

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
March 21, 2000**

CASE NO: GR-2000-485

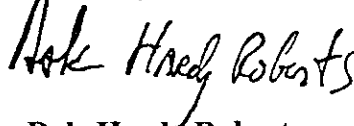
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Missouri Public Service Commission
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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

**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 March, 2000.

In the Matter of Southern Missouri Gas)	
Company, L.P. for Authority to File)	
Tariffs Increasing Rates for Gas Service)	<u>Case No. GR-2000-485</u>
Provided to Customers in the Company's)	
Missouri Service Area)	

**ORDER GRANTING RECONSIDERATION
AND MODIFYING SUSPENSION ORDER**

On February 8, 2000, Southern Missouri Gas Company L.P. (Company) submitted to the Commission tariffs reflecting increased rates for natural gas service provided to customers in the Missouri service area of the Company. The proposed tariffs were assigned tariff number 200000712 and bear a requested effective date of March 9, 2000. The proposed tariffs are designed to produce an annual increase of approximately six percent (\$390,000) in the Company's revenues.

On February 24, 2000, the Commission suspended the proposed tariffs, ordered that notice of the filing be given, and established certain procedural dates.

On February 29, 2000, SMG filed two pleadings requesting that the Commission reconsider the procedure it had ordered for this case, and instead establish a procedure similar to the small company procedure set forth at 4 CSR 240-2.200. Specifically, SMG requests that the Commission

vacate all of its Suspension Order and Notice except Ordered Paragraph 1 that suspends SMG's proposed tariff. SMG proposes to send notice to its customers directing them to respond to Staff or the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel). SMG proposes that, in lieu of filing direct testimony, Staff (and Public Counsel if it chooses) will conduct an audit of SMG. This audit is to be followed by a settlement conference among SMG, Staff, Public Counsel, and any intervenors. If a settlement is not reached, SMG will withdraw its tariffs and re-file them within fourteen days, thereby initiating a standard general rate case.

The Staff of the Commission and Public Counsel, in pleadings filed on March 9 and March 10, 2000, respectively, concurred in SMG's proposal. Since these three parties are in agreement, the Commission will adopt SMG's proposal for the most part. The Commission issued its Suspension Order and Notice on February 24, 2000, and ordered its Records Department and Information Office to provide notice. That notice has, in all likelihood, already been sent, and the Commission will not vacate that portion of its order. The Suspension Order and Notice also set an intervention period, and the Commission will not vacate that portion of its order¹. The Commission will vacate Ordered Paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of its Suspension Order and Notice. Company shall give notice to customers as directed in the ordered paragraphs below.

¹ If applications to intervene are filed in response to the notice SMG sends to its customers, the Commission will consider them pursuant to 4 CSR 240.2-075(4)(D).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the motions filed on February 29, 2000, by Southern Missouri Gas Company are granted in part and denied in part as discussed herein.

2. That Southern Missouri Gas Company shall notify each affected customer of the hearings scheduled in this case by a notice on or accompanying each customer's March 2000 bill. The notice shall be in the form attached to Southern Missouri Gas Company's February 29, 2000 pleading.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 31, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,
Schemenauer, and Drainer, CC., concur

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Adj/Sec'y: Mills/Boyle
 Date Circulated 3-16 GR-2000-485 CASE NO.
Lympie, Chair
Crispin, Commissioner
Murray, Commissioner
Schemenauer, Commissioner
Drainer, Vice-Chair
 Agenda Date 3-21
 Action taken: 5-045
 Must Vote Not Later Than _____

STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
 I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
 Missouri, this 21st day of March 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
 Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

