

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
TCG St. Louis to Close Certain Information) Case No. TO-98-460
Presented in its 1997 Annual Report.)

ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION TO CLOSE ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

On April 15, 1998, TCG St. Louis (TCG) filed its 1997 annual report and an application requesting the Commission's approval to close certain information presented in the report. On September 2, 1998 TCG supplemented its application and provided additional information requested by the Commission's staff.

Under Section 386.480, RSMo,¹ information furnished to the Commission by a corporation, person or public utility is protected from disclosure, except such matters as are specifically required to be open to public inspection by law or by order of the Commission (or information disclosed by the Commission in the course of a hearing or proceeding).

Pursuant to Sections 392.210 and 393.140, the Commission requires public utilities to file certain information with the Commission in the form of an annual report. The requirements are implemented by an order of the Commission adopting 4 CSR 240-10.080. Under this rule the Commission treats annual report information as an open public record. However, utilities subject to this rule may make written application for the closure of annual report information where a utility considers the information requested to be confidential and states good cause (the need

¹ All references herein to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo), unless otherwise specified, are to the revision of 1994.

or basis) to maintain the information as confidential. Where such an application is made and the information is not otherwise required to be open by law, the Commission may approve the application.

TCG requested that its financial information be accorded confidential treatment. In support, TCG provided statements and information to show that its services are provided in a competitive market, that it had taken appropriate measures to protect this information from public disclosure, and that the company would suffer competitive harm if the financial information were disclosed.

The Commission's staff reviewed TCG's application as supplemented and made additional inquiries of TCG. The staff took exception to affording confidential treatment to the annual report in its entirety but concluded that TCG's balance sheet, statement of income, and statement of cash flows could be appropriately treated as a closed public record. The staff indicated that TCG indicated a willingness to narrow the scope of its request.

Upon review of TCG's application, the Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information, that the application complies with 4 CSR 240-10.080, and that the information is not otherwise required by law to be open. Therefore, certain information in TCG's 1997 annual report may be closed. The information that is not closed should be filed in an appropriate manner.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the 1997 annual report filed by TCG St. Louis, on April 15, 1998, is closed.

2. That TCG St. Louis shall file a public copy of its 1997 annual report by omitting or blacking out the confidential financial information appearing on the balance sheet, statement of income, and statement of cash flow; and shall mark the pages with omitted or blacked out information "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OMITTED"; and shall attach a copy of this Order to the public copy of its 1997 annual report.

3. That TCG St. Louis shall comply with this Order by June 30, 1999.

4. That the staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall monitor compliance with this Order and take further actions, if necessary, to enforce this order, or notify the Commission that this Order has been complied with and that this case may be closed, or otherwise apprise the Commission of the status of this case by July 15, 1999.

5. That this order shall become effective on June 15, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Keith Thornburg, Regulatory
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 3rd day of June, 1999.