

1 STATE OF MISSOURI
2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6 Prehearing Conference
7 September 23, 2002
8 Jefferson City, Missouri
9 Volume 1
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11 In the Matter of the Application of)
Missouri Gas Company for)
12 Authorization to Convert to a) Case No. GN-2003-0016
Limited Liability Company and Change)
13 its Name Accordingly.)
14 In the Matter of the Application of)
Missouri Pipeline Company for)
15 Authorization to Convert to a) Case No. GN-2003-0017
Limited Liability Company and Change)
16 its Name Accordingly.)
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19 RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding,
20 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
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23 REPORTED BY:
24 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR
ASSOCIATED COURT REPORTERS
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good morning. We are on the
3 record. We are here on a prehearing conference for two
4 cases, and I've consolidated these, not the cases, but just
5 the conference together because the issues seem to be
6 identical and the cases look to be almost identical.

7 We're here on Case No. GN-2003-0016,
8 Application of Missouri Gas Company, and also GN-2003-0017,
9 Missouri Pipeline Company.

10 If I could, at this time I'd like to get oral
11 entries of appearance, and if we could begin with Staff,
12 please.

13 MR. SNODGRASS: Yes. Good morning, your
14 Honor. My name is Cliff Snodgrass. I represent the Staff
15 of the Missouri Public Service Commission. My formal
16 address is Governor's Office Building, Suite 800,
17 200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri
18 65102.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Snodgrass.
20 On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel,
21 please.

22 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel appearing on
23 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the Public in
24 both proceedings, your Honor. My address is P.O. Box 7800,
25 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-7800.

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1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Micheel.
2 On behalf of Missouri Gas Company?
3 MR. KEEVIL: Appearing on behalf of Missouri
4 Gas Company, Jeffrey A. Keevil of the law firm Stewart &
5 Keevil, LLC. Address is 1001 Cherry Street, Suite 302,
6 Columbia, Missouri 65201.
7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Mr. Keevil. And I
8 understand, is it correct you would have the same entry for
9 Missouri Pipeline Company as well?
10 MR. KEEVIL: Yes, Judge.
11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
12 I don't believe I have any pending motions,
13 but before I go forward, is there anything anybody needs to
14 take up?
15 MR. KEEVIL: I have just one question for you,
16 Judge, and I guess I should preface this by saying we're
17 still hopeful we can get some kind of stipulation out of
18 this.
19 But assuming that fails, as you know Missouri
20 Pipeline Company and Missouri Gas Company originally sought
21 expedited treatment of both cases, and considering the
22 limited number of issues that there are, if there are any,
23 we were still hopeful that we'd be able to get an Order by
24 the end of the year for tax reasons. If the conversion is
25 to be made, it would be beneficial obviously to get it done

1 by the end of the period.

2 I was wondering if there would be any way
3 that -- and again, I don't think the hearing would last very
4 long, maybe like a half day at most. Is there any way we
5 could possibly get a date for a hearing, if necessary, in
6 such a time as to get an Order by the end of the year?

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's perfectly fine with me,
8 and I'm sure Staff and OPC understand you can just run up to
9 the ninth floor and check the calendar up there. I have no
10 idea what the Commission's schedule is and how many
11 Commissioners would be interested in attending the hearing,
12 but that's -- that's perfectly fine with me. My calendar is
13 not terribly booked off, and I'm more than willing to try to
14 work with you to get an Order out if a hearing is even
15 necessary.

16 MR. KEEVIL: Thank you, Judge.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're quite welcome.

18 Anything else we need to take up? All right.
19 Hearing nothing, obviously you understand one of the
20 purposes of this conference and that is to discuss
21 settlement, and it sounds like that's something that the
22 parties are trying to do. You have access to this room
23 until five o'clock to discuss any matters that you might
24 have.

25 Also, as can you see in the Order that I

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1 entered, I believe on September 12th, I've asked the parties
2 or ordered the parties rather to have a proposed procedural
3 schedule for me within a week, which would be by
4 September 30th, 2002.

5 And again, if it's something that the parties
6 think can speed things along, that's something to consider
7 in your proposed procedural schedule. If you want to
8 shorten the time for testimony or stipulate to testimony to
9 try to speed things along, that's certainly something I'll
10 look at and would be likely to grant.

11 I don't believe I have anything else.
12 Anything else that the parties need to bring to my
13 attention?

14 MR. SNODGRASS: Judge, just for the record,
15 Cliff Snodgrass speaking again. If we have some dates we
16 want to run by you, would it be okay if we come up and
17 discuss those dates with you?

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly. I should be in the
19 office all day, so just feel free to drop in.

20 MR. SNODGRASS: Okay. Thanks, Judge.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything else?

22 Hearing nothing, we will adjourn the
23 prehearing conferences for these two cases, and again, you
24 have access to this room the rest of the day. Thank you
25 very much. We are adjourned.