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June 15, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
JUN 15 2000  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

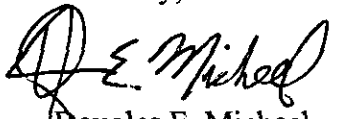
**RE: Southern Union Company/Fall River Gas Company,  
Case No. GM-2000-503**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 8 copies of **Public Counsel's Recommendation**. Please "file stamp" the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office. I have on this date mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas E. Micheel  
Senior Public Counsel

DEM:kh

cc: Counsel of record

Enclosure

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

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**

JUN 15 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the matter of Southern Union Company )  
for authority to acquire the common stock )  
of and to merge with Fall River Gas )  
Company, and, in connection therewith )  
certain other related transactions. )

Case No. GM-2000-503

**PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RECOMMENDATION**

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") and for its recommendation in the above-referenced proceeding states as follows:

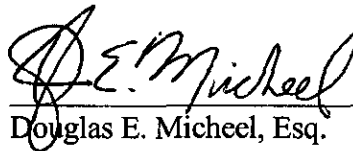
1. On or about February 17, 2000 Southern Union Company ("SUC") filed its Application for authority to acquire the common stock of and to merge with Fall River Gas Company ("Fall River"), and, in connection therewith, certain other related transactions.
2. The Commission on or about February 23, 2000 issued its Order establishing time for filing recommendations directing that recommendations regarding approval or rejection of the application filed by SUC be filed by Public Counsel no later than June 15, 2000.
3. On or about May 22, 2000 SUC filed its Amended Application in this proceeding adding additional customer service criteria to the commitment set forth in paragraph 19 of its initial Application and reaffirming all the other commitments contained in its initial application.
4. Public Counsel does not oppose the granting of SUC's application provided that the Commission adopt all of the conditions set forth in the initial Application and in SUC's Amended Application filed on May 22, 2000.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel requests the Commission approve Southern Union Company's Application for authority to acquire the common stock of and to merge with Fall River Gas Company in this matter with all the conditions contained in its Application and Amended Application.

Respectfully submitted,

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL**

BY:



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Senior Public Counsel

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been faxed, mailed or hand-delivered to the following counsel of record on this 15th day of June, 2000:

Denny Frey  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Paul Boudreau/James C. Swearengen  
Brydon, Swearengen & England PC  
P. O. Box 456  
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