

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

In the matter of the Application of)
Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.)
d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas)
for Authority to Issue approximately)
\$10 Million in Equity Capital and)
approximately \$50 Million in Notes and)
Other Forms of Indebtedness.)

Case No. GF-2007-0215

OZARK ENERGY PARTNERS' RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COMES NOW Ozark Energy Partners, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Ozark" or "OEP") and for its Response to the Commission's December 21, 2007 *Order Directing Filing* states:

1. From a review of SMNG's *Second Amended Application* in this case, OEP is concerned that the capital provided under the *Second Amended Application* does not appear to match SMNG's construction budget for its proposed Branson service territory, and therefore will not meet the operating needs of SMNG.
2. It is OEP's position that a hearing is required in this matter. The Commission should set the matter for a prehearing conference to discuss a hearing schedule.
3. However, OEP supports Staff's request for additional time, filed earlier this day, which has been concurred in by the Office of the Public Counsel.

WHEREFORE, Ozark Energy Partners, LLC respectfully supports Staff's request for additional time; and requests that the Commission set

this matter for prehearing conference to establish a schedule of proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William D. Steinmeier

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COUNSEL FOR OZARK ENERGY
PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: January 4, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the undersigned has caused a complete copy of the attached document to be electronically filed and served on the Commission's Office of General Counsel (at gencounsel@psc.mo.gov) and the Office of Public Counsel (at opcservice@ded.mo.gov), and on counsel for all parties of record, on this 4th day of January 2008.

/s/ William D. Steinmeier