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February 10, 2000

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Director, Utility Services

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DALE HARDY ROBERTS  
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DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED

FEB 10 2000

RE: GS-2000-62

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce H. Bates  
Assistant General Counsel  
(573) 751-7434  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

BB/jb  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED

FEB 10 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Missouri Gas Energy, a )  
Division of Southern Union Company, )  
Regarding an Incident Near 1204 Walnut )  
in Kansas City, Missouri. )

Case No. GS-2000-62

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

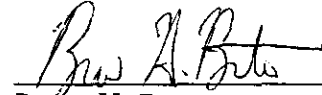
COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its  
*Recommendation* states:

In the attached *Memorandum*, which is labeled *Appendix A*, the Staff recommends that  
the Missouri Public Service Commission issue an order closing this case, consistent with Section  
386.310, RSMo (Cum. Supp. 1999), for the reasons stated in the *Memorandum*.

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Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel



Bruce H. Bates  
Assistant General Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 35442

Attorney for the Staff of the  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
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### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel or parties of record as shown on the attached service list this 10th day of February 2000.



Bruce H. Bates

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File  
Case No. GS-2000-62, Missouri Gas Energy

FROM: Amy J. Brox, Gas Department - Gas Safety *AJB m/bm*

*Wes Henderson* 2-9-00  
Utility Operations Division / Date

*Thomas R Schunk Jr.* 2/9/00 *B/H* 2-9-00  
General Counsel's Office / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation to Close Case

DATE: February 9, 2000

On July 6, 1999, a natural gas incident occurred near the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Walnut Street in Kansas City, Missouri. On August 11, 1999, Case No. GS-2000-62 was established for the purpose of receiving the Missouri Public Service Commission Gas Department - Gas Safety Section (Staff) Gas Incident Report (Report) and the response of Missouri Gas Energy, a Division of Southern Union Company (MGE or Company). On December 8, 1999, the Staff filed its Report. In the Report, the Staff made 6 recommendations to MGE. The first two recommendations were regarding MGE's procedures for monitoring their contractor's work. The remaining four recommendations were regarding MGE improving its damage prevention program. On December 30, 1999, a notice was issued in this case giving MGE until January 24, 2000, to file its response.

MGE filed its response on January 24, 2000. In its response, MGE set forth actions taken and commitments made to satisfy the recommendations. The Company addressed the Staff's recommendations regarding MGE monitoring their contractor's work by: improving documentation procedures, providing training to inspectors and contractors, and utilizing Company personnel to monitor contract work. MGE responded to the Staff's recommendations regarding utility damage prevention by implementing procedures to: more closely monitor job sites where directional drilling operations are utilized, support local permitting for directional drilling, improve line locate documentation, and work with the Staff and other organizations to foster damage prevention education.

The Staff believes that these proposed actions adequately address the Staff recommendations contained in the Report. Therefore, the Staff recommends that this case be closed.

**Service List for  
Case No. GS-2000-62  
February 10, 2000**

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