2006, without arrearages (assuming a \$60 monthly payment).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That interested persons shall file, on or before December 23, 2005, responses to the questions set forth above.
2. That this order shall become effective on December 21, 2005.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', is written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Dale, Chief Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 21st day of December, 2005.