

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

In the matter of Missouri Gas Energy's       )  
Increasing Rates for Gas Service Provided    )  
To Customers in the Company's Missouri     )  
Service Area                                        )

Case No. GR-2006-0422

**PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

**COMES NOW** Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and respectfully submits as follows:

1. On May 2, 2006, Missouri Gas Energy (MGE), a division of Southern Union Company, filed tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) to implement a general rate increase for natural gas service in an annual amount of \$41,651,345.

2. On May 12, 2006, the Commission issued its Suspension Order and Notice. In this Order, the Commission suspended the tariff sheets until March 30, 2006. In addition, the Commission set an early prehearing conference on June 16, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. and the filing of a proposed procedural schedule by June 25, 2006.

3. Prior to June 16, 2006, the Parties to this case communicated concerning a proposed procedural schedule. As a result of those communications, the Parties agreed on a Proposed Procedural Schedule. On behalf of all of the parties, Staff proposes the following Procedural Schedule:

Company Tariff Sheets and Direct Testimony.....	May 1, 2006
Company Test Year Recommendation and Application for True-up.....	May 24, 2006
Intervention Applications Due .....	June 1, 2006
Early Prehearing Conference.....	June 16, 2006

Proposed Procedural Schedule.....	June 25, 2006
Company Case Updated for Known and Measurable Items through June 30, 2006	August 7, 2006
Direct Testimony Revenue Requirement (All Parties except MGE).....	October 13, 2006
Direct Testimony (All Parties except MGE) Class Cost of Service..... And Rate Design	October 20, 2006
Local Public Hearings.....	October 23-27, 2006
Case Reconciliation (Staff).....	October 23, 2006
Prehearing Conference.....	October 30–November 3, 2006
List of Issues (Preliminary).....	November 9, 2006
Rebuttal Testimony (All parties).....	November 21, 2006
Joint Statement of Issues, Order of Issues, List of Witnesses, Order of Witnesses, Order of Witness Cross Examination.....	November 28, 2006
Surrebuttal Testimony (All parties).....	December 11, 2006
Statement of Position on Issues (Each Party).....	December 16, 2006
Reconciliation for Issues to be Heard.....	December 20, 2006
True-Up Testimony (If necessary).....	December 28, 2006
Evidentiary Hearing.....	January 8-12, 16-19, 2007
True-Up Hearing (if necessary).....	January 25-26, 2007
Operation of Law Date.....	March 30, 2007

4. The Parties believe that this schedule will allow the Parties a reasonable amount of time to prepare for the Evidentiary Hearing and still allow the Commission adequate time to consider the issues presented in the case and to issue a Report and Order.

5. Staff is especially concerned about the current hearing dates of December 11-15, 18-22, 2006 and a true-up hearing (if necessary) of December 27-29, 2006 since GR-2006-0387, Atmos rate case, is set immediately before the current hearing dates.

6. Staff notes that the Commission calendar contains three weeks for a water rate case hearing, WR-2006-0425. The Water Company therein has one witness that prefiled Direct Testimony. Staff believes that Case No. WR-2006-0425 does not need three weeks. The Procedural Schedule is due in that case on June 26. Staff encourages the Commission to set the MGE rate case for the two weeks of January 8-12, 16-19 and set WR-2006-0425 for the week of January 22-26. The Parties encourage the Commission to utilize some of the three weeks for this case as suggested in this pleading. Staff has consulted with the Parties in the WR-2006-0425 case and believes this schedule will coincide with the proposed Procedural Schedule in that case.

7. Staff believes that the current schedules and Staff responsibilities necessitate this schedule including the option of two hearings being conducting simultaneously.

8. The Parties further request that the Commission approve the following conditions along with the Procedural Schedule:

(a) All parties agree that they will provide copies of testimony, exhibits and pleadings to other counsel by electronic means and in electronic form essentially concurrently with the filing of such testimony, exhibits or pleadings.

(b) An effort should be made to not include in data request questions either highly confidential or proprietary information. If either highly confidential or proprietary information must be included in data request questions, the highly confidential or proprietary information should be appropriately designated as such pursuant to the Protective Order issued in the case.

(c) Counsel for each party is to receive electronically from each other party, a copy of all data requests served by that party on another party in the case. If a party desires the

response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request.

(d) Until the [fill in date] filing of rebuttal testimony, the response time for all data requests is 20 calendar days, and 10 calendar days to object or notify that more than 20 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After November 21, 2006, the response time for all data requests becomes 10 calendar days to provide the requested information, and 5 business days to object or notify that more than 10 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information.

(e) Workpapers that were prepared in the course of developing a witness' testimony should not be filed with the Commission but should be submitted to each party within two business days following the filing of the particular testimony without the need for service of a data request. Workpapers containing highly confidential or proprietary information should be appropriately marked. Since workpapers for certain parties may be voluminous and generally not all parties are interested in receiving workpapers or a complete set of workpapers, a party shall specifically notify another party that they are interested in receiving certain workpapers or a complete set of workpapers. If such workpapers have been prepared in either Excel or Word format, the workpapers will be provided on a disk or through e-mail to the other parties.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff respectfully requests, on behalf of all of the Parties, that the Commission approve the Procedural Schedule submitted by the Parties.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Robert V. Franson**

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### **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 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2006.

**/s/ Robert V. Franson**