

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of Missouri Public Service)
tariff sheets designed to increase rates) Case No. GR-93-172
for gas service provided to customers in)
the Missouri service area of the company.)

AFFIDAVIT OF PHILIP B. THOMPSON

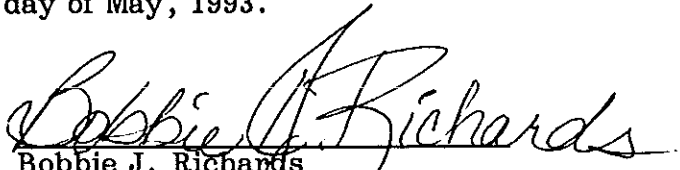
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

Philip B. Thompson of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. My name is Philip B. Thompson. I am Chief Public Utility Economist for the Office of the Public Counsel.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my direct testimony consisting of pages 1 through 21 and Schedules 1 through 4.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my statements contained in the attached testimony are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Philip B. Thompson

Subscribed and sworn to me this 28th day of May, 1993.


Bobbie J. Richards
Notary Public

My commission expires November 3, 1996.

BOBBIE J RICHARDS
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MISSOURI
COLE COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP. NOV 3, 1996

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
PHILIP B. THOMPSON
MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE
CASE NO. GR-93-172

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Philip B. Thompson, Office of the Public Counsel (OPC), P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Q. Please summarize your educational and employment background.

A. I have a B.A. in economics from Kent State University and a Ph. D. in economics from the University of Arizona. My graduate fields of study were Industrial Organization and Econometrics. I also taught various economics courses while at Arizona and participated in research projects investigating several aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle.

From 1982 to 1984 I was a visiting instructor in the economics department at Texas A&M University. I began my employment with the Office of the Public Counsel in 1984 as a Public Utility Economist. In 1986, I became Chief Public Utility Economist, the position I now hold. During my tenure with the Office of the Public Counsel, I have attended numerous conferences and seminars on a variety of topics related to public utility regulation, and I have made presentations at several such conferences. I currently serve as the Chair of the

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Economics and Finance Committee of the National Association of State
2 Utility Consumer Advocates.

3
4 Q. Have you previously testified before this Commission?

5 A. Yes. I have testified in over forty cases. The topics on which I
6 have testified include jurisdictional and class cost allocations, rate
7 design, adjustments to test year consumption data, applied industrial
8 organization theory (factors affecting the degree of competition in a
9 market), the appropriateness and proper form of economic develop-
10 ment rate discounts, the proper disposition of Take-or-Pay costs,
11 regulatory approaches to natural gas bypass and fuel switching, the
12 effect of nuclear plant ownership on the cost of capital of an electric
13 utility, and the recovery of COS-related revenue losses. I have
14 testified in cases involving gas, electric, telecommunications, and
15 water companies.

16
17 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

18 A. My testimony will cover several areas in this general rate case for
19 Missouri Public Service (MPS or Company), a division of Utilicorp
20 United. First I will describe how I developed the load (demand) data
21 that serves as the basis for the allocation factor applied to the costs
22 associated with distribution mains. Public Counsel witness Mr. Ryan
23 Kind used the data to develop the mains allocator. Then I will
24 describe and support the class cost allocation method I developed for
25 use on costs related to the transmission function and to distribution

1 mains; Mr. Kind used this method to calculate the transmission/mains
2 allocator he used in his cost of service study. Next, I will present
3 Public Counsel's proposals regarding the spread of the revenue
4 increase resulting from this case along with our recommendation
5 regarding residential rates. Finally, I will provide a discussion of
6 some issues associated with the special contract between MPS and
7 Marshall Municipal Utilities.
8

9 DATA DEVELOPMENT AND SOURCES

10 Q. What load data have you developed to use in this case?

11 A. I developed weather normalized class monthly peak day demands mea-
12 sured in mcf, or thousand cubic feet. If we assume that class
13 monthly peaks occur on the same day, we can then derive system
14 monthly and annual peak day demands by summing class demands.
15 Mr. Kind used this data to develop class allocation factors for
16 distribution mains and transmission plant and related expenses.
17

18 Q. Please describe how you developed weather normalized class monthly
19 peak load data.

20 A. I began with the Company's split of actual annual usage by class into
21 weather sensitive and non-weather sensitive portions. MPS used a
22 simple procedure to accomplish this split. First, MPS calculated
23 annual non-weather sensitive usage by summing July, August, and
24 September volumes for each class and multiplying these sums by
25 four. The resulting figure was then subtracted from total annual

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 volumes to arrive at an estimate of weather sensitive volumes. These
2 estimated weather sensitive volumes were then divided by the actual
3 number of heating degree days for the year ending May 31, 1992, to
4 get an estimate of annual class weather sensitive usage per heating
5 degree day. (Heating degree days, or HDD, are measured as the
6 difference between the daily average temperature and 65 degrees.
7 A day with an average temperature of 30 degrees would thus have 35,
8 or 65 minus 30, HDD.) Finally, annual non-weather sensitive sales
9 were divided by 365 to get average daily non-weather sensitive
10 volumes for each customer class. This procedure yielded consump-
11 tion equations for each class: class daily volumes = (daily non-
12 weather sensitive volumes) + [(weather sensitive volumes per HDD)
13 x (normal HDD)].

14 I then used these relationships to derive class monthly peaks
15 using the following method. From the Staff of the PSC I obtained a
16 thirty year average of the monthly peak day HDD (i.e., the maximum
17 daily HDD value for each month) for each weather station used by
18 Staff. I then inserted the average (across weather stations)
19 maximum monthly HDD figures into the consumption equations to
20 obtain monthly class peaks. I gave these monthly class peaks to Mr.
21 Kind for use in his allocation study.

22
23 Q. Does your use of the Company's weather-consumption relationships
24 mean that you endorse the Company's method?

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 A. No. My purpose was merely to derive rough estimates of weather
2 normalized class peak day demands for use in OPC's cost of service
3 study, while paralleling MPS's study so that reasonable comparisons
4 can be made. The procedure used by MPS to derive the weather-
5 consumption relationships is somewhat rough and should not be used
6 in the accounting determination of MPS's revenue requirement in this
7 case.

8
9 Q. Did you follow the same peak estimation procedure for all classes?

10 A. No. I used the same procedure for four of the five classes--
11 Residential, Commercial Firm and Interruptible, and Industrial Firm.
12 I used a different approach to estimate monthly peaks for the
13 Industrial Interruptible class.

14
15 Q. Please describe that different procedure.

16 A. Since MPS found that the Industrial Interruptible class was not
17 weather sensitive, the Company assumed a 100% annual load factor
18 (based on November volumes) for this class to determine its annual
19 peak. Instead of adopting the Company's estimate, I assumed a 100%
20 load factor within each month, and then based each month's peak
21 demand on that month's total Industrial Interruptible volumes. For
22 example, the January peak demand was estimated by dividing
23 January volumes by 31, the number of days in the month.

24
25 Q. Please describe Schedule 1.

1 A. Schedule 1 contains my estimates of weather normalized monthly peak
2 day demands for each class.

3
4 THE ALLOCATION OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
5 DISTRIBUTION MAINS

6 Q. Why must the cost of distribution mains be allocated?

7 A. These are common costs. A given length of distribution main
8 provides service to customers from several classes and therefore
9 cannot be directly assigned to any one class. In this section of my
10 testimony I will describe how each class's share of distribution
11 related costs should be derived. I directed Mr. Kind to use the
12 method I describe here to calculate the allocation factors for
13 distribution mains and transmission costs.

14
15 Q. What allocation method have you used to calculate these class shares?

16 A. I based my approach on the Relative System Utilization Method, or
17 RSUM, which was developed by Charles D. Laderoute, who discussed
18 it in a paper he presented at the Sixth NARUC Biennial Regulatory
19 Information Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in September 1988. The
20 paper appears on pages 273-283 of the conference proceedings, and
21 is entitled "The Relative System Utilization Method For Time
22 Differentiated Natural Gas Utility Cost Allocation Studies."

23 I modified Mr. Laderoute's version of RSUM to account for the
24 fact that there are economies of scale (capacity) in the construction
25 of distribution mains, and to use monthly peaks instead of monthly

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 average volumes as the allocation basis. I call this version the
2 Relative Incremental System Utilization Method (RISUM), since it
3 allocates the cost associated with each monthly increment of demand
4 according to each class's contribution to that monthly increment.
5

6 Q. Why have you chosen to use the RISUM approach?

7 A. This approach accounts for two basic aspects of the use and cost of
8 distribution mains. First, it accounts for the fact that some portions
9 of distribution mains capacity are needed in most or all months of the
10 year, while other increments of capacity are used in only one or a
11 few months. Second, by accounting for the existence of scale
12 economies, this approach reflects the true differences between the
13 cost of units of capacity used year-round and the cost of peak
14 capacity.
15

16 Q. Let's examine the second point first. Please explain why there are
17 economies of scale.

18 A. The installed cost of pipe is roughly proportional to the diameter of
19 the pipe. This is because the circumference determines the amount
20 of material (plastic or steel) needed for a given length of pipe, and
21 circumference is proportional to diameter. The capacity of the pipe,
22 which is roughly proportional to the area of the pipe's cross section,
23 is proportional to the square of the diameter. Doubling the diameter
24 of the pipe doubles its cost, but quadruples its capacity. Put
25 another way, cost is proportional to the square root of capacity.

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 In a more formal equation, this appears as:

2
$$C = a * Q^b ;$$

3 where C is cost, a is the proportionality constant, * indicates
4 multiplication, Q is the capacity of the pipe, and b is the economies
5 of scale factor. In the simple case we have been discussing, b takes
6 on the value .5. (A number raised to the .5 power is its square root;
7 for example, $4^{.5} = 2$.) Any value of b less than one implies the
8 existence of economies of scale; as b rises toward one, the degree of
9 scale economies decreases.

10
11 Q. Why do you refer to the case you describe as "simple"?

12 A. My example is based on two simplifying assumptions, neither of which
13 is quite correct. I assume that pipe cost is proportional to pipe
14 diameter, and that pipe capacity is proportional to the square of pipe
15 diameter.

16
17 Q. Why do you say these assumptions are incorrect?

18 A. First, I have done several empirical studies of cost-diameter
19 relationships for Missouri gas companies. These studies yielded a
20 wide range of estimates of the impact of pipe diameter on cost, which
21 indicated that cost could rise either more or less than proportionately
22 with diameter. Second, engineering principles tell us that capacity
23 rises faster than the square of diameter. The PSC Staff has used a
24 diameter-capacity scale relationship of .375 (rather than .5, which
25 would imply a square root relationship). (See, for example, Dr. Eve

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Lissik's direct testimony in Laclede Gas Company, Case No. GR-92-
2 165.)

3
4 Q. Have you done a cost-diameter study in this case?

5 A. Yes. Based on the data available in this case, I have found that
6 installed pipe costs appear to increase more slowly than pipe
7 diameter.

8
9 Q. What value of "b", from your earlier cost equation (page 7 above),
10 should be used in this case?

11 A. I believe that .5 is a reasonable value for "b." Based on my
12 recommendation, Mr. Kind has used this value to calculate the
13 allocation factor for distribution mains and transmission.

14
15 Q. Why do you believe .5 to be a reasonable value for "b"?

16 A. If we use the .375 factor for the relationship between diameter and
17 capacity, and combine it with a value less than one for the cost-
18 diameter relationship, we would arrive at a value for "b" that is less
19 than .375. (We multiply the two factors to obtain their combined
20 impact.) Using .5 as the "b" value is therefore conservative in the
21 sense that it likely errs on the side of overestimating peak related
22 incremental costs, while underestimating base demand related
23 incremental capacity costs.

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Q. Now let's discuss the RISUM approach. Please give a simple descrip-
2 tion of the method.

3 A. The procedure under RISUM is to first assign costs to monthly
4 increments of demand, and then to allocate these monthly incremental
5 costs to the classes using class contributions to the monthly
6 incremental peak demands as allocation factors.

7 The assignment of costs to demand increments is accomplished
8 through a sequence of steps. The cost of capacity sufficient to serve
9 the peak demand of the month with the lowest peak is assigned to the
10 initial increment of demand. The additional cost associated with
11 expanding capacity to meet the second smallest monthly peak is
12 assigned to the second demand increment. The process continues
13 until we get to the highest peak demand; the cost of additional
14 capacity needed to serve only the peak month is assigned to this final
15 increment.

16
17 Q. How should the incremental costs be allocated to the classes?

18 A. Factors based on each class's contribution to the relevant monthly
19 incremental peak demand should be used. Incremental demand
20 contributions are calculated by arranging the months in ascending
21 order according to total system peak demands, and determining each
22 class's contribution to that increment. Generally speaking, each
23 class's monthly demands rise continuously with the system demands,
24 but if a class has a negative incremental contribution to demand
25 (i.e., its demand falls while the system demand is rising), a value of

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 zero should be assigned to that class's incremental demand in that
2 month. Furthermore, no additional incremental demand should be
3 assigned to such a class unless its demand during higher system
4 peak months exceeds its demands during lower system peak months.
5 No negative incremental contributions should be permitted, nor
6 should any class be allocated costs twice for a given unit of incre-
7 mental demand.

8
9 Q. Could you please provide a simple illustration of the RISUM proce-
10 dure?

11 A. Yes. Schedule 2 contains a numerical example, based on three
12 customer classes and two time periods. Table 1 contains each class's
13 peak day demand in each period.

14 Columns (1)-(4) below Table 1 contain the calculations made
15 to determine each demand increment's share of costs. Column (1)
16 displays each period's peak day demand as a percentage of the
17 overall peak day demand. Column (2) shows the cost of serving the
18 demand of a given period, expressed as a percentage of total cost
19 (the cost to serve the overall peak demand). This cost is calculated
20 based on the economies of scale factor value of .5. Column (3) is the
21 marginal cost column corresponding to Column (2). Column (4)
22 shows the assignment of incremental cost to each period; these are
23 simply the marginal costs associated with each period.

24 Table 2 is derived from Table 1 and contains each class's
25 incremental peak demands. Table 3, which is derived from Table 2,

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 shows the class shares of incremental demand. For example, Class
2 C is responsible for 2/3 (66.7%) of the total incremental demand for
3 Period 2. Each entry in this table is multiplied by the appropriate
4 period's cost assignment percentage in Column (4) to derive the class
5 cost allocations shown in Table 4. For example, Class A is responsi-
6 ble for 33.3% of the period 1 incremental cost, which in turn is equal
7 to 70.71% of total cost. The 23.57% figure in Table 4 is equal to 33.3%
8 times 70.71%. Finally, summing down the columns of Table 4 yields
9 each class's share of the total cost being allocated.

10
11 Q. Is this the same basic procedure that Mr. Kind used?

12 A. Yes. The only differences between the example and Mr. Kind's
13 application of the method are the number of classes (five instead of
14 three) and the number of incremental time periods (twelve instead of
15 two).

16
17
18 PUBLIC COUNSEL CLASS REVENUE SPREAD RECOMMENDATION

19 Q. Please describe Public Counsel's proposal regarding the spread of
20 any increase granted MPS as a result of this case.

21 A. Public Counsel is proposing a movement toward the results of Mr.
22 Kind's class cost of service study. My Schedule 3 contains those
23 results and our proposal based thereon. The proposal is in two
24 parts-- a revenue neutral shift to move toward equal rates of return
25 across classes, and a subsequent equal percentage increase to

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 account for any revenue increase granted the Company in this
2 proceeding.

3 Generally speaking, the results of the study indicate that on
4 a revenue neutral basis (i.e., before considering the effect of any
5 overall revenue increase granted in this case), Residential and
6 Industrial Firm rates are slightly too high, Commercial Firm and
7 Commercial rates are significantly too high, and Large Volume rates
8 are substantially below the appropriate level. See the Table 1 on
9 Schedule 3-1; these figures are taken directly from Mr. Kind's
10 Schedule 1.

11
12 Q. How did you arrive at the recommended "No Overall Revenue
13 Increase" revenue shifts appearing in Table 2 of Schedule 3-2?

14 A. First I determined that, given the results of Mr. Kind's study, a
15 reasonable result would be to leave Residential revenues unchanged,
16 assuming no overall revenue increase. I reached the same conclusion
17 for the Industrial Firm class.

18 I determined that a movement of roughly halfway to the cost of
19 service for the other three classes would be appropriate in order to
20 mitigate the impact of the rate increase on the Industrial Interrupt-
21 ible customers. First I cut the dollar cost of service decrease
22 (shown in Table 1 of Schedule 3-1) for the two commercial classes in
23 half and reduced the Industrial Interruptible increase by that same
24 amount. I further reduced the increase for Industrial Interruptibles
25 by the cost of service decrease shown in Table 1 (Schedule 3-1) for

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 the Residential and Industrial Firm classes. The resulting proposed
2 dollar and percentage shifts are shown in Table 2 of Schedule 3-2.
3 It should be noted that the true total percentage rate increase for the
4 Industrial Interruptible class will be lower than the figures reported
5 here since most of these volumes are transported and, therefore, the
6 associated gas costs do not show up in this data.

7
8 Q. How would class revenues be adjusted to account for any rate
9 increase that might be granted in this case?

10 A. Once the aforementioned shifts are accounted for, any increase the
11 Company is granted in this case should be generated by equal
12 percentage increases in the class revenues from Table 2 (Schedule
13 3-2). Table 3 on Schedule 3-3 shows this calculation for the overall
14 revenue increase shown in Mr. Kind's Schedule 2 I believe this to be
15 a reasonable proposal.

16
17 Q. Please describe Schedule 4.

18 A. Schedule 4 contains our proposal for Residential rates, given the
19 rate increase assumed in Table 3 on Schedule 3-3. Mr. Kind is
20 sponsoring the proposed \$9.00 customer charge, which I recommend
21 be established unless the overall revenue increase resulting from this
22 case is very small. If the rate increase is very small, a customer
23 charge of \$8.50 or \$8.75 would probably be more appropriate. Once
24 the customer charge is established, the non-gas commodity rate falls
25 out as a residual, given a set of billing determinants. I have used

1 the Company's billing determinants in Schedule 4, but my use of them
2 should not be considered an endorsement thereof.

3
4
5 SPECIAL CONTRACT BETWEEN MPS AND
6 MARSHALL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

7 Q. Why are you discussing the special contract between MPS and
8 Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU)?

9 A. In Case No. GO-93-146, the Commission approved MPS's 1st Revised
10 Sheet No. 18, which lowered the minimum allowable charge under
11 MPS's Flexible Rate Tariff from \$0.10 to \$0.01 per mcf. This
12 permitted MPS to charge MMU a special contract rate that was below
13 the original tariffed minimum rate. In its Order Approving Stipula-
14 tion and Agreement, the Commission stated, "The Commission would
15 emphasize, however, that the issues surrounding this tariff and
16 MPS's practices in gas transportation rate contracts should be
17 subject to scrutiny by the parties in the currently pending MPS rate
18 case." (Order dated January 15, 1993, pages 2-3.) This case is the
19 "currently pending" case to which the Commission referred.
20

21 Q. Please summarize the discussion you will present on this issue.

22 A. First I will discuss the general principles that should serve as a basis
23 for evaluating the appropriateness of a special contract rate. Then
24 I will attempt to evaluate the MPS-MMU contract on those principles.
25 Finally, I will recommend that the Commission require MPS to

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 conduct, for each of its special contracts, certain cost studies that
2 will permit the Commission and other interested parties to determine
3 the reasonableness of allowing MPS to offer the special rates in
4 question.

5
6 Q. Please discuss the general principles that should serve as a basis for
7 evaluating the appropriateness of a special contract rate.

8 A. The first principle is that a local distribution company (LDC) should
9 retain all load that it is economically appropriate to retain, since
10 doing so will result in lower rates for all affected parties while
11 allowing the LDC the opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return.
12 In this context, "economically appropriate" means that the rate
13 should equal or exceed the LDC's long run marginal cost of service,
14 or LRMC. The LDC should be permitted to charge a discounted rate
15 in order to prevent the construction of bypass facilities if the rate
16 exceeds the LRMC of serving the customer in question. Put another
17 way, if the cost of bypass facilities exceeds the LRMC, bypass
18 should be prevented through the use of special rates, but if the
19 bypass facility is less costly than the LRMC of serving the customer
20 through LDC facilities, the bypass should be permitted.

21 A second general principle is that the discounted rate should
22 be no lower than is required to retain the customer. That is, the
23 rate should serve as an incentive for the customer to stay on the
24 LDC's system, but should be set as close as possible to the cost of
25 bypass.

1 A third general principle is that the rate charged should be no
2 lower than the short run marginal cost (SRMC) of the LDC. If the
3 rate is above LRMC, this requirement would be automatically
4 satisfied, since SRMC is less than LRMC. There may be a situation
5 during which the LRMC principle may be violated for a short period
6 of time (please see a later discussion of this point on page 21 below),
7 but the LDC should never charge a rate that is less than SRMC.

8 These principles allow us to draw some conclusions about the
9 appropriate minimum rate that should appear in a flexible (anti-
10 bypass) rate tariff, such as the one MPS currently offers. Regula-
11 tors can take two approaches to setting the minimum.

12
13 Q. Please describe these two approaches to setting the minimum rate.

14 A. Under the first approach, the minimum rate would be set above the
15 highest LRMC among the customers who may contemplate bypassing
16 the LDC. Doing so would ensure that the LRMC principle could
17 never be violated, but such a high minimum rate would probably
18 result in bypass projects that should not be undertaken, a situation
19 known as uneconomic bypass.

20 The second approach would be to set the minimum at the LDC's
21 SRMC. This approach would block all uneconomic bypass, but would
22 run the risk of blocking bypass projects that should be undertaken,
23 since an LDC could price above the minimum but still be below LRMC.

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Q. Does Public Counsel favor either of these approaches to setting the
2 minimum charge?

3 A. Public Counsel believes that the second approach is more practical,
4 so long as it is accompanied by a clear statement by the Commission
5 that sets forth the other principles I have discussed here. Setting
6 a relatively low minimum rate would eliminate the need for filings
7 such as the one MPS made, which resulted in the establishment of
8 Case No. GO-93-146. Regulatory burdens outside of a rate case
9 would thus be reduced.

10 Public Counsel cannot, however, overemphasize the importance
11 of having the Commission establish clear guidelines under which rate
12 case evaluations of special contract rates are to take place. OPC's
13 proposed approach would allow the LDCs to manage their own affairs
14 between rate cases without having to come to the Commission every
15 time a customer requests a special rate. Yet, through the strict
16 enforcement of the other principles, OPC's suggested approach
17 would ensure that other ratepayers are not disadvantaged by the
18 offering of a particular special contract rate. The result would be
19 that the LDC would be permitted wide latitude in setting special
20 contract rates after being advised of a clear set of rules under which
21 its pricing decision would be evaluated.

22 On page 2 of its Order approving the decrease in MPS's
23 minimum rate from \$0.10 to \$0.01 per mcf, the Commission expressed
24 "some reservation in regard to the range and discretion allowed by
25 the minimum and maximum transportation charges set out in the tariff

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 sheet..." Public Counsel believes that such concerns are justified,
2 but that they could be alleviated to a large extent by enunciating a
3 general policy regarding the evaluation of such rates in a rate case.

4
5 Q. Please summarize Public Counsel's recommendation regarding a
6 general policy statement on this issue.

7 A. The Commission should make it clear to Missouri LDCs that it will
8 follow a particular set of standards when evaluating the reason-
9 ableness of a discounted rate. Public Counsel recommends that the
10 following criteria be included in that set of standards:

- 11 1) Each LDC will be required to submit, during each of its
12 general rate proceedings, a study that estimates the LRMC of
13 serving each customer taking service under a discounted
14 special rate. Failure to file such studies along with the rate
15 request would result in the imputation of revenues for the
16 customer(s) in question at the maximum applicable tariff rate.
- 17
18 2) At the same time, each LDC should be required to submit a
19 study of each discount customer's cost of bypassing the LDC.
20 Failure to file such studies along with the rate request would
21 result in the imputation of revenues for the customer(s) in
22 question at the maximum applicable tariff rate.
- 23
24 3) If the discounted rate being charged at the time of a rate case
25 is below either the LRMC or the cost of bypass for the custom-
26 er, revenues for that customer would be imputed to the level
27 of LRMC or the cost of bypass, whichever is higher.
- 28
29 4) An LDC should not be prevented from charging a rate less
30 than LRMC or the cost of bypass so long as the rate exceeds
31 the minimum allowed rate.
- 32
33 5) The minimum rate should be set at or just above SRMC, but a
34 rate will not be judged to be just and reasonable simply
35 because it is in excess of the minimum.
- 36
37

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Q. How should these criteria, or guidelines, be applied in the case of
2 the MPS-MMU contract?

3 A. Since these criteria have not yet been officially enunciated, MPS
4 should not be held to all of them for either of its special contracts
5 (the other contract is with Owens Corning). Some of these guide-
6 lines should have been self evident, however, and they can certainly
7 be applied here without concern that the Commission is somehow
8 engaging in the application of "20/20 hindsight."

9
10 Q. Which principles should not apply in this case?

11 A. Although it can be argued that MPS should know that it should not
12 charge a rate that is less than the LRMC of serving a particular
13 customer, OPC does not believe that it would be fair to apply the
14 first guideline and impute revenues to the level of the maximum rate
15 even though MPS has performed no LRMC studies. (See also the
16 direct testimony of OPC witness Ryan Kind regarding the availability
17 of LRMC data for MPS.) The Company should, however, be ordered
18 to complete such a study for each of its special rate customers within
19 six months of the date of the report and order approving tariffs
20 resulting from this case.

21 Similarly, the part of the third criterion requiring imputation
22 if the rate in question is below LRMC should not be applied either.
23 This is because there are no LRMC studies, either for specific
24 customers or for a typical customer, on which to base a judgement in
25 this case.

Direct Testimony of
Philip B. Thompson

1 Q. Which principles should be applied in this case?

2 A. All of the remaining guidelines (2, 4, 5, and part of 3) either are
3 being or should be applied. OPC believes that the change in the
4 minimum rate that occurred in Case No. GO-93-146 has resulted in
5 compliance with the fifth principle; \$0.01 is a reasonable estimate of
6 SRMC.

7 With respect to the second principle and the part of the third
8 that deals with the cost of bypass, MPS made available in GO-93-146
9 a study showing the cost of bypass for MMU. The rate being
10 charged appears to exceed the cost of bypass as shown in that
11 study. The Company should not be penalized for not filing a bypass
12 cost study for Owens Corning, but should be required to do so
13 within six months of the date of the report and order approving
14 tariffs resulting from this case.

15 The Commission can apply the fourth principle by simply doing
16 nothing in this case. This is because between rate cases, the
17 Company absorbs any difference between the rate charged and the
18 rate that should be charged.

19

20 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

21 A. Yes.

THOMPSON DIRECT
Case No. GR-93-172

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE						
WEATHER ADJUSTED CLASS PEAK DAY MCF						
MONTH	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL FIRM	COMMERCIAL INTERRUPT.	INDUSTRIAL FIRM	INDUSTRIAL INTERRUPT.	TOTAL
<i>Jun-91</i>	4,613	2,648	194	273	7,779	15,507
<i>Jul-91</i>	2,775	1,693	149	218	9,699	14,532
<i>Aug-91</i>	3,425	2,031	165	237	9,638	15,496
<i>Sep-91</i>	9,266	5,066	308	413	10,530	25,583
<i>Oct-91</i>	15,422	8,266	458	599	6,956	31,700
<i>Nov-91</i>	23,736	12,588	662	849	8,143	45,979
<i>Dec-91</i>	31,891	16,826	862	1,095	7,842	58,516
<i>Jan-92</i>	34,917	18,399	936	1,186	8,753	64,191
<i>Feb-92</i>	31,918	16,840	862	1,096	9,960	60,677
<i>Mar-92</i>	24,840	13,161	689	882	9,070	48,642
<i>Apr-92</i>	17,364	9,276	506	657	6,503	34,305
<i>May-92</i>	10,091	5,495	328	438	7,909	24,261
SYSTEM PEAK DAY DEMANDS	34,917	18,399	936	1,186	8,753	64,191

SAMPLE CALCULATIONS: RELATIVE INCREMENTAL
SYSTEM UTILIZATION METHOD

Table 1: Period Peak Demands by Class				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	TOTAL
<i>Period 1</i>	1	1	1	3
<i>Period 2</i>	1	2	3	6

Column:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Percent of Peak Demand	Percent of Cost To Serve Peak	Marginal Cost as a % of Peak Cost	Cost Assigned to Increment of Demand
<i>Period 1</i>	50.00%	70.71%	70.71%	70.71%
<i>Period 2</i>	100.00%	100.00%	29.29%	29.29%
Note: b =	0.50000			

Table 2: Period Incremental Peak Demands by Class				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	TOTAL
<i>Period 1</i>	1	1	1	3
<i>Period 2</i>	0	1	2	3

Table 3: Class Proportion of Period Incremental Peak Demands				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	TOTAL
<i>Period 1</i>	0.333	0.333	0.333	1.000
<i>Period 2</i>	0.000	0.333	0.667	1.000

Table 4: Class Cost Allocation Percentages				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	TOTAL
<i>Period 1</i>	23.57%	23.57%	23.57%	70.71%
<i>Period 2</i>	0.00%	9.76%	19.53%	29.29%
TOTAL	23.57%	33.33%	43.10%	100.00%

THOMPSON DIRECT
Case No. GR-93-172

TABLE 1 — OPC CLASS COST OF SERVICE RESULTS — NO OVERALL REVENUE INCREASE

	TOTAL	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL FIRM	COMMERCIAL INTERRUPT.	INDUSTRIAL FIRM	INDUSTRIAL INTERRUPT.
CURRENT REVENUES						
GAS	\$15,983,571	9,692,076	5,323,649	39,264	441,001	487,581
NON-GAS	\$15,648,631	9,610,732	4,303,954	120,559	226,158	1,387,228
TOTAL	\$31,632,202	\$19,302,808	\$9,627,603	\$159,823	\$667,159	\$1,874,809
COST OF SERVICE STUDY RESULTS						
GAS	\$15,983,571	9,692,076	5,323,649	39,264	441,001	487,581
NON-GAS	\$15,648,631	9,446,391	3,056,342	107,170	214,943	2,823,785
TOTAL	\$31,632,202	\$19,138,467	\$8,379,991	\$146,434	\$655,944	\$3,311,366
COST OF SERVICE DOLLAR SHIFTS						
GAS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NON-GAS	\$0	(\$164,341)	(\$1,247,612)	(\$13,389)	(\$11,215)	\$1,436,557
TOTAL	\$0	(\$164,341)	(\$1,247,612)	(\$13,389)	(\$11,215)	\$1,436,557
COST OF SERVICE PERCENTAGE CHANGES						
GAS	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NON-GAS	0.00%	-1.71%	-28.99%	-11.11%	-4.96%	103.56%
TOTAL	0.00%	-0.85%	-12.96%	-8.38%	-1.68%	76.62%

THOMPSON DIRECT
Case No. GR-93-172

TABLE 2 — OPC PROPOSED CLASS REVENUE SHIFTS — NO OVERALL REVENUE INCREASE

	TOTAL	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL FIRM	COMMERCIAL INTERRUPT.	INDUSTRIAL FIRM	INDUSTRIAL INTERRUPT.
PROPOSED CLASS REVENUES						
GAS	\$15,983,571	\$9,692,076	\$5,323,649	\$39,264	\$441,001	\$487,581
NON-GAS	\$15,648,631	\$9,610,732	\$3,680,148	\$113,864	\$226,158	\$2,017,729
TOTAL	\$31,632,202	\$19,302,808	\$9,003,797	\$153,128	\$667,159	\$2,505,310
PROPOSED DOLLAR SHIFTS						
GAS	\$0	0	0	0	0	0
NON-GAS	\$0	0	(623,806)	(6,695)	0	630,501
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	(\$623,806)	(\$6,695)	\$0	\$630,501
PROPOSED PERCENTAGE SHIFTS						
GAS	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NON-GAS	0.00%	0.00%	-14.49%	-5.55%	0.00%	45.45%
TOTAL	0.00%	0.00%	-6.48%	-4.19%	0.00%	33.63%

THOMPSON DIRECT
Case No. GR-93-172

TABLE 3 — OPC PROPOSED CLASS REVENUE CHANGES — INCREASE TO ACHIEVE OPC PROPOSED ROR

	TOTAL	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL FIRM	COMMERCIAL INTERRUPT.	INDUSTRIAL FIRM	INDUSTRIAL INTERRUPT.
PROPOSED CLASS REVENUES						
GAS	\$15,983,571	\$9,692,076	\$5,323,649	\$39,264	\$441,001	\$487,581
NON-GAS	\$18,055,744	\$11,089,080	\$4,246,238	\$131,379	\$260,946	\$2,328,101
TOTAL	\$34,039,315	\$20,781,156	\$9,569,887	\$170,643	\$701,947	\$2,815,682
PROPOSED DOLLAR CHANGES						
GAS	\$0	0	0	0	0	0
NON-GAS	\$2,407,113	1,478,348	566,090	17,515	34,788	310,372
TOTAL	\$2,407,113	\$1,478,348	\$566,090	\$17,515	\$34,788	\$310,372
PROPOSED PERCENTAGE CHANGES						
GAS	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NON-GAS	15.38%	15.38%	-1.34%	8.97%	15.38%	67.82%
TOTAL	7.61%	7.66%	-0.60%	6.77%	5.21%	50.19%

THOMPSON DIRECT
Case No. GR-93-172

PUBLIC COUNSEL RESIDENTIAL RATE RECOMMENDATION

BILLING UNITS	
Annual Bills	431,303
Volumes (mcf)	3,377,274

CURRENT NON-GAS RATES AND REVENUES		
	RATES	REVENUES
Customer Charge	\$7.50	\$3,234,773
Non-gas Margin	\$1.8879	\$6,375,956
TOTAL		\$9,610,728

PROPOSED NON-GAS RATES AND REVENUES		
	RATES	REVENUES
Customer Charge	\$9.00	\$3,881,727
Non-gas Margin	\$2.1341	\$7,207,440
TOTAL		\$11,089,167
Percentage Increase in Margin Revenue		15.38%
Percentage Increase in Total Revenue		7.66%