



Commissioners

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Missouri Public Service Commission

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January 18, 2000

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Acting Executive Director
Director, Research and Public Affairs

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
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. GA-2000-412

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of the **STAFF'S RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER**.

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,

Dennis L. Frey
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-8700
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

DLF/lb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

FILED²

JAN 18 2000

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

In the Matter of the Application of)
Missouri Gas Energy, a division of)
Southern Union Company, for a)
Certificate of Public Convenience and)
Necessity, Authorizing It to Construct,)
Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage)
and Maintain a Natural Gas Transmission)
and Distribution System to Provide Gas)
Service in a Certain Area of Newton)
County, Missouri as an Expansion of Its)
Existing Certificated Area)

Case No. GA-2000-412

STAFF'S RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"), and for its Response to Commission Order, respectfully states as follows:

1. On January 10, 2000, Missouri Gas Energy, a division of Southern Union Company ("MGE"), filed with the Commission, pursuant to Section 393.170 RSMo 1994, an Application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, install, own, operate, control, manage and maintain a natural gas transmission and distribution system for the provision of natural gas service to the public in the requested new area of Newton County, Missouri.

2. Also on January 10th, MGE filed a motion for expedited treatment of its aforementioned Application, requesting in particular "that times for intervention and a report or recommendation from the Staff be expedited."

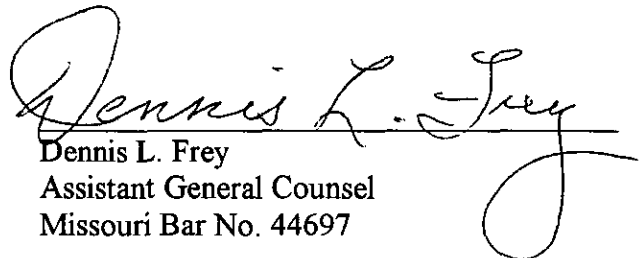
3. In its Order Requesting Response, issued on January 13, 2000, the Commission ordered the Staff to file by January 18th (3:00 p.m.) a response to said Order, "stating whether or

not it will be able to handle this case in an expedited manner and, if so, giving suggested dates for the filing of a Staff report or recommendation.”

4. The Staff’s response to the Commission’s Order is contingent upon the absence of any intervenors in this case. (Should intervenors eventuate, Staff would be bound by any ensuing procedural schedule ordered by the Commission.) Assuming there are no intervenors, Staff believes it will be able to file a response to the subject Application in an expedited manner. Specifically, Staff expects to file a report or recommendation in this docket by February 18, 2000. Alternatively, in the event the Commission invites applications to intervene and no intervenors result, Staff expects to file its report or recommendation either on the first business day following the conclusion of the prescribed intervention period, or by February 18, 2000, whichever is later.

Respectfully submitted,

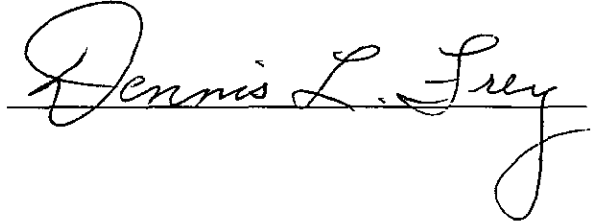
DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel


Dennis L. Frey
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 44697

Attorney for the
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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 18th day of January 2000.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dennis L. Frey", is written over a horizontal line.

**Service List for
Case No. GA-2000-412
January 18, 2000**

Office of the Public Counsel
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