

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)	<u>Case No. GF-2007-0215</u>
Approximately \$10 Million in Equity Capital)	
and Approximately \$50 Million In Notes and)	
Other Forms of Indebtedness)	

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE A PLEADING STATING WHEN IT WILL FILE A RECOMMENDATION IN THIS CASE

Issue Date: December 12, 2006

Effective Date: December 12, 2006

On December 12, 2006, Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P. d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas ("SMNG") filed an application for authority to issue approximately \$10 million in additional equity capital and approximately \$50 million in notes and other indebtedness with maturities up to ten years.¹ SMNG has requested expedited consideration of its application so that the equity capital and debt securities may be issued as soon as possible; however, SMNG did not set out with particularity a date by which it wishes the Commission to act. SMNG also requests that no hearing on its application be required.

In conjunction with its application, SMNG filed two Appendices under seal, Appendices B and D. SMNG states that both of these appendices contain proprietary

¹ SMNG's application is filed pursuant to Sections 393.180 and 393.200, RSMo 2000 and 4 CSR 240-2.060 and 4 CSR 240-3.220.

information. Said filing under seal will be treated as a Motion for Protective Order, because said filings may contain information of a confidential and proprietary nature.

The Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information, and the request for a protective order to maintain confidentiality of the filings under seal is reasonable. The Commission has previously recognized the need to protect confidential information, and protective orders have helped minimize disputes in past cases. Therefore, the Commission concludes that a protective order should be granted.

The Commission will need a recommendation from its Staff before acting on SMNG's application. Therefore, the Commission will direct its Staff to promptly respond to SMNG's motion for expedited treatment, and will permit any other interested party to respond to that motion at the same time. Staff shall indicate in its response when it will be able to file a recommendation in this matter.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion for Protective Order filed by Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P. d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas is granted, and the protective order attached to this order as Attachment A is adopted.

2. No later than December 18, 2006, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file a pleading responding to Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P. d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas's Motion for Expedited Consideration and state in that response when it anticipates filing its recommendation in this case.

3. Any other party that wishes to respond to Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P. d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas's Motion for Expedited Consideration shall do so no later than December 18, 2006.

4. This order shall become effective on December 12, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION

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

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Harold Stearley, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 12th day of December, 2006.