

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

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.,)	<u>Case No. GE-2020-0009</u>
for Waiver Concerning Commission Rule)	
4 CSR 240-40.090)	

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S RESPONSE TO
THE STAFF’S RECOMMENDATION ON WAIVER OF SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS UTILITY DEPRECIATION STUDIES
REGARDING SUMMIT NATURAL GAS’ REQUEST TO DEFER FILING A
DEPRECIATION STUDY FOR 10-YEARS AND REQUEST FOR
AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE A FULLY INFORMED RESPONSE**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”) and for its response to Commission Staff’s (“Staff”) Recommendation on Waiver of Submission Requirements for Gas Utility Depreciation Studies. The particular gas utility involved here is Summit Natural Gas if Missouri, Inc. (“Summit” or “Company”).

1. On July 15, 2019, Summit filed its *Application for Waivers Concerning Depreciation Study and Notice* (“Application”) requesting a waiver of Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.235 and Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.275 which require utility companies to submit a depreciation study, database, and property unit catalog no less than every 5 years. Summit also requested waiver of the Commission’s rule requiring a utility company to issue a 60-day notice prior to filing this case.

2. On September 16, Staff filed its Recommendation in which it agreed the Commission should grant a waiver of the depreciation study required by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-40.090(1)(A)1, “but reject waiving the database and property unit catalog requirements

of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-40.090(1)(A)2 and Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-40.090(1)(A).” Staff Cover Pleading for Recommendation at p. 2.

3. Public Counsel submitted data requests to the Company on August 15, 2019. Public Counsel is still discussing the Company’s responses to these data requests to gain an understanding of the Company’s processes and recordkeeping.

4. Prior to agreeing to a waiver of the rule requirements to file a depreciation study every five years, Public Counsel is asking for information concerning the Company is in full compliance with the Staff recommendations and the Commission’s Order in GE-2014-0010 *Order Granting Application for Waiver of Commission Rule* (Oct. 11, 2013), in which the Commission ordered “Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. shall comply with the conditions suggested by the Staff of the Commission in Staff’s recommendation and set out in the body of this order.” *Order* p. 4, ordered para. 2.

5. The 2014 waiver only applied to “rate cases filed by Summit in the calendar years 2013 or 2014 related to all or any of Summit’s operating divisions, or until the Commission orders otherwise.” *Order* p. 2.

6. Public Counsel requests an additional seven days, or until it receives responses to its data requests from Summit, whichever is later, to respond to the Staff’s Recommendation in this case. Neither Summit nor the Staff oppose this request.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel requests the Commission grant it an extension for an additional seven days, or until Public Counsel has received additional information from the Company so it can make an informed recommendation in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY: /s/ Lera L. Shemwell

Lera L. Shemwell

Senior Counsel (Bar #43792)

P. O. Box 2230

Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-5565 (Telephone)

(573) 751-5562 (Fax)

lera.shemwell@opc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been e-mailed or mailed, via first-class United States Mail, postage pre-paid, to counsel of record this 26th day of September, 2019.

/s/Lera L. Shemwell