

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 21st
day of April, 1993.

In the matter of Union Electric Company's)	
tariff sheets designed to change its)	
purchased gas adjustment clause to reflect)	CASE NO. GR-93-265
the unbundling of natural gas pipeline)	
rates and services.)	

SUSPENSION ORDER AND NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS

On March 22, 1993, Union Electric Company (UE) filed tariff sheets designed to change its Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Clause to reflect the unbundling of natural gas pipeline rates pursuant to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order 636. The tariff sheets were filed as interim sheets to become effective on April 1, 1993. On March 31, 1993, UE requested that the effective date of its proposed tariff sheets be changed to May 1, 1993.

Also on March 31, 1993, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a motion requesting that the Commission suspend UE's proposed tariff sheets pending a hearing. Public Counsel contends that the proposed tariff sheets raise many complex policy questions which should be addressed before the proposed tariff sheets become effective.

On April 12, 1993, UE filed a response in opposition to Public Counsel's motion to suspend. UE argues that suspension of the proposed tariff sheets is unnecessary because the "interim subject to refund" status of the proposed tariff sheets will protect customers from overcharges and would permit customers to benefit immediately from FERC Order 636. UE also argued that unnecessary duplication would be avoided by deferring hearing procedures until the Commission's project team completes its study of the issues raised by FERC Order 636.

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On April 15, 1993, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a response to the pleadings of Public Counsel and UE in this case. Staff stated that UE's proposed tariff sheets should be suspended because of concerns with several proposals contained in the tariff sheets.

The Commission is of the opinion that in order to allow sufficient time to study the effect of the proposed tariff sheets and to determine if they are just, reasonable and in the public interest, the proposed tariff sheets should be suspended for a period of 120 days beyond the requested effective date. The Commission is also of the opinion that a prehearing conference should be scheduled to allow the parties the opportunity to discuss any substantive or procedural issues in this matter. The parties should also utilize the prehearing conference to establish a procedural schedule to be proposed to the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the proposed tariff sheets filed by Union Electric Company on March 22, 1993, to reflect changes in its Purchased Gas Adjustment Clause are hereby suspended for a period of 120 days from May 1, 1993 to August 28, 1993.
2. That a prehearing conference in this matter is hereby scheduled for May 17, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.
3. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule with the Commission on or before May 24, 1993.
4. That this Order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)

Brent Stewart

Brent Stewart
Executive Secretary

McClure, Chm., Mueller, Rauch,
Perkins and Kincheloe, CC., Concur.