

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Southern )  
Union Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy, )  
The Laclede Group, Inc., and Laclede Gas )  
Company for an Order Authorizing the Sale, )  
Transfer, and Assignment of Certain Assets and )  
Liabilities from Southern Union Company to )  
Laclede Gas Company and, in Connection )  
Therewith, Certain other Related Transactions )

**File No. GM-2013-0254**

**ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING TIME TO FILE  
PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: May 14, 2013

Effective Date: May 14, 2013

In a previous order, the Commission directed the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule by March 22, 2013. Subsequently, the Commission extended that date until April 15, and then April 29. The parties have not yet filed a proposed procedural schedule. Instead, on April 29, the applicant companies and the Commission's Staff filed another joint motion for extension of time, indicating their intent to submit a proposed procedural schedule by May 13. The parties did not submit a proposed procedural schedule on May 13, instead filing another joint motion for extension of time. This time they promise to submit a proposed procedural schedule by May 22.

Midwest Gas Users' Association, an intervenor in this case, did not join in the joint motions for extension of time. Instead, frustrated by the lack of action by the other parties, Midwest Gas Users' Association on May 8 submitted a proposed procedural schedule that would lead to an evidentiary hearing in April 2014.

The Commission initially shared Midwest Gas Users' Association's frustration with the delay in filing a proposed procedural schedule. However, as they have requested additional extensions of time, Staff and the applicant companies have gradually clarified that they seek

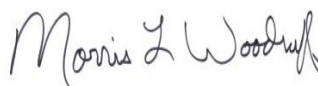
delay to allow time to resolve the interplay of Laclede Gas Company's ongoing rate case with the merger application. In their most recent request for additional time to file a proposed procedural schedule, Staff and the applicant companies explain that they are close to achieving a comprehensive settlement of the rate case. Such a settlement would free members of Staff and Public Counsel to turn their full attention to the proposed merger. For that reason, Staff and the applicant companies ask to be allowed until May 22 to file a proposed procedural schedule.

Until the parties can determine whether the rate case can be resolved they will be unable to submit a meaningful procedural schedule for the merger case. Accepting Midwest Gas Users' Association's suggestion and establishing a procedural schedule that does not really commence until after the rate case has run its full course would not be helpful if the rate case is resolved by agreement much earlier. The Commission finds that Staff and the applicant companies have demonstrated good cause for delaying the filing of a proposed procedural schedule and the Commission will grant their motion.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than May 22, 2013.
2. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013.