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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Missouri Gas Energy,)
a Division of Southern Union Company)
Regarding an Incident on the West Side) **CASE NO. GS-98-72**
of Lee's Summit Road, Independence,)
Missouri.)

ORDER ESTABLISHING DOCKET

On August 18, 1997, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a motion to establish a docket. Staff states that Missouri Gas Energy, a division of Southern Union Company (MGE), is a gas corporation subject to Commission jurisdiction under Sections 386.020(18) and 386.020(42), RSMo Supp. 1996. Staff states that on July 25, 1997, at approximately 11:50 a.m., the ignition of natural gas apparently caused a flash fire on the west side of Lee's Summit Road, south of Interstate 70, in Independence, Missouri. Staff states that the fire started at a Southwestern Bell manhole site and that MGE provides natural gas service in Independence.

Staff states that two persons performing contract work for Southwestern Bell were injured as a result of the fire and that Staff has initiated a formal investigation into the incident.

Staff requests that the Commission establish a docket for the purpose of receiving information, including a gas incident report relating to the incident.

The Commission finds that a docket should be established to receive information relevant to the above-described incident and to determine what, if any, action by the Commission is warranted. Thus, the Commission will establish docket GS-98-72.

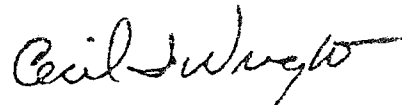
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Case No. GS-98-72 is hereby established for the purpose of receiving the Staff incident report and the response of Missouri Gas Energy, a division of Southern Union Company, thereto pertaining to the incident which occurred on July 25, 1997.

2. That the Commission's Energy Department shall file, through the General Counsel's office, its accident report within one hundred twenty (120) days of the effective date of this order.

3. That this order shall become effective on August 25, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

(S E A L)

Gregory T. George, Administrative
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1),
(November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240,
RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 25th day of August, 1997.