

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

In the Matter of the Cause of the February)	
2021 Cold Weather Event and its Impact on)	File No. AO-2021-0264
Investor Owned Utilities)	

Public Counsel’s Response to Natural Gas Utility Presentations

The Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) responds to the Public Service Commission’s (Commission) order directing responses as follows:

1. The Commission opened the above captioned docket on February 22, 2021, as a means to evaluate the customer and utility impacts from the February 13-17, 2021 North American winter storm, colloquially referred to as Winter Storm Uri.
2. The Commission later ordered Missouri’s natural gas utilities to answer certain specified questions at a March 23, 2021, workshop, and directed any interested stakeholder to respond to said natural gas utility responses by April 8, 2021.
3. OPC responds now accordingly to extend general support for the natural gas utilities’ proposals to use deferrals to extend the recovery period for winter storm related costs subject to the utilities’ purchased gas adjustment and actual cost adjustment. OPC believes that the Commission should authorize any such deferrals and recovery period for a natural gas utility based on the resulting bill impact for customers rather than based on the size of any regulatory asset.
4. OPC also offers that the Commission should order its Staff to review the natural gas utilities’ actions before, during, and after Winter Storm Uri to evaluate prudence.

Wherefore, the OPC offers its response to the natural gas utilities’ presentations.

Respectfully,

/s/ Caleb Hall

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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 8th day of April, 2021, with notice of the same being sent to all counsel of record.

/s/ Caleb Hall