

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

In the matter of the Application of)	
Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.)	
d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas for)	
Authority to Issue approximately \$10)	Case No. GF-2007-0215
Million in Equity Capital and)	
approximately \$50 Million In Notes and)	
Other Forms of Indebtedness)	

STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and in response to the Commission's December 12, 2006 Order Establishing Protective Order and Directing Staff to File a Pleading Stating When It Will File a Recommendation in This Case states:

1. On December 12, Southern Missouri Gas Company filed its Application for Commission authority to increase its financing.
2. On the same day the Commission issued its order directing Staff to file a pleading as to when Staff could file its recommendation in this case.
3. Staff is not expecting to have any problems with discovery and expects to be able to file its recommendation in this case on February 13 barring any such problems.

WHEREFORE Staff requests the Commission accept this pleading in response to the Commission's Order Establishing Protective Order and Directing Staff to File a Pleading Stating When It Will File a Recommendation in This Case

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 18th day of December 2006.

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell