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October 15, 2002

Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: GT-2003-0038

Service Commission

Dear Secretary:

CHARLES E. SMARR

Enclosed for filing with your office are an original and eight copies of Aquila's Response to Preliminary Order. Please file stamp the receipt copy and return to me for my records.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Dean L. Cooper

cc w/enclosures

Robert Franson, GCO Douglas Michael, OPC Richard Brownlee

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

OCT 15 2002

In the Matter of the tariff filing of Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila) (as consolidated with Networks - L&P) Case No. GT-2003-0039)

AQUILA'S RESPONSE TO PRELIMINARY ORDER

Comes now, Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks - L&P and Aquila Networks - MPS ("Aquila"), and, in response to the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") Notice of Preliminary Order and Agenda Discussion, respectfully states:

- 1. On October 10, 2002, the Commission issued its notice of preliminary order and agenda discussion inviting written responses thereto no later than 8:30 a.m. on October 15, 2002.
- 2. Aquila understands, from the Commission's previous discussion during its October 10, 2002, agenda session, that there may be questions regarding the operation of the \$0.04 per Ccf aggregation and balancing fee/rate cap during the first year of the experiment, the later true-up in the second year of the experiment, and the statutory requirements that the experiment not have any negative financial impact on the gas corporation or its other customers and that the aggregation charge be sufficient to generate revenue at least equal to all costs caused by the experiment.
- 3. Aquila executed the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement filed herein with the intent and understanding that: the additional costs associated with the experiment during year 1 would be compared to the additional revenues generated by the aggregation and balancing fees during year 1 and that a potential adjustment could be made in year 2.
 - 4. The foregoing understanding is consistent with the direct testimony of

Aquila witness Robert J. Amdor (pp. 5-6) and the direct testimony of Staff witness Russo (pp. 3-5). Providing a true-up procedure is the only method that Aquila is aware of for the Commission to reasonably conclude that the experiment will not have any negative impact on the gas corporation and its other customers and that the aggregation charge is sufficient to generate revenue at least equal to the costs caused by the experiment, as required by statute. Any other approach would not seem to be consistent with the underlying statute, or the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement.

WHEREFORE, Aquila respectfully requests that the Commission consider the above response.

Respectfully submitted,

Déan L. Cooper

#36592

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Attorneys for Aquila, Inc.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 14th day of October, 2002 to the following:

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