STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JEFFERSON CITY September 20, 2000

CASE NO: GR-2000-288

Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

James M. Fischer
Fischer & Dority, P.C.
101 Madison Street, Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO 65101

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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

Sincerely,

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copy:

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Southern Missouri Gas)
Company, L.P.'s Purchased Gas Adjustment)
Factors to be Reviewed in its 1998-1999)
Actual Cost Adjustment.

ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND REQUIRING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On August 1, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed its recommendation herein, in which certain adjustments were proposed. On August 3, 2000, the Commission directed Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P. (SMG), to respond to Staff's recommendation on or before September 1, 2000. SMG timely filed its response on August 30. Therein, SMG agreed to one of Staff's proposed adjustments and objected to the other.

This matter is now at issue and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are appropriate to ensure its prompt resolution. At the prehearing conference, the parties' representatives should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the interval necessary for its completion; the number of witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing. The parties' representatives should also be prepared to discuss the current status of settlement negotiations. It is expected

that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

The parties shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the prefiling of direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony according to Commission rule, as well as dates for the filing of a joint list of contested issues to be determined by the Commission; a list of witnesses and proposed order of cross-examination; and position statements setting out each party's position as to each contested issue. The proposed procedural schedule shall also establish dates for the hearing of this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That a prehearing conference shall be held on October 26, 2000, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing will be held at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.
- 2. That the parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than November 2, 2000.

3. That this order shall become effective on September 30, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hake Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 20th day of September, 2000.

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 20th day of September 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Ask Hard Roberts

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 <u>20th</u> day of September 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

lak Hard Roberts