

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

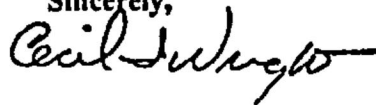
DECEMBER 27, 1996

CASE NO: GO-97-242

Robert J. Hack, Senior Attorney, Missouri Gas Energy, 3420 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111

Enclosed find certified copy of ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecil I. Wright", written in dark ink.

**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

Uncertified Copy:

**Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, MO 65102
To the Mayors and County Commissioners of the Missouri Gas Energy Service Area
Patrick Seamands, Missouri Gas Energy, 3420 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111**

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

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
Missouri Gas Energy for a Variance	)	
from the Provisions of	)	<u>CASE NO. GO-97-242</u>
4 CSR 240-10.030(19) in Conjunction	)	
with a Previous Variance Granted by	)	
the Commission in Case No. GO-91-353.	)	

ORDER AND NOTICE

Missouri Gas Energy (MGE), an operating division of Southern Union Company, Incorporated, filed an application on December 18, 1996, under §§ 393.180, 393.190 and 393.200 RSMo 1994, and 4 CSR 240-2.060 asking the Commission for a variance from the provisions of 4 CSR 240-10.030(19) in conjunction with a previous variance granted by the Commission in Case No. GO-91-353. In that Order, the Commission allowed a statistical sampling method to be utilized by KPL, former owner of MGE, which calls for a percentage of meters to be selected each year for removal and testing. The method identifies certain groups of meters with common characteristics and applies a recognized statistical sampling technique to each group.

MGE plans to implement an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) project. Under this project, MGE will install on each of its meters an electronic sending unit which electronically "reads" the meter on which it is installed. MGE can capture these readings electronically on a much faster, more efficient, more accurate and safer basis than obtaining readings in the traditional manner. MGE is in the process of negotiating and finalizing contracts and expects to start installation of the devices in early 1997. MGE is requesting a temporary modification of the current variance from the provisions of 4 CSR 240-10.030(19), because some of the present meters are not compatible with an AMR device.

The Commission has considered the application and finds that proper parties should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene in this matter. The Commission will order the Records Department to send a copy of this order to all the municipalities and county commissions located within the certificated areas served by MGE. The Commission's Information Officer should send a copy of this order to the members of the General Assembly who represent MGE's service areas, and to the publisher of each newspaper in the applicant's service areas, as listed in the *Official Manual of the State of Missouri*.

Anyone who wishes to intervene must file a written Application to Intervene within 20 days, i.e., on or before January 14, 1997, and address it to the Executive Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Intervenors must serve copies of their applications on the applicant's attorneys and all known intervenors. The attorneys for these applicants are:

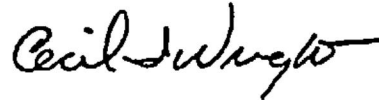
Patrick Seamands
Missouri Gas Energy
3420 Broadway
Kansas City, Missouri 64111-2404

Robert J. Hack
Senior Attorney
Missouri Gas Energy
3420 Broadway
Kansas City, Missouri 64111-2404

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Information Office and the Records Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall provide notice as described above.
2. That any interested party wishing to intervene in this case shall file an application to intervene with the Executive Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission and serve a copy on the applicant's representatives on or before January 14, 1997.
3. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

(S E A L)

Joyce Hainen, Administrative Law Judge,
by delegation of authority under
Directive of January 3, 1995,
pursuant to § 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 27th day of December, 1996.

Hansen/Boyer

CASE NO. GO-97-242

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Chairman
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Commissioner
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Issue: 12/27

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 27 day of DECEMBER, 1996.

Cecil I. Wright

Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary