

**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  
DIRECTING FILING OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and in response to the Commission's December 22, 2006 Order Directing Filing of Staff Recommendation and states:

1. On December 6, 2006, Southern Missouri Gas Company, LP (dba) Southern Missouri Natural Gas, filed its Application for Commission authority to construct, install, own, operate, control, manage and maintain a natural gas distribution system to provide gas service in Lebanon, Missouri.

2. On December 12, 2006, Southern Missouri Natural Gas filed its request for financing of the Lebanon, Missouri project.

3. On December 22, the Commission issued its order directing Staff to file a recommendation or a status report on January 22.

4. Staff has submitted requests for detailed information necessary to an analysis of the feasibility of the proposed project. To date, Staff has not received data request responses that are sufficiently detailed to proceed with its examination and analysis of the feasibility of the proposed project.

5. Staff has had several discussions with Southern Missouri Natural Gas in order to discuss the documentation that Staff believes is necessary in order to make an informed recommendation to the Commission.

6. Until Staff receives adequate information necessary to make an informed recommendation to the Commission, it cannot estimate when it will file its Report. Staff proposes to file a status report or its final report on February 27 unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

7. Staff suggests that its report in this case be due on the same date as its report in Case No. GA-2006-0212, as the two cases are related.

WHEREFORE, Staff requests the Commission accept this pleading in response to the Commission's Directing Staff to File a Recommendation and direct Staff to file a status report or its recommendation in this case on February 27, 2007.

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 electronic mail to all counsel of record this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007.

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell