

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

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company of Joplin, Missouri Tariffs)
Increasing Rates for Electric Service)
Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service)
Area of the Company)

File No. ER-2012-0345

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO BE EXCUSED
FROM PARTICIPATION IN EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

Issue Date: August 30, 2012

Effective Date: August 30, 2012

On August 29, 2012, Southern Union Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy ("MGE") requested that it be excused from attending and participating in the evidentiary hearing regarding The Empire District Electric Company's request for interim rate relief scheduled for September 10-11, 2012. In support of its motion, MGE states that it has filed no testimony regarding the interim rate issues, does not have a position on the relief requested, and will participate in the permanent rate case portion of this docket.

The Commission finds MGE's request to be reasonable and will grant it.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. MGE's motion to be excused from attending and participating in the evidentiary hearing scheduled for September 10-11, 2012 is granted.

2. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of August, 2012.