

A:

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 22nd
day of December, 1998.

In the Matter of St. Joseph Light & Power)	
Company's Revised Electric Rate Schedules)	
Designed to Increase Rates for Electrical)	<u>Case No. ER-99-247</u>
Service in the Company's Missouri)	Tariff No. 9900427
Service Territory.)	

SUSPENSION ORDER AND NOTICE

On December 1, 1998, St. Joseph Light & Power Company (Company) submitted to the Commission tariffs reflecting increased rates for electric service provided to customers in the Missouri service area of the Company. The proposed tariffs were assigned tariff number 9900427 and bear a requested effective date of January 1, 1999. The proposed tariffs are designed to produce an annual increase of approximately 7.20 percent (\$6,098,094) in the Company's revenues.

To allow sufficient time to study the effect of the proposed tariffs and to determine if they are just, reasonable and in the public interest, the Commission will suspend the proposed tariffs for a period of 120 days plus an additional six months beyond the requested effective date, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

The Commission will schedule the hearing dates for this case in this order to ensure this matter is heard as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, establishment of the hearing dates will allow for notice to be sent to customers. Company shall give notice to customers as directed in the ordered paragraphs below.

The Records Department of the Commission should serve a copy of this order upon the mayor of each city and the county commission of each county in the Company's service area. In addition, the Information Office shall send notice of this order to the publisher of each newspaper located in the counties in which the Company provides service, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current *Official Manual of the State of Missouri*, and to the members of the General Assembly representing the Missouri area served by the Company.

Any proper entity desiring to intervene in this proceeding shall file its application to intervene as ordered herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That all proposed tariff sheets submitted on December 1, 1998, by St. Joseph Light & Power Company for the purpose of increasing rates for electric service are hereby suspended for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from January 1, 1999, to May 1, 1999.

2. That the tariffs suspended in ordered paragraph 1 are hereby suspended an additional six (6) months beyond May 1, 1999 to November 1, 1999, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

3. That anyone wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than January 11, 1999 with:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Copies of the application to intervene should be sent to:

James C. Swearengen
Brydon, Swearengen & England, P.C.
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and

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

4. That an evidentiary hearing is hereby scheduled for this case beginning July 6, 1999, to continue through July 16, 1999. The hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on July 6, 1999, and be held in the Commission's hearing room, fifth floor, Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Any person(s) with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.

5. That Company shall notify each affected customer of the hearings scheduled in this case by either a notice on or accompanying a bill, or in a separate notice, at least ten (10) days but not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of the hearings, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. The notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE

St. Joseph Light & Power Company has filed revised tariffs with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) which would increase Company's Missouri jurisdictional annual gross revenues by approximately 7.20 percent. For the average residential customer, who uses 750 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, the proposed increase would be approximately \$4.40 a month.

An evidentiary hearing has been set before the PSC, beginning at 9:00 a.m., July 6, 1999, in the PSC's hearing room on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. If you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (573) 751-4857.

If any person has special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.

6. That the Records Department and Information Office of the Commission shall serve a copy of this order and provide notice as described in this order.

7. That this order shall become effective on December 22, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,
Schemenauer, CC., concur.
Drainer, C., absent.

Woodruff, Regulatory Law Judge