

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 6th day of April,
2017.

In the Matter of an Investigation into the)
Eligibility of Expenses Recovered through the)
Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge)

File No. GO-2017-0081

**ORDER GRANTING PUBLIC COUNSEL’S MOTION TO LEAVE OPEN A
FILE TO FACILITATE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S INVESTIGATION INTO
ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENSES RECOVERED THROUGH THE
INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT SURCHARGE**

Issue Date: April 6, 2017

Effective Date: April 6, 2017

The Commission opened this file on September 28, 2016, at the request of the Office of the Public Counsel. At that time, Public Counsel explained that it intended to investigate the eligibility of projects claimed by Missouri’s gas companies for recovery through the Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS). Public Counsel asked the Commission to open a file through which Public Counsel could conduct discovery to facilitate that investigation. The Commission opened the file as requested by Public Counsel, but in doing so, indicated it was not issuing an open-ended, unlimited grant of authority to Public Counsel, and indicated the file would be closed in six months, unless Public Counsel shows good cause for an extension. On March 20, 2017, Public Counsel filed a motion asking the Commission to leave this file open beyond the six months contemplated in the Commission’s September 2016 order.

Public Counsel explains that it has not yet completed its ISRS investigation. It asks that the file remain open until the conclusion of Laclede Gas Company's petition to establish a new ISRS following Laclede's upcoming rate case. Laclede responded to Public Counsel's motion on March 24, arguing that this file is unnecessary and should not be extended, suggesting instead that Public Counsel conduct its investigation through the existing ISRS case files.

Section 386.450, RSMo 2000 gives the Commission authority to order a public utility to produce records for the Commission's review. That same section provides that the Commission shall order a public utility to produce records for review by Public Counsel, as requested by Public Counsel, upon a showing of good cause. This file was created to give Public Counsel a structure to request the production of documents from the utilities, and to enable the Commission to review those requests as appropriate.

The Commission finds that it is reasonable for Public Counsel to continue its broader investigation apart from the time constraints and other strictures associated with a particular ISRS case. Thus, the Commission finds that Public Counsel has shown good cause for the Commission to extend the existence of this file to facilitate Public Counsel's investigation.

As indicated in the order opening this case, the Commission does not intend for this to be an open-ended, unlimited grant of authority to Public Counsel. Public Counsel suggests that it will complete its investigation by the conclusion of Laclede's next case to establish an ISRS. That is an indefinite time. Rather than allow that uncertainty, the Commission will close this file on December 31, 2018, unless Public Counsel shows good cause for the file to remain open.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. This file shall remain open until December 31, 2018, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 6th day of April 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 6, 2017

File/Case No. GO-2017-0081

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.