

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

In the Matter of Summit Natural Gas of Missouri's	)	
Filing of Revised Tariffs to Increase its Annual	)	<b><u>Case No. GR-2014-0086</u></b>
Revenues for Natural Gas Service.	)	Tariff No. YG-2014-0285

**STAFF'S MOTION FOR A CONCURRENT  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through the Chief Staff Counsel, and for its *Motion for a Concurrent Prehearing Conference*, states as follows:

1. On January 2, 2014, Summit Natural Gas of Missouri ("Summit") filed tariffs and other required items initiating this general rate case. Thereafter, on January 8, 2014, the Commission issued procedural orders suspending the tariffs and governing the early stages of this case, including setting a date for a prehearing conference, a date for a proposed procedural schedule, and dates for an evidentiary hearing.

2. On February 6, 2014, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corporation ("Liberty") filed tariffs and other required items and initiated its general rate case, Case No. GR-2014-0152. Thereafter, on February 7, 2014, the Commission issued its procedural order suspending the tariffs and setting a date for a prehearing conference, a date for a proposed procedural schedule, and dates for an evidentiary hearing.

3. On February 18, 2014, Staff filed a *Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule and Discovery Order* herein as directed by the Commission's procedural order of January 8, 2014. That proposed procedural schedule was the result of a surprising amount of internal negotiation, as well as some external negotiation, necessary to coordinate the

activities of several different components of the Staff and those of the various parties. Some of the dates proposed therein for an evidentiary hearing conflicted with the hearing dates set by the Commission in Case No. GR-2014-0152, however, Staff expected the conflict to be resolved eventually when a proposed procedural schedule was finally filed in Case No. GR-2014-0152 on March 20, 2014.

4. On February 26, 2014, the Commission issued its *Order Setting Procedural Schedule and Terms of Discovery*. The Commission did not adopt the procedural schedule proposed by the parties, saying

The Commission's Staff filed a proposed order on behalf of all parties ("motion"). The motion's proposed discovery conference dates conflict with the Commission's agenda meetings, its proposed hearing dates conflict with a hearing already scheduled in another action, and its effective date for the report and order is less than 30 days from the date of issuance.

Thereupon, the Commission set dates for an evidentiary hearing and other procedural activities in this case by its Order of February 26, 2014, that unfortunately conflict with various planned activities in Case No. GR-2014-0152. Additionally, the procedural schedule includes a typographical error with respect to the briefing dates.

5. In order to coordinate the dates for both cases, which after all involve many of the same persons, both on Staff and in the Office of the Public Counsel, Staff proposes to hold a concurrent prehearing conference in this case on March 13, 2014, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, which is the time and place already set for the prehearing conference in Case No. GR-2014-0152. This will allow all parties and interested persons, with the assistance of the assigned Regulatory Law Judges, to devise satisfactory procedural schedules for these two cases that will best meet the needs of all concerned.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff prays that the Commission will set a concurrent prehearing conference in this case on March 13, 2014, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, which is the time and place already set for the prehearing conference in Case No. GR-2014-0152; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Kevin A. Thompson

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served, either electronically or by hand delivery or by First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this **5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014**, to the parties of record as set out on the official Service List maintained by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission for this case.

**s/ Kevin A. Thompson**