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June 20, 1996

**FILED**

**JUN 20 1996**

**MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Mr. David Rauch  
Executive Secretary  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

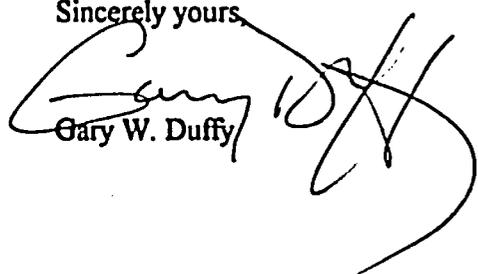
RE: Case No. AX-96-300 <sup>301</sup> <sub>102</sub>

Dear Mr. Rauch:

Enclosed for filing with your office please find an original and fourteen copies of the reply comments of Associated Natural Gas, The Empire District Electric Company, Missouri Gas Energy, Missouri Public Service, St. Joseph Light & Power Company, United Cities Gas Company, and West Elm Place Corporation in this matter.

If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gary W. Duffy

Enclosures

cc: Office of Public Counsel  
Jeff Dangeau  
Bob Fancher  
Dennis Gillmore  
Maurice Arnall  
Tim Rush  
Mark Thessin  
Lois Smith  
Tom Byrne

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

**FILED**

**JUN 20 1996**

**MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the matter of the proposed amendments )  
Commission rules 4 CSR 240-20.030, )  
4 CSR 240-30.040, 4 CSR 240-40.040, )  
4 CSR 240-50.030, 4 CSR 240-61.020, )  
and proposed rule 4 CSR 240-10.080. )

Case No. AX-96-301

**REPLY COMMENTS**

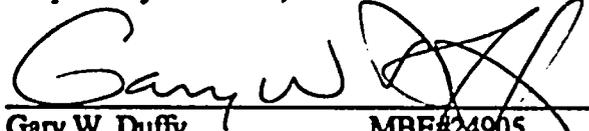
Come now Associated Natural Gas, The Empire District Electric Company, St. Joseph Light & Power Company, Missouri Gas Energy, United Cities Gas Company, Missouri Public Service, and West Elm Place Corporation and for their reply comments on the Proposed Rule and Proposed Amendments published in the *Missouri Register* at 21 MoReg 1115 et seq. on May 1, 1996, respectfully state as follows:

1. The comments of the Staff of the Commission suggested that a request for an extension should be filed on or before April 1, or two weeks before the filing date. There should not be an *absolute* deadline for the filing of such a request because events may arise after that date, such as an equipment breakdown, which would require the filing to take place after April 1.

2. Several commenting parties addressed the confidential nature of annual reports and the manner in which such treatment should be requested. There is obviously a need for a procedure to deal with sensitive information. The Commission already deals with sensitive information through the issuance of a protective order. The Commission should consider adopting the terms of its standard Protective Order (or something very similar, since some things such as an annual report filing would not have "parties" and thus counsel for other parties) as a rule and indicate that it would apply to the filing of annual reports and other similar filings. It

should not be difficult to utilize the framework of the protective order and have some provisions apply to filings such as annual reports and other procedures apply, as they do now, to contested cases. Having the protective order in place as a rule would also obviate the need for the issuance of a separate new order in every case. It would also eliminate the time delay and expense of filing a motion asking for one in each case since parties could take advantage of its provisions as needed.

Respectfully submitted,



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