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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 1st
day of September, 1998.

In the Matter of the Application Union)	
Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE for a)	
Certificate of Public Convenience and)	
Necessity Authorizing It To Construct,)	
Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage)	<u>Case No. GA-98-556</u>
and Maintain a Gas Distribution System)	
for the Public in a Portion of Cole)	
County, Missouri, as an Expansion of)	
Its Presently Certificated Area.)	

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

On June 10, 1998, Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE (AmerenUE) filed an application with the Commission requesting a certificate of convenience and necessity authorizing it to construct, own, and operate a natural gas distribution system in the northeastern portion of Cole County, Missouri. The service area for which AmerenUE has applied for a certificate is an extension of its current service area. AmerenUE states that it has received requests from two potential customers (the Missouri Department of Corrections' Algoa Correctional Facility and the Missouri National Guard) to receive gas at their facilities in the proposed area. AmerenUE has conducted a feasibility study which indicates that revenues from these two customers will exceed the construction costs within three years. AmerenUE states that it is unaware of any other utility that provides natural gas service in the proposed area.

On August 14, the Commission Staff filed its memorandum in which it recommends approval of the application. Staff states that granting the authority to serve the extended area will result in additional benefits to the public and will not be detrimental to existing customers. No responses to the Staff memorandum were filed.

The Office of the Public Counsel has been served copies of the application and all subsequent pleadings but has not participated in this case. Since no one requested permission to intervene, and since there are no requests for a hearing, the Commission determines that no hearing is necessary. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

The Commission finds it is in the public interest for AmerenUE to construct, install, own, operate, control, manage and maintain a natural gas distribution system for the public located in a portion of Cole County as described by the map and metes and bounds description attached to the application filed by AmerenUE on June 10. The Commission will approve the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE is granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, install, own, operate, control, manage and maintain a natural gas distribution system for the public located in a portion of Cole County as described by the map and metes and bounds description attached to the application filed by AmerenUE on June 10.

2. That nothing in this order shall be considered a finding by the Commission of the reasonableness or the treatment for ratemaking purposes of the expenditures herein involved.

3. That this order shall become effective on September 15, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Murray and Schemenauer, CC., concur.
Crumpton, C., dissents.
Drainer, C., absent.

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge