

Filed August 08, 2011 **Data Center** Missouri Public Service Commission

## Robin Carnahan **Secretary of State**

# **Administrative Rules Division Rulemaking Transmittal Receipt**

Rule ID: 13068 Date Printed: 8/8/2011 Rule Number: 4 CSR 240-2.116

Rulemaking Type: Final Order Amendment
Date Submitted to Administrative Rules Division: 8/8/2011

Date Submitted to Joint Committee on Administrative Rules: 7/6/2011

Name of Person to Contact with questions concerning this rule:

Content: Morris Woodruff

Phone: 1-2849

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Fax:

RuleDataEntry:

Phone:

Email:

Fax:

Included with Rulemaking:

Cover Letter

8/08/2011

Print Close

# **Robin Carnahan**

Secretary of State Administrative Rules Division

**RULE TRANSMITTAL** 

Administrative Rules Stamp

# RECEIVED

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SECRETARY OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

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Commissioners

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# Missouri Public Service Commission

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STEVEN C. REED Secretary/General Counsel

KEVIN A. THOMPSON Chief Staff Counsel

Robin Carnahan Secretary of State Administrative Rules Division 600 West Main Street Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Secretary Carnahan,

Re: 4 CSR 240-2.116 Dismissal

### CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

I do hereby certify that the attached is an accurate and complete copy of the order of rulemaking lawfully submitted by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Statutory Authority: section 386.410, RSMo 2000

If there are any questions regarding the content of this order of rulemaking, please contact me at the address and number below.

Sincerely.

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Missouri Public Service Commission

200 Madison Street

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-4393

Nancy.dippell@psc.mo.gov

Enclosure

# Title 4 – DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Division 240 – Public Service Commission Chapter 2 – Practice and Procedure

AUG 0 8 2011

SECRETARY OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

### ORDER OF RULEMAKING

By the authority vested in the Missouri Public Service Commission under section 386.410, RSMo 2000, the commission amends a rule as follows:

## 4 CSR 240-2.116 is amended.

A notice of proposed rulemaking containing the text of the proposed amendments was published in the *Missouri Register* on April 15, 2011 (36 MoReg 1058). No changes have been made in the proposed amendment, so it is not reprinted here. These proposed amendments become effective thirty (30) days after publication in the *Code of State Regulations*.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: A public hearing on the proposed amendments was held May 19, 2011, and the public comment period ended May 16, 2011. One (1) written comment was received and two (2) people testified at the public hearing.

COMMENT: Rick Zucker, on behalf of Laclede Gas Company, and Wendy Tatro, on behalf of Union Electric Company, d/b/a Ameren Missouri, jointly filed written comments and Mr. Zucker testified at the hearing. Mr. Zucker and Ms. Tatro commented that section (1) should be amended to allow the applicant or complainant to voluntarily dismiss a case up to ten (10) days before the hearing is scheduled without the permission of the commission similar to the way the practice is done in the courts. In addition, only the consent of all parties who have filed written testimony should be required for voluntary dismissal.

Lewis Mills, on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, responded to the company comments at the hearing. Mr. Mills stated that there are distinctions between issues before the commission and issues before the courts. Thus, it may be that the rules for voluntary dismissal should remain different. Further, Mr. Mills stated that it is not burdensome to get the commission's permission for withdrawal.

RESPONSE: The commission's jurisdiction is different than that before a court because the commission must often determine what is in the public interest rather than the rights of the parties before it. Thus, the procedures the commission uses are often different than those used at the court. In a commission proceeding, by the time written testimony is filed considerable resources have been expended by the commission and its staff, the public counsel, and the other parties. The same is true even if those parties have not filed or presented testimony. In addition, there may be broader public interest issue that the commission will want to pursue even if the applicant or complainant does not. Further, the applicant or complainant may always ask for permission to dismiss the case and this is not a significant burden. Therefore, the commission disagrees with the suggestions of Ameren and Laclede and makes no changes as a result of these comments.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON

JUL 0 6 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES