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

In the Matter of the Propriety of the	)	
Rate Schedules for Natural Gas Service of	)	File No. GR-2018-0230
Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.	)	

# ORDER OPENING RATE CASE, DIRECTING NOTICE, ESTABLISHING TIME TO INTERVENE, AND REQUIRING COMPANY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ITS RATES SHOULD NOT BE ADJUSTED

Issue Date: February 21, 2018 Effective Date: February 21, 2018

The Commission's Staff filed a motion on February 16, 2018, asking the Commission to open a rate case to consider the rates charged by Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. for natural gas service. Staff's motion explains that Summit's existing rate schedules may no longer be just and reasonable in light of the recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent.

Staff asks the Commission to order Summit to show cause why the Commission should not order it to promptly file tariffs to reduce its rates for every class and category of service to reflect the percentage reduction in its federal-state effective income tax rate. In addition, Staff asks the Commission to direct Summit to quantify and track all natural gas rate impacts resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Staff also asks the Commission to order Summit to quantify and track its excess protected and unprotected Accumulated Deferred Income Tax (ADIT) for possible future flow-back to ratepayers, and to advise the Commission how such flow-back may best be accomplished. Finally, Staff asks the Commission to direct Summit to state its position on whether the court decisions in

State ex rel. Midwest Gas Users' Association v. Public Service Commission<sup>1</sup> and State ex rel. Hotel Continental v. Burton<sup>2</sup> would allow the Commission to order a reduction in utility rates without considering all relevant factors in an extended general rate case.

The Commission will open this file and direct Summit to respond as requested by Staff.

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. No later than March 19, 2018, Summit shall show cause, if any, why the Commission should not order it to promptly file tariffs reducing its rates for every class and category of natural gas service to reflect the percentage reduction in its federal-state effective income tax rate.
- 2. Summit shall quantify and track all impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 potentially affecting natural gas service rates from January 1, 2018, going forward.
- Summit shall quantify and track its excess protected and unprotected ADIT for possible future flow back to ratepayers, and shall advise the Commission how best such flow-back may be accomplished.
- 4. Summit shall, as part of its response to this order to show cause, advise the Commission as to its position on whether the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is like the gross receipts tax analyzed in *Hotel Continental* and the natural gas commodity costs considered in *Midwest Gas Users' Association*, such that the Commission may order a reduction in utility rates without considering all relevant factors in an extended general rate case.
  - 5. Summit shall, as part of its response to this order to show cause, identify and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 976 S.W.2d 470 (Mo. App. W.D. 1998).

quantify all other impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on its natural gas rates not otherwise addressed in this order.

6. The Commission's Data Center shall send a copy of this notice and order to each party to Summit's most recent general rate case – GR-2014-0086 - and to the county commission of each county within Summit's service area. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing Summit's service area and the news media serving Summit's service area.

7. Any party wishing to apply to intervene shall file an appropriate motion no later than March 5, 2018, by transmitting it to:

Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

or by using the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System.

8. This order shall be effective when issued.

BY THE COMMISSION

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Morris L. Woodruff

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Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 334 S.W.2d 75 (Mo. 1960).

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2018.

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2018.

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Morris L. Woodruff

**Secretary** 

## MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION February 21, 2018

#### File/Case No. GR-2018-0230

### Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 staffcounselservice@psc.mo.gov

#### Office of the Public Counsel

Hampton Williams 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 opcservice@ded.mo.gov

#### County of Benton, Missouri

County Commission Clerk 316 Van Buren Street - Benton County Courthouse P.O. Box 1238 Warsaw, MO 65355

#### **County of Caldwell, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk PO Box 67 49 E Main, Caldwell County Courthouse Kingston, MO 64650

#### **County of Camden, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 1 Court Circle, Ste. 2 Camdenton, MO 65020

#### **County of Daviess, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 102 N Main Daviess County Courthouse Gallatin, MO 64640

#### **County of Douglas, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 203 S.E. Second Ave., Douglas County Courthouse P.O. Box 398 Ava, MO 65608

#### **County of Greene, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 940 Boonville, Rm. 113 Greene County Courthouse Springfield, MO 65802

#### **County of Harrison, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 1500 Main, Harrison County Courthouse P.O. Box 525 Bethany, MO 64424

#### **County of Howell, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 35 Court Square, Room 200 West Plains, MO 65775

#### County of Laclede, Missouri

County Commission Clerk 200 N. Adams Ave. Laclede County Government Center Lebanon, MO 65536

#### **County of Lawrence, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 1 E Courthouse Sq., Ste. 101 Lawrence County Courthouse Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

#### **County of Miller, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 2001 Hwy. 52, Miller County Courthouse PO Box 12 Tuscumbia, MO 65082

#### **County of Morgan, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 100 E Newton St.` Morgan County Courthouse Versailles, MO 65075

#### **County of Pettis, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 415 S. Ohio Pettis County Courthouse Sedalia, MO 65301

#### County of Stone. Missouri

County Commission Clerk PO Box 45 Stone County Courthouse Galena, MO 65656

#### **County of Taney, Missouri**

County Commission Clerk 266-A Main Street, Taney County Courthouse Annex PO Box 156 Forsyth, MO 65653

#### County of Texas, Missouri

County Commission Clerk 210 N. Grand Texas County Courthouse Houston, MO 65483 County of Webster, Missouri County Commission Clerk 101 S. Crittendon St., Rm. 11 Webster County Courthouse Marshfield, MO 65706 County of Wright, Missouri
County Commission Clerk
125 Court Square, Wright County
Courthouse
P.O. Box 98
Hartville, MO 65667

Missouri Division of Energy Legal Department 301 W. High St., Room 720 P.O. Box 1766 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Missouri Propane Gas Association Legal Department 4110 Country Club Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109 Missouri School Boards' Association Legal Department 2100 I-70 Drive Southwest Columbia, MO 65203 Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. Legal Department 7810 Shaffer Parkway #120 Littleton, CO 80127

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

Sincerely,

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.