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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 25th
day of June, 1997.

Office of the Public Counsel,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-97-497</u>
)	
Missouri Gas Energy, a division of)	
Southern Union Company, a Delaware)	
Corporation,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER DIRECTING STAFF INVESTIGATION

A Complaint was filed on May 13, 1997 by the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) containing four counts, largely alleging various improper billing practices by Missouri Gas Energy (MGE). On June 16 MGE filed its answer to the OPC Complaint, essentially denying the allegations of the OPC.

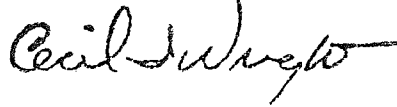
Upon review of the Complaint and the answer, the Commission finds that an investigation is warranted pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.070(10). The Commission will direct the Staff of the Commission (Staff) to conduct an investigation as to the cause of the Complaint and file a report of its findings in this docket no later than 30 days from the effective date of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff of the Commission shall conduct an investigation as to the cause of the Complaint in this case and file its report as ordered.

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

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cecil I. Wright", written in a cursive style.

Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Zobrist, Chm., Crumpton, Drainer,
Murray and Lumpe, CC., Concur.

ALJ: Derque