## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of	)			
Southern Union Company for Authority to	)			
Acquire Up to and Including Five	)			
Percent (5%) of the Common Stock of	)	Case	No.	GF-2000-504
Fall River Gas Company, Valley Resources,	)			
Inc., and Providence Energy Corporation.	)			

## NOTICE SHORTENING TIME IN WHICH TO RESPOND

On February 17, 2000, Southern Union Company (Southern Union) filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to acquire up to and including five percent of the common stock of Fall River Gas Company (FAL), Valley Resources, Inc. (Valley) and Providence Energy Corporation (ProvEnergy). In companion cases, Case Nos. GM-2000-500, GM-2000-502 and GM-2000-503, Southern Union requested authority to complete separate mergers with ProvEnergy, Valley and FAL. Southern Union seeks authority to immediately purchase a portion of the stock of ProvEnergy, Valley and FAL in anticipation of the mergers for the purpose of mitigating the pricing effect of possible arbitrage trading in the shares of FAL prior to the time of closing of the merger and to take advantage of temporary market discounts in Valley and ProvEnergy stock prices.

On March 20, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a Memorandum recommending that the Commission grant Southern Union's application, subject to certain conditions. The conditions recommended

by Staff are substantially identical to the conditions to which Southern Union agreed in its application.

In order that Southern Union's application may be considered expeditiously, all interested parties are hereby notified that any response to Staff's Memorandum must be filed on or before March 24, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 21st day of March, 2000.

Woodruff, Regulatory Law Judge

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COMMISSION COUNSEL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION