

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 27th day of
April, 2011.

In the Matter of a Working File to)
Consider Changes to Commission)
Rules and Practices Regarding Rate)
Case Expense)

File No. AW-2011-0330

**ORDER DIRECTING STAFF TO INVESTIGATE AND OPENING A
REPOSITORY FILE**

Issue Date: April 27, 2011

Effective Date: April 27, 2011

Testimony presented in recent rate cases and escalating rate case expense requests have led the Commission to consider whether changes should be made to its current rules and practices whereby regulated utilities generally recover all costs they incur in presenting a rate case before the Commission. The Commission wants to consider whether it is appropriate for shareholders to bear responsibility for a portion of rate case expense, or whether it is appropriate to establish a dollar or revenue percentage cap on rate case expense that can be passed on to ratepayers. To assist it in these efforts, the Commission will direct its Staff to investigate that question and file a report of its findings. In undertaking its investigation, Staff shall study how all other states handle this issue.

To further assist it in reviewing these questions, the Commission will solicit informal written comments and suggestions from interested persons and companies. This file shall serve as a repository for documents and comments. Using this file, any person with an

interest in this matter may view documents and may submit any pertinent responsive comments or documents. As this is not a contested case, any person may file a comment without counsel and without *ex parte* constraints (arising from this matter). Intervention requests are not necessary to submit comments or view documents.

The public is welcome to submit comments by forwarding electronic communications through the electronic filing and information system (EFIS) or by mailing written comments. You may submit electronic comments at the Commission's website at <http://www.psc.mo.gov>. (Click on the EFIS/Case filings link on the left side of the page. Scroll down and click on the public comment link. Please reference File No. AW-2011-0330). Written comments in hard copy should be addressed to the Commission at P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 and should reference File No. AW-2011-0330. The public can view the contents of the file by following the link at <http://www.psc.mo.gov>.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. This case is established as a repository for documents and comments regarding the Commission's consideration of changes to the Commission's rules and practices regarding the recovery of rate case expense.

2. The Commission's Staff shall investigate the question of whether any changes should be made to the Commission's rules and practices regarding the recovery of rate case expense and shall report its findings to the Commission no later than July 1, 2011.

3. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Reed', is written over a faint circular seal.

Steven C. Reed
Secretary

Gunn, Chm., Clayton and Jarrett, CC., concur;
Davis and Kenney CC., concur with concurring opinions to follow.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge