

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric            )  
Company of Joplin, Missouri Tariffs Increasing        )  
Rates for Electric Service Provided in the            )  
Missouri Service Area of the Company                )        File No. ER-2012-0345

**SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY’S REQUEST TO BE EXCUSED  
FROM HEARINGS ON INTERIM RATE RELIEF**

COMES NOW Southern Union Company, d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy (“MGE”), by and through counsel, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.015, 4 CSR 240-2.075, and 4 CSR 240-2.110, and for its request to be excused from the hearings related to interim rate relief issues, respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”):

1. MGE sought leave to intervene in this proceeding on July 19, 2012. The Commission granted MGE’s application to intervene on July 23, 2012.
2. MGE has not taken a position with respect to The Empire District Electric Company’s request for interim rate relief and accordingly has not filed testimony related to this issue. MGE will continue to monitor filings in this case and plans to participate in future proceedings.

WHEREFORE, MGE respectfully requests to be excused from the hearings on interim rate relief which are currently scheduled for September 10-11, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

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/s/ Todd J. Jacobs  
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