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

In the Matter of Revised Natural Gas Rate )  
Schedules Designed to Increase St. Joseph ) **Case No. GR-99-246**  
Light & Power Company's Annual Natural Gas ) (Tariff File 9900426)  
Revenues by Approximately \$499,104 Exclusive )  
of Applicable Fees and Taxes. )

**ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION WITHOUT INTERVENTION**

On May 21, 1999, AG Processing, Inc. a Cooperative (AGP), Friskies Petcare Products, Inc. (Friskies) and Wire Rope Corporation (Wire Rope) (hereafter collectively referred to as Petitioners) filed an application for participation without intervention. Petitioners' application indicates that Petitioners are intervenors and active in the companion but unconsolidated cases ER-99-247 and HR-99-245, dealing respectively with St. Joseph Light & Power Company's (SJLP) electric and steam rates and proposed increases thereto. Petitioners note that the pending rate cases have not been consolidated but are scheduled to be heard and processed on simultaneous schedules as to testimony, prehearing and hearing.

Petitioners state that they are not natural gas customers of SJLP, and that they do not seek to intervene. Instead, Petitioners seek status as participants in this proceeding in order to facilitate the efficient handling of information asserted to be confidential or proprietary as to the GR-99-246 case that is similar to, or is nothing more than the gas division portion of, materially identical information in the HR-99-245 and ER-99-247 cases. Petitioners allege that status as participants will avoid the anomaly of counsel for

intervenors in the combined hearing having to leave if confidential or proprietary information pertinent to the GR-99-246 case is discussed when they could be present for presentation of the same information as to the ER-99-247 and HR-99-245 cases.

Petitioners do not plan activity that is specific to this case, nor do they contemplate access to any GR-99-246-specific confidential or proprietary information for their consultant. The request for participation is tendered to facilitate a more orderly conduct of the hearing and to avoid otherwise needless issues about interdivisional allocations.

On June 1, 1999, SJLP filed a response to the Petitioners' application to participate. SJLP opposes the application to participate, and argues that Petitioners have not complied with the requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.075(5) as they have failed to make a full disclosure of their interest in the proceeding; to make a full statement of the position they intend to take in the proceeding; and to make contentions which are reasonably relevant to the issues already presented. SJLP also states that the Petitioners are considerably out-of-time since the deadline for participation or intervention was January 13, 1999. SJLP further alleges that the application should be denied because Petitioners are not natural gas customers of SJLP and therefore have no interest in SJLP's natural gas rate case.

The Commission has reviewed the application for participation without intervention filed by AGP, Friskies and Wire Rope, and the response in opposition filed by SJLP. The Commission finds granting the Petitioners status as participants without intervention would facilitate the efficient and orderly progression of the hearing.

Further, the Commission determines that the Petitioners' interests in this case are reasonably relevant to the issues already presented. The Commission concludes that the application for participation without intervention filed by AGP, Friskies, and Wire Rope should be granted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the Application to Participate filed by AG Processing, Inc. a Cooperative, Friskies Petcare Products, Inc., and Wire Rope Corporation is granted.

2. That this order shall become effective on July 6, 1999.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

( S E A L )



**Dale Hardy Roberts**  
**Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

Vicky Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant  
to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30,  
1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 23rd day of June, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION