



*Commissioners*

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March 9, 2000

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Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS  
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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

**RE: Case No. GR-2000-485**

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,

Robert V. Franson  
Assistant General Counsel  
(573) 751-6651  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

RF/dkf  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**

MAR 09 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>3</sup>

MAR 09 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Southern Missouri Gas )  
Company, L.P. for Authority to File )  
Tariffs Increasing Rates for Gas Service )  
Provided to Customers in the Company's )  
Missouri Service Area. )

Case No. GR-2000-485

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On February 8, 2000, Southern Missouri Gas Company L.P. (Company) submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) tariffs reflecting increased rates for natural gas service provided to customers in the Missouri service area of the Company. The proposed tariffs are designed to produce an annual increase of approximately six percent (\$390,000) in the Company's revenues.

2. The Commission issued a Suspension Order and Notice on February 24, 2000, suspending the tariffs until January 4, 2001 and setting a procedural schedule.

3. On February 29, 2000, the Company filed a Motion to Adopt Case Procedures Similar to the Small Rate Case Procedures authorized by 4 CSR 240-2.200 and a Motion for Expedited Partial Reconsideration of the Suspension Order (Motion).

4. Staff has reviewed this Motion and concurs in utilizing case procedures similar to the Small Rate Case Procedure pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.200 in this case only. Staff specifically notes a part of Company's Motion specifies that it is understood by the Company, Staff and

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Public Counsel that the use of this modified rate case procedure in this case will not be considered as a precedent in any future proceeding, or otherwise bind the parties to utilize the modified procedures in the future. Staff requests that this specification be made part of any Commission Order approving this modified procedure.

5. Staff also concurs with the dates for events cited by the Company.

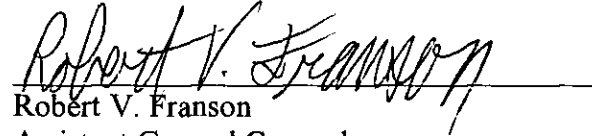
6. Staff also requests that the Commission include as part of any Order incorporate all of the proposals set forth in the Company's Motion regarding Customer Notice, Audit Proposals, and Settlements.

7. Staff also requests expedited consideration of the Company's Motion because the Commission has ordered the Company to file direct testimony on March 28, 2000.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order granting Company's Motion to Adopt Case Procedures Similar to the Small Rate Case Procedures Authorized by 4 CSR 240-2.200, and modify the Suspension Order as requested in this Staff Recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

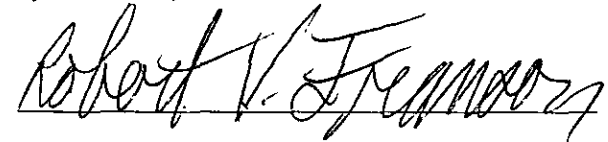


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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2000.



**Service List for**  
**Case No. GR-2000-485**  
**March 9, 2000**

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