

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Southern)
Missouri Gas Company, L.P., d/b/a Southern Missouri)
Natural Gas and Missouri Gas Utility, Inc., for Approval) **File No. GM-2011-0354**
of the Merger of Southern Missouri Natural Gas with)
Missouri Gas Utility, Inc., and for Certain Related)
Transactions.)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Issue Date: August 25, 2011

Effective Date: August 25, 2011

On April 27, 2011¹, Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P., d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas (“SMNG”) and Missouri Gas Utility (“MGU”) filed an application. That application requests, among other things, authority from the Commission for SMNG and MGU to merge, with MGU as the surviving entity. The Commission set a procedural schedule, which includes rebuttal testimony being due on August 26.

On August 25, MGU and SMNG filed a Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule. MGU and SMNG state that a stipulation and agreement resolving all issues is imminent, and that time would be better spent working on that stipulation and agreement rather than filing testimony. MGU and SMNG also file their motion on behalf of the Staff of the Commission, the Office of the Public Counsel, and Southern Union Company, d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(15) allows parties ten days to respond to pleadings unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. However, because rebuttal

¹ Calendar references are to 2011 unless otherwise noted.

testimony would otherwise be due tomorrow, and because all of the parties are in favor of the motion, the Commission will take up the motion now, and will grant it.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule is granted.
2. The procedural schedule is suspended.
3. The parties shall file a stipulation and agreement or, in the alternative, a status report, no later than September 1, 2011.
4. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Ronald D. Pridgin, Senior Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 25th day of August, 2011.