## STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of
April, 2014.

In the Matter of a Working Docket to Address the

## ORDER CLOSING FILE

Issue Date: April 16, 2014 Effective Date: April 16, 2014

The Commission opened this working case in September 2012, to facilitate discussion regarding the natural gas supply hedging practices used by Missouri's electric utilities to mitigate fuel supply cost fluctuations. The Staff of the Commission filed an initial report about its investigation on April 8, 2013. Staff continued its investigation and filed an Additional Staff Report on January 31, 2014.

Staff continues to report that no broad agreement has been reached about how to evaluate whether an electric utility's gas hedging program is cost effective, and discussions have highlighted the challenge of judging such gas hedging programs. Staff indicates that as large new supplies of natural gas become available and as electric power markets continue to evolve, it will be important for utilities and regulators to discuss how to hedge effectively in the current market.

Staff reports that it has had productive meetings with the investor-owned electric utilities about their natural gas hedging plans and that it intends to continue having those informal meetings annually. Staff also recommends that the utilities continue to develop, review and implement hedging policies to address changing circumstances. Staff suggested that the Commission allow interested stakeholders an opportunity to respond to the additional report. Staff also indicated that its investigation is complete and that this file could be closed

after those responses are received.

The Commission invited interested shareholders to respond to Staff's additional report by April 1. Ameren Missouri and Kansas City Power & Light Company / KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company (KCPL/GMO) filed responses. They agree that informal annual meetings with Staff to discuss hedging plans will be helpful. They also believe that hedging continues to be important because, while natural gas prices have been lower in recent years, those prices have still been volatile.

KCPL/GMO also expresses concern that the words Staff used in the recommendation section of its report might signal a change in the Commission's views about hedging practices and the prudence of hedging decisions. The Commission assures KCPL/GMO that Staff's recommendation simply expresses the views of Staff and does not change Commission policy.

Since Staff has completed its investigation, the Commission will close this working file.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. This investigative file shall be closed.
- 2. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

STON OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Morris L Woodwy

R. Kenney, Chm., Stoll, W. Kenney, Hall, and Rupp, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge