

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 6th
day of August, 1993.

In the matter of the application of Western Resources,)
Inc., for a limited variance from the application of)
certain provisions of its Residential Gas Service, RSm,) Case No. GO-94-38
rate schedule.)
)

ORDER APPROVING LIMITED VARIANCE

On August 5, 1993, Western Resources, Inc., d/b/a Gas Service, a Western Resources Company (Company) filed an Application For Limited Variance. The application requests permission to temporarily waive the assessment of certain charges to the Company's customers that were victimized by the flood of 1993. Specifically, Company requests permission to waive collection of customer charges and the application of delayed payment charges as provided in its rate schedule, Residential Gas Service, RSm, Sheet Nos. 25 and 26, to residential customers who have had their service disrupted by the flood. It is requested that this waiver be applicable for the months of July, August and September, 1993, the period in which service was or may be disrupted due to flooding.

In addition, Company stated that it will not charge reconnection fees on any properties that were disconnected because of flooding problems. Broad provisions in Company's tariffs allow it not to assess reconnection fees when the disconnection was initiated for safety or emergency reasons. Finally, Company requested that this application be approved in an expedited manner so it could extend the benefits of this variance as quickly as possible.

On August 5, 1993, the Commission's Staff (Staff) filed its recommendation stating that it has reviewed the application and recommends that it be approved. Staff suggests that any Commission order approving waiver requests as a result of natural disasters or other extraordinary events should contain

language which states that the Commission is not making any determination at this time regarding ratemaking treatment or rate recovery.

After considering the application and Staff's recommendation, the Commission determines that the limited variance should be approved. The flood has created an emergency situation which makes waiver of certain tariff charges to flood victims reasonable. These limited waivers should provide some relief to flood victims. Because of the emergency situation, there is good cause to approve the limited waivers in less than thirty days.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Western Resources, Inc., d/b/a Gas Service, a Western Resources Company, be hereby granted authority for a limited variance to waive the collection of customer charges and the application of delayed payment charges as provided in its rate schedule, Residential Gas Service, RSm, Sheet Nos. 25 and 26, to residential customers who have had their service disrupted by the flood of 1993 for the months of July, August and September of 1993.

2. That the waiver of the charges approved herein is not a determination of the appropriate ratemaking treatment or rate recovery of the waived charges.

3. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

Brent Stewart

Brent Stewart
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Mueller, Chm., McClure, Perkins
and Kincheloe, CC., concur.
Crumpton, C., absent.