BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

)

)

In the Matter of Summit Natural Gas of Missouri Inc.'s Filing of Revised Tariffs to Increase Its Annual Revenues for Natural Gas Service

File No. GR-2014-0086 Tracking No. YG-2014-0285

STAFF STATEMENT DESCRIBING DISCOVERY CONCERN AND MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMES NOW, the Staff (Staff) of the Missouri Public Service Commission

(Commission), by and through counsel, and respectfully submits the following statement

of discovery concerns pursuant to Section 6(B) of the Procedural Schedule in this case:

1. On February 26, 2014, the Commission issued its Order Setting

Procedural Schedule and Terms of Discovery, which adopted the Joint Proposed

Procedural Schedule and Discovery Order.

2. Paragraph 6(B) of the *Procedural Schedule* provides:

Not less than two (2) business days before each discovery conference, any party that has a discovery disagreement or concern involving another party shall file a brief statement describing that disagreement or concern and identifying any other parties involved. Such statement does not need to be a formal motion to compel.

3. On Tuesday, June 10, the Commission issued an order cancelling the discovery conference set for Thursday, June 12. Staff believed it had until close of business today to file this notice, and so respectfully requests the Commission reconsider this order and convene the June 12 discovery conference with Summit Natural Gas of Missouri ("SNG" or "Company") as scheduled based on the following discovery concern.

4. Staff's discovery concern involves objections by SNG to data requests submitted by Staff seeking certain financial information of SNG's parent company and its one investor. SNG is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Summit Utilities, Inc. (SUI). SUI is wholly owned by one private equity investor, Infrastructure Investment Funds (IIF).¹

5. Specifically, Staff submitted the following data requests, to which SNG has objected: 0073, 0076, 0077, 0132 through 0139, 0178, and 0182. These data requests are attached here as Appendix A and incorporated by reference. SNG's objections are attached here as Appendix B and incorporated by reference.

6. Generally, these data requests seek financial information related to SUI and IIF. This is actual data about SNG's investor that will help the Commission understand how investors view SNG. This, in turn, will help the Commission set a rate of return that is sufficient to operate the business and attract investors, but not so excessive as to impose unjust and unreasonable rates upon SNG's customers.²

7. In cases before the Commission, discovery may be obtained by the same means and under the same conditions as in civil actions in the circuit court.³ In circuit court, "it is not ground for objection that the information sought will be inadmissible at the trial if the information sought appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The party seeking discovery shall bear the burden of establishing relevance."⁴

8. The Commission should determine that Staff has met this burden, because in many previous rate cases, this Commission and reviewing courts have

³ 4 CSR 240-2.090(1)

¹ GR-2014-0086, Staff Cost of Service Report p. 14.

² State ex rel. Associated Natural Gas Co. v. PSC, 706 S.W.2d 870, 873 (quoting Bluefield Water Works & Improvement Co. v. PSC, 262 U.S. 679 (1923).

⁴ Mo. Sup. Ct. R. 56.01

recognized that "the attractiveness of the company as an investment is dependent on how attractive the parent company is as an investment."⁵ Therefore, the Commission has obtained and analyzed the financial data of unregulated parent companies that own and operate regulated subsidiaries such as SNG. This financial data is important because one of the basic functions of the Commission in establishing rates for SNG is to set a just and reasonable rate of return sufficient to cover the utility's operating expenses and debt service.⁶ There must be enough revenue generated as a return to the owners of the company's stock to assure confidence in the continued financial services of the business and to attract equity investors. The rate of return should not be higher than is necessary to achieve these goals. Otherwise, utility customers will pay excessive prices, something regulation seeks to prohibit.⁷

9. In *State ex rel. Associated Natural Gas v. Public Service Commission*,⁸ the Commission used parent company financial data in order to consolidate the capital structure of the regulated entity and two parent companies. This consolidation accounted for the parent company's alleged use of low-cost debt to acquire equity in its subsidiary, upon which the parent company could earn a higher rate of return than it pays for the debt. The financial data of the parent company was highly relevant—and, indeed, critical to the Commission's decision—because, as the court explained: "If the cost of capital to the utility is considered without regard to the double leverage enjoyed

⁵ State ex. rel. Associated Natural Gas Co. v. Public Service Commission, 706 S.W.2d 870, 877 (Mo.App.W.D. 1986).

⁶ *Id.* at 873.

⁷ Id.

⁸ 706 S.W.2d 870 (Mo.App.W.D. 1986).

in a parent-subsidiary relationship, an excessive return to the ultimate common stockholders could result at the expense of utility ratepayers."9

10. The Associated Natural Gas court clearly explains that a parent company's financial data is pertinent to a rate case:

"As stated earlier, Hope Natural Gas makes it clear consideration must be given to the actual equity owner in the ratemaking process. Hope Natural Gas specifically approves the Commission's consideration of the return to the "investor" or "equity owner." The use of the cost-of-capital approach as to the ultimate shareholder seems totally consistent with that language. [cite omitted]. The conscious and voluntary corporate business decision that resulted in the hierarchy as exists here should not and cannot shield pertinent financial data from the Commission's scrutiny just because the ultimate owner does not provide the same service as the applicant and is not regulated. Also, once the utility asks for higher rates, a commission may inquire into the utility's capital structure and apply a hypothetical construct. This capital structure was determined by the management of the companies, not by the rate Despite the Company's contention that it is order of the Commission. operationally and financially independent from APL or MSU, it is hard to believe a wholly owned subsidiary could be as autonomous as is here claimed." [Emphasis added].

11. There is no doubt that, in a situation such as we have in this case, where SNG's equity is not market traded and where the subsidiary is wholly owned by the parent, it is proper for the Commission to recognize the relationship between the parent and the subsidiary in order to arrive at an investor-required return.¹⁰ Staff is seeking information about SNG's "actual equity owner," which the court described as "pertinent" in the quote above.

12. Both this Commission and reviewing courts have explained that a parent company's actual financial data is important in setting rates for a regulated subsidiary

⁹ *Id.* at 876. To be clear, Staff, at this time, has no evidence to suggest that the problem of "double" leverage" is present in this case. However, the Associated Natural Gas case shows why an unregulated parent company's financial data is relevant in a rate case for the regulated subsidiary in order to evaluate corporate financing activities that affect the subsidiary's Missouri operations. ¹⁰ In the Matter of Continental Telephone Company of Missouri, Report and Order, WL 183547 (1983) p.

^{14.}

because it is the actual capital structure of the parent under which the parent operates in the marketplace.¹¹ The parent's actual financial data is used to conduct business, finance its operations and raise capital. Business analysts such as Moody's or Standard & Poor's use a parent company's actual financial data to assess credit worthiness.¹²

13. The Commission's work setting a fair rate of return includes estimating the cost of common equity, i.e. the investor's required return. This is not a precise science because it involves an estimation of investor expectations.¹³ Parent company financial data is important in calculating a regulated subsidiary's rate of return because potential equity investors interested in the subsidiary LDC must actually invest in the parent, because the parent funds the subsidiary's activities.¹⁴ "This Commission has repeatedly determined that [the parent company's] management decisions necessitate the use of a capital structure that properly recognizes those decisions."¹⁵

14. More recently, the Commission has supported Staff's discovery requests for financial data of unregulated affiliated companies. For example, in ER-2012-0166,¹⁶ Staff sought data from the unregulated parent company of Ameren Missouri. Similar to this case, Staff requested the data in order to review the parent company's estimated cost of common equity, and to determine whether risk factors and credit impairments affecting the parent company or affiliated companies could also affect Ameren

¹¹ State ex rel. Missouri Gas Energy v. PSC, 186 S.W.3d 376, 389 (Mo.App.W.D. 2005).

¹² Id. at 389.

¹³ Id. at 383.

¹⁴ GR-2009-0355 *Report and Order* p. 15.

¹⁵ Id. at 16.

¹⁶ In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri's Tariff to Increase Its Annual Revenues for Electric Service.

Missouri's cost of debt.¹⁷ These are exactly the kind of determinations Staff seeks to make through review of the financial data sought in this matter. In the Ameren Missouri case, the Commission determined that Staff met its burden to establish relevance and compel discovery.¹⁸ The Commission should make the same determination here.

15. In this case, the regulated LDC SNG is a wholly owned subsidiary of Summit Utilities, Inc. (SUI). SUI is wholly owned by a single equity investor, Infrastructure Investments Fund (IIF). As shown in the extensive case law cited above, the financing activities of the parent company and the other subsidiaries under the same parent company can influence the financial risk—and, therefore, the cost of capital—of the regulated subsidiary, and therefore it is important for Staff to be able to independently evaluate financial information of the consolidated entity in order to provide a more informed opinion on a fair and reasonable rate of return to authorize SNG in this case.

16. Specifically, the data Staff requested in <u>DRs 0073, 0076, 0077 and 0178</u> were designed to allow Staff to investigate and compare SUI's and SNG's costs of debt, capital structure and financial statements. As shown in the cases described above, Staff routinely evaluates parent company and subsidiary financial information to determine whether it is appropriate to recommend that the Commission base the regulated utility's allowed rate of return on the capital structure and cost components of the subsidiary or consolidated parent company. Although Staff recommended a rate of return in its Cost of Service Report in this case based on its knowledge of SNG's targeted capital structure and a proxy cost of debt from SNG's sister company,

 ¹⁷ ER-2012-0166, Order Regarding Motion to Quash Notice of Deposition of Thomas Voss and to Quash Subpoena Duces Tecum, Issued September 12, 2012, p. 4-5.
¹⁸ Id.

Colorado Natural Gas, there are two rounds of testimony left in which Staff can provide additional evidence comparing SUI's and SNG's cost structures and financials.

17. The data requested Staff <u>DRs 0132 through 0139 and 0182</u> are directly relevant to determining the investor's (IIF's) required rate of return on common equity on its investment in Missouri gas distribution assets. Determining return on common equity is usually based on expert witnesses' estimates of what investors require for a return—these data requests to SNG seek to remove some of the speculation from this exercise by reviewing the actual expectations of the investor, IIF. While the rate of return experts' opinions on the investor's required return on common equity have already been filed in this case, it would be extremely beneficial to the Commission's determination of a fair return to receive and review evidence directly from the sophisticated private equity investor that currently wholly owns SNG by reviewing the returns required by IIF in its investments in SUI.

18. The cases cited here show that a parent company's financing can have important implications for a regulated subsidiary's rate of return, and that complex relationship supports Staff's assertion that these data requests are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, and that the data requests are therefore relevant to this rate case.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission reconsider its order cancelling the discovery conference scheduled for June 12. Staff respectfully requests that a discovery conference be held on June 12 pursuant to Paragraph 6 of the *Order Setting Procedure Schedule and Terms of Discovery*, so that Staff may present these discovery concerns to the Commission. Staff also respectfully requests that the

7

Commission issue an order compelling SNG to provide full and complete responses to Staff's data requests attached hereto as Appendix A.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John D. Borgmeyer

John D. Borgmeyer Deputy Legal Counsel Missouri Bar No. 61992 Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Telephone: (573) 751-5472 Fax: (573) 751-9285 Email: john.borgmeyer@psc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing were served electronically to all counsel of record this 10th day of June, 2014.

/s/ John D. Borgmeyer

Data Request

Data Request No.	0073
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	1/29/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Cost of Capital (Equity/Debt)
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Cost of Debt
• •	•

Please provide, in detail, including any supporting calculations, the following items for each issue of short-term debt, long-term debt and preferred stock as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2013 for Summit Utilities, Inc. (stand-alone basis), Summit Utilities Inc. and its subsidiaries (consolidated basis), and Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc..: 1. Issuance date and maturity date; 2. Principal amount originally issued and amount outstanding; 3. Interest rate and interest payment dates; 4. Issuance expenses (amortized and unamortized balances); 5. Premium or discount amounts (amortized and unamortized balances); and 6. Dates and amounts of sinking funds. Additionally, please provide the overall embedded cost of long-term debt and preferred stock for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. on a stand-alone basis and Summit Utilities, Inc. on a consolidated basis and identify the data and method used to determine these costs. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)

Due Date

Description

2/18/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Appendix A

Data Request

Data Request No.	0076
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	1/29/2014
Issue	Rate of Return - Cost of Capital (Equity/Debt)
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Investment Analysts' Correspondence/Reports
Description	Data Request: Please provide copies of all correspondence and/or research reports provided within the last five years to or from any outside financial analysts (debt and equity analysts) concerning Summit Utilities Inc.'s credit rating, capital structure, projected earnings per share growth rate, regulatory environment, cost of capital and any other related issue. This information should include, but not be limited to, all e-mails that Summit Utilities Inc.'s and its affiliates' personnel have exchanged with financial analysts, as well as details of all telephone conversations that have occurred between each company's personnel and financial analysts. Please continuously provide information requested in this data request through the completion of this case, Case No. GR-2014-0086. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov) 2/18/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security

Public

Data Request

Data Request No.	0077
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	1/29/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Cost of Capital (Equity/Debt)
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Potential Changes in Capital Structure
Description	Are Summit Utilities, Inc. and/or Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. aware of any changes in its capital structure (i.e., issue or repurchases/repayments of debt or equity) between December 31, 2013 and the operation of law date in this case? If yes, please explain the nature of the transaction(s) in detail, including pro forma estimates of the amount of the items requested in Staff's data request regarding the cost of debt. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	2/18/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Missouri Public Service Commission

Data Request

Data Request No.	0132
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Internal Rate of Return
Description	What internal rate of return (IRR) does JP Morgan IIF expect from its investment in Summit Natural Gas of Missouri? Please provide supporting analysis in which the IRR is derived. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document; name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Data Request

Data Request No.	0133
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
Issue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Internal Rate of Return
Description	What internal rate of return (IRR) does JP Morgan IIF expect from its investment in Summit Natural Gas of Missouri? Please provide supporting analysis in which the IRR is derived. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)

Due Date 4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Data Request

Data Request No.	0134
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Internal Rate of Return
Description	What internal rate of return (IRR) does JP Morgan IIF expect from its investment in Summit Utilities, Inc.? Please provide supporting analysis in which the IRR is derived. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Page 1 of 1

Missouri Public Service Commission

Data Request

Data Request No.	0135
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
Issue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Internal Rate of Return
Description	Does JP Morgan IIF's internal rate of return requirement for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri differ from its requirements for Summit Utilities, Inc.'s other subsidiaries? If so, please specify and support the differences. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Page 1 of 1

Missouri Public Service Commission

<u>Data Request</u>

Data Request No.	0136
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Discount Rate
Description	Please provide the discount rate JP Morgan IIF uses to discount projected cash flows for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Public Rationale NA

Data Request

Data Request No.	0137
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Discount Rate
Description	Please provide the discount rate JP Morgan IIF uses to discount projected cash flows for Summit Utilities, Inc. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Public Rationale NA

Data Request

Data Request No.	0138
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Discount Rate Components
Description	Please provide the weight of the individual capital components and the costs that support JP Morgan IIF's discount rate. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)

4/1/2014

Due Date

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security	Public
Rationale	NA

Page 1 of 1

Missouri Public Service Commission

Data Request

Data Request No.	0139
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	3/12/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Discount Rate Components
Description	How does JP Morgan IIF reconcile its required return on equity in its discount rate to the required return on equity in utility rate making? Please explain. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	4/1/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Data Request

Data Request No.	0178
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	5/2/2014
Issue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Projected Financial Statements
Description	Please provide projected financial statements (balance sheet, cash flow statement and income statement) for the next 5 fiscal years for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. and Summit Utilities, Inc. in an executable spreadsheet format. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	5/22/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

Data Request

Data Request No.	0182
Company Name	Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, IncInvestor(Gas)
Case/Tracking No.	GR-2014-0086
Date Requested	5/2/2014
lssue	Rate of Return - Other Rate of Return Issues
Requested From	Martha Wankum
Requested By	Kevin Thompson
Brief Description	Fair Market Value of Summit Utilities Minority Stock
Description	On page 6, line 14-17 of his direct testimony, Mr. James Anderson indicates that he served as a member of a special subcommittee of Summit's Board of Directors in determining the fair market value of the minority shareholders' stock. Please provide all materials, documents and analysis related to this special subcommittee's task of determining a fair market value of Summit Utilities' minority stock. DR requested by: David Murray (david.murray@psc.mo.gov)
Due Date	5/22/2014

The attached information provided to Missouri Public Service Commission Staff in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to immediately inform the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2014-0086 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

If these data are voluminous, please (1) identify the relevant documents and their location (2) make arrangements with requestor to have documents available for inspection in the Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) office, or other location mutually agreeable. Where identification of a document is requested, briefly describe the document (e.g. book, letter, memorandum, report) and state the following information as applicable for the particular document: name, title number, author, date of publication and publisher, addresses, date written, and the name and address of the person (s) having possession of the document. As used in this data request the term "document(s)" includes publication of any format, workpapers, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, analyses, computer analyses, test results, studies or data, recordings, transcriptions and printed, typed or written materials of every kind in your possession, custody or control or within your knowledge. The pronoun "you" or "your" refers to Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.-Investor(Gas) and its employees, contractors, agents or others employed by or acting in its behalf.

Security Rationale

LAW OFFICES BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND

DAVID V.G. BRYDON (1937-2012) JAMES C. SWEARENGEN WILLIAM R. ENGLAND, III JOHNNY K. RICHARDSON GARY W. DUFFY PAUL A. BOUDREAU CHARLES E. SMARR DEAN L. COOPER PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 312 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE P.O. BOX 456 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0456 TELEPHONE (573) 635-7166 FACSIMILE (573) 635-0427

dcooper@brydonlaw.com

GREGORY C. MITCHELL BRIAN T. MCCARTNEY DIANA C. CARTER SCOTT A. HAMBLIN JAMIE J. COX L. RUSSELL MITTEN ERIN L. WISEMAN

February 5, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Kevin Thompson Missouri Public Service Commission Governor State Office Building, 8th Floor Jefferson City, MO 65101 <u>kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov</u>

RE: GR-2014-0086 – Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.

Dear Kevin:

Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. (SNGMO or Company) is in receipt of Commission Staff data requests 0072 – 0077, received on January 29, 2014.

This letter is intended to be an objection to Staff DRs 0072 - 0077, in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090(2).

Staff DRs 0072 – 0077 request various information concerning SNGMO and other entities:

- DR 0072 requests information pertaining to "1. Summit Utilities, Inc. (stand-alone basis); 2. Summit Utilities, Inc. and its subsidiaries (consolidated basis); 3. Colorado Natural Gas, Inc.; and 4. Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc."
- DR 0073 requests information pertaining to "Summit Utilities, Inc. (stand-alone basis), Summit Utilities Inc. and its subsidiaries (consolidated basis), and Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc."
- DR0074 requests information pertaining to "Summit Utilities, Inc. (stand-alone basis), Summit Utilities, Inc. and its subsidiaries (consolidated basis), and Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc."

Appendix B

Mr. Kevin Thompson Page 2 of 2 February 5, 2014

- DR0075 requests information pertaining to "Summit Utilities, Inc. (stand-alone basis), Summit Utilities, Inc. and its subsidiaries (consolidated basis), and Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc."
- DR0076 requests information pertaining to "Summit Utilities, Inc. and within the possession of "Summit Utilities Inc.'s and its affiliates' personnel."
- DR0077 requests information pertaining to "Summit Utilities, Inc. and/or Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc."

SNGMO objects to these data requests to the extent they request information concerning entities other than SNGMO, because the information requested is not in the possession, custody or control of SNGMO. Further, SNGMO objects to these data requests because the responsive information is neither relevant to the subject proceeding nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that only SNGMO is regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

SNGMO will provide the requested information for SNGMO.

By:

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

21.Com

Dean L. Cooper

Cc: Martha Wankum

LAW OFFICES BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND

DAVID V.G. BRYDON (1937-2012) JAMES C. SWEARENGEN WILLIAM R. ENGLAND, III JOHNNY K. RICHARDSON GARY W. DUFFY PAUL A. BOUDREAU CHARLES E. SMARR DEAN L. COOPER PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 312 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE P.O. BOX 456 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0456 TELEPHONE (573) 635-7166 FACSIMILE (573) 635-0427

dcooper@brydonlaw.com

GREGORY C. MITCHELL BRIAN T. MCCARTNEY DIANA C. CARTER SCOTT A. HAMBLIN JAMIE J. COX L. RUSSELL MITTEN ERIN L. WISEMAN

March 21, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Kevin Thompson Missouri Public Service Commission Governor State Office Building, 8th Floor Jefferson City, MO 65101 <u>kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov</u>

RE: GR-2014-0086 - Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.

Dear Kevin:

Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. (SNGMO or Company) is in receipt of Commission Staff data requests 0125 – 0140, received on March 12, 2014.

This letter is intended to be an objection to Staff DRs 0132 - 0139, in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090(2).

Staff DRs 0132 – 0139 request various information concerning entities other than SNGMO (emphasis added):

- DR 0132 requests information pertaining to the "internal rate of return (IRR)" "JP Morgan IIF expect[s] from its investment in Summit Natural Gas of Missouri."
- DR 0133 also requests information pertaining to the "internal rate of return (IRR)" "JP Morgan IIF expect[s] from its investment in Summit Natural Gas of Missouri."
- DR 0134 requests information pertaining to the "internal rate of return (IRR)" "JP Morgan IIF expect[s] from its investment in Summit Utilities, Inc."
- DR 0135 requests information as to whether "JP Morgan IIF's internal rate of return requirement for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri differ[s] from its requirements for Summit Utilities, Inc.'s other subsidiaries."

Mr. Kevin Thompson Page 2 of 2 March 21, 2014

- DR 0136 requests information pertaining to "the discount rate JP Morgan IIF uses to discount projected cash flows for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri."
- DR 0137 requests information pertaining to "the discount rate JP Morgan IIF uses to discount projected cash flows for Summit Utilities, Inc."
- DR 0138 requests information pertaining to "the weight of the individual capital components and the costs that support JP Morgan IIF's discount rate."
- DR 0139 requests information pertaining to how "JP Morgan IIF reconcile[s] its required return on equity in its discount rate to the required return on equity in utility rate making."

SNGMO objects to these data requests because they request information concerning entities other than SNGMO and the information requested is not in the possession, custody or control of SNGMO. Further, SNGMO objects to these data requests because the responsive information is neither relevant to the subject proceeding nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that only SNGMO is regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

1 loan

By:

Dean L. Cooper

Cc: Michelle Moorman Martha Wankum

LAW OFFICES BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND

DAVID V.G. BRYDON (1937-2012) JAMES C. SWEARENGEN WILLIAM R. ENGLAND, III JOHNNY K. RICHARDSON GARY W. DUFFY PAUL A. BOUDREAU CHARLES E. SMARR DEAN L. COOPER PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 312 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE P.O. BOX 456 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0456 TELEPHONE (573) 635-7166 FACSIMILE (573) 635-0427

dcooper@brydonlaw.com

GREGORY C. MITCHELL BRIAN T. MCCARTNEY DIANA C. CARTER SCOTT A. HAMBLIN JAMIE J. COX L. RUSSELL MITTEN ERIN L. WISEMAN

May 12, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Kevin Thompson Missouri Public Service Commission Governor State Office Building, 8th Floor Jefferson City, MO 65101 <u>kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov</u>

RE: GR-2014-0086 – Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.

Dear Kevin:

Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. (SNGMO or Company) is in receipt of Commission Staff data requests (DR) 0170 – 0182, received on May 2, 2014.

SNGMO is also in receipt of Staff DR 0178.1, received on May 7, 2014.

This letter is intended to be an objection to Staff DRs 170, 174, 178, 178.1, and 182, in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090(2), for the reasons described in the following paragraphs:

<u>DR 0170</u> -- DR 0170 requests that the Company provide "copies of all correspondence, reports, documents, financial statements, financial ratios etc. received or provided in relation to the January 28, 2013 'Amended and Restated Credit Agreement among Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc., The Lenders From Time to Time Party Hereto and CoBank, ACB, as Administrative Agent." SNGMO objects to this data request because it is overly broad and unduly burdensome in that it fails to specify a time period and includes documents that would be privileged under both the attorney client and accountants privileges.

Without waiving this objection, SNGMO will provide or identify those documents previously provided in response to discovery in Commission Case No. GF-2013-0261. <u>DR 0174</u> -- DR 0174 requests that the Company "identify IIF's current net long position in its investment in its Missouri gas distribution assets. Please provide the initial basis of IIF's investment in the Missouri gas distribution assets as well as it current estimated fair value." SNGMO objects to this data request because it requests information concerning an entity other than SNGMO and the

Mr. Kevin Thompson Page 2 of 3 May 12, 2014

information requested is not in the possession, custody or control of SNGMO. Further, SNGMO objects to this data request because the responsive information is neither relevant to the subject proceeding nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that only SNGMO is regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

<u>DR 0178</u> -- DR 0178 requests that the Company "provide projected financial statements (balance sheet, cash flow statement and income statement) for the next 5 fiscal years for Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. and Summit Utilities, Inc. in an executable spreadsheet format."

SNGMO objects to this data request to the extent it requests information concerning an entity other than SNGMO and the information requested is not in the possession, custody or control of SNGMO. Further, SNGMO objects to this data request because the responsive information is neither relevant to the subject proceeding nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that only SNGMO is regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Additionally, please consider this to be a statement on behalf of SNGMO that it will be unable to answer the referenced data request within 20 days. The data request seeks a substantial amount of information. Further, SNGMO's employee that is capable of preparing this information will not be available most of the week of May 12, 2014. SNGMO estimates that it will be able to provide information concerning SNGMO by May 29, 2014.

<u>DR 0178.1</u> -- DR 0178.1 requests that the Company "when responding to Staff Data Request 178, . . . provide this information in the same format as provided in response to Staff Data Request No. 8 in Case No. GF-2013-0261 (specifically, please disaggregate financial information related to the Lake of the Ozarks Division). Additionally, please provide the actual financials and ratios for 2012 and 2013 in the same format as provided in Staff Data Request No. 8 in Case No. GF-2013-0261 (again, specifically disaggregating financial information relation to the Lake of the Ozarks Division)." SNGMO incorporates by reference its objection to Staff DR 0178 and the estimated time it will be able to provide the response to Staff DR 0178.

SNGMO further states that it will be able to distinguish the revenue stream and capitalized assets for the Lake Ozark Division, but will not be able to create a set of cp,p[lete financials for that district.

<u>DR 0182</u> -- DR 0182 requests that the Company "provide all materials, documents and analysis related to [the special subcommittee of Summit's Board of Directors'] task of determining a fair market value of Summit Utilities' minority stock." SNGMO objects to this data request because it requests information concerning an entity other than SNGMO and the information requested is not in the possession, custody or control of SNGMO. Further, SNGMO objects to this data request because the responsive information is neither relevant to the subject proceeding nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in that only SNGMO is regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. Mr. Kevin Thompson Page 3 of 3 May 12, 2014

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

÷

By:

21. Com-

Dean L. Cooper

Cc: Martha Wankum Counsel for Parties to GR-2014-0086