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STATE OF MISSOURI

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Hearing

March 14, 2001
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

In the Matter of Missouri Gas)
Energy's Purchased Gas)
Adjustment Tariff Revisions to) Case No.
Be Reviewed in Its 2000-2001) GR-2001-382
Actual Cost Adjustment.)

KEVIN A. THOMPSON, Presiding,
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY JUDGE.

REPORTED BY:

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11 FOR: Kansas Pipeline Company.

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FOR: Office of the Public Counsel and the
Public.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good morning. My name is
3 Kevin Thompson. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge
4 assigned to preside over this matter. This is the
5 matter of Missouri Gas Energy's Purchased Gas
6 Adjustment Factors to be Reviewed in its 2000-2001
7 Actual Cost Adjustment, Case No. GR-2001-382.

8 We'll go ahead and take oral entries of
9 appearance at this time beginning with
10 Mr. Deutsch.

11 MR. DEUTSCH: James B. Deutsch, of the law
12 firm of Blitz, Bardgett and Deutsch, and I'm here
13 representing the City of Joplin, Missouri.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. HACK: Robert Hack, appearing on
16 behalf of Missouri Gas Energy, 3420 Broadway, KC,
17 MO 64111.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Hack.

19 Is anyone here from Staff?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr. Micheel, why don't
22 you go ahead?

23 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel,
24 appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public
25 Counsel and the Public, P.O. Box 7800,

1 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-7800.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any other counsel
3 present?

4 MR. KEEVIL: Jeffrey A. Keevil, appearing
5 on behalf of Kansas Pipeline Company. Address is
6 1001 Cherry Street, Suite 302, Columbia, Missouri
7 65201.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

9 The purpose of this prehearing conference
10 is primarily to bring you together so that you may
11 devise a proposed procedural schedule. It is that
12 proposed procedural schedule which will be rather
13 different from those generally in use here with the
14 Commission. The Commission's purpose is to attempt
15 to expedite the ACA process as much as possible
16 without causing complete dislocation of the
17 Commission's gas department, basically.

18 So we hope that the parties can
19 cooperatively take a look at that process based on
20 whatever it is that your particular period ends and
21 see what kind of slack there might be in the
22 process that can be taken up so that it can all be
23 accomplished more quickly than is the norm.

24 The Commission's goal, now this is a goal,
25 is to have any resulting litigation completed at

1 the Commission level by the end of this calendar
2 year. When I say that's a goal, I mean to indicate
3 that that may not be possible given the nature of
4 the circumstances surrounding your company, your
5 case. If that is the case, please explain those
6 circumstances in the joint proposed procedural
7 schedule that you will file. I think it's a week
8 from today.

9 In order to expedite the process, we would
10 like you to set dates not only for important
11 events, pre-litigation events in the ACA process,
12 and also go ahead and set dates assuming that there
13 might be a contested issue that's going to require
14 a hearing. Go ahead and set those dates, too, so
15 that they are already there, they are already on
16 the calendar. You can go right into that contested
17 case mode if it becomes necessary. Okay. I think
18 that will help to speed things up as well, because
19 you won't find yourself in that position with the
20 calendar already full. Okay.

21 To help you do that, I have brought copies
22 of the ALJ calendar for the rest of the year so you
23 can see when the rooms are available, and that will
24 at least save you a trip up to the ninth floor.

25 Do the parties have anything they want to

1 bring to my attention at this time? Okay.

2 I'm sorry that Staff's attorney hasn't
3 made it yet. I guess I might have started a little
4 early by that clock. But, you know, by the clock
5 in the other room, I started late, so who knows
6 what time it really is.

7 MR. HACK: I'm sure he'll show up.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: I hope you will fill
9 Mr. Schwarz in on what he needs to do and where he
10 needs to be.

11 There being nothing else, we'll go ahead
12 and conclude the recorded portion of the prehearing
13 conference. This room is yours for the remainder
14 of the day. I hope you guys will be able to make
15 good progress.

16 WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of
17 the prehearing conference was concluded.

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