

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

In the Matter of Southern Union Company,       )  
d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy's Tariff Proposal       )  
to Assess Security Deposit on New Service       )  
Applicants that Receive a Credit Score of       )  
724 or Below.    )

**File No. GT-2011-0375**  
Tariff No. JG-2011-0565

**ORDER SHORTENING TIME FOR RESPONSE**

Issue Date: May 18, 2011

Effective Date: May 18, 2011

On May 17, 2011, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a Motion to Suspend Tariff Filing regarding Tariff File No. JG-2011-0565 submitted by Southern Union Company, d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy, on May 11, 2011, with an effective date of June 10, 2011. The motion requests that the Commission suspend MGE's tariff to allow Public Counsel, the Commission's Staff, and the Commission time to consider the matter and determine whether MGE's proposal is lawful and reasonable.

Public Counsel states that the proposed tariff revision would add an Equifax Advanced Energy Risk (EAER) Score of 724 or below to the list of instances where MGE "may require a security deposit or other guarantee as a condition of service," and would delete language, currently required by the Commission's rules, that allows new service customers to avoid paying a security deposit if the customer meets certain listed conditions. Public Counsel argues that it is not clear from the filing whether MGE would still allow a *prima facie* showing of an acceptable credit rating as required by 4 CSR 240-13.030(1)(C), and that if it is MGE's intention to no longer allow a *prima facie* showing, the tariff would be in violation of that rule and would be unlawful absent a

variance from the Commission. Public Counsel also raises questions as to the basis for using an EAER Score of 724 or below as the threshold credit score that determines whether MGE will assess a deposit.

Public Counsel further states that the issues created by MGE's proposal are currently being considered in File No. AW-2011-0252,<sup>1</sup> and argues that allowing MGE to make this change at this time would be premature while the proposed Chapter 13 rule changes are being considered.

Finally, Public Counsel notes that MGE's proposed tariff mirrors Laclede Gas Company's tariff, which was authorized on an experimental basis. OPC asks the Commission to analyze Laclede's experiment prior to expanding its use to MGE's customers.

The Commission will set an expedited deadline for responses to Public Counsel's motion.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Any response to the Motion to Suspend Tariff Filing shall be filed no later than May 26, 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of a Working File to Consider Changes to Chapter 13 Service and Billing Practices Rules*, opened Feb. 10, 2011.

2. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 18th day of May, 2011.