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April 24, 2001

FILED³

APR 24 2001

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 100
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Case No. GT-2001-329

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission in the above referenced proceeding are the original and eight (8) copies of **Joint Response of Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc., Atmos Energy Corporation and Southern Missouri Gas Company to Staff's Motion for Order Permitting Use of Information and for Expedited Treatment.**

Pursuant to the Commission's Order Shortening Time For Response, this Joint Response also is being filed electronically by e-mail to the Regulatory Law Judge at vruth@mail.state.mo.us. Copies of the Joint Response are being served on all counsel of record.

Thank you for bringing this filing to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Sincerely,



Larry W. DORITY

Enclosures

cc: Dana K. Joyce, General Counsel
Office of the Public Counsel
Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³
APR 24 2001
Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Tariff Filing to Implement an)
Experimental Fixed Price Plan and Other) Case No. GT-2001-329
Modifications to Its Gas Supply Incentive)
Plan.)

**JOINT RESPONSE OF FIDELITY NATURAL GAS, INC.,
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION AND SOUTHERN MISSOURI GAS COMPANY
TO STAFF'S MOTION FOR ORDER PERMITTING USE OF INFORMATION
AND FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COME NOW Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc., Atmos Energy Corporation (through its divisions, United Cities Gas Co. and Greeley Gas Company) and Southern Missouri Gas Company (collectively "Joint Respondents") and, pursuant to the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") Order Shortening Time For Response entered in this matter on April 20, 2001, jointly file their response to the Commission Staff's Motion for Order Permitting Use of Information and for Expedited Treatment ("Motion"), stating as follows:

1. On April 18, 2001, the Commission Staff filed its Motion requesting authority to utilize highly confidential information pertaining to gas costs and volumes which certain Missouri local distribution companies have provided in other proceedings, in order to develop a cost comparison between Missouri natural gas utilities. As reflected in said Motion, the Joint Respondents would be directly affected by the relief requested in the Motion and, accordingly, have expressed concern over the potential dissemination of their data.

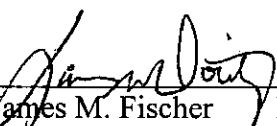
2. Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE ("AmerenUE"), via overnight delivery dated April 20, 2001, served counsel for Joint Respondents with copies of its Response to Staff's

Motion Permitting Use of Information and for Expedited Treatment ("AmerenUE's Response") and Application to Intervene, which it filed in this proceeding.

3. Joint Respondents respectfully concur in, and adopt by reference, the statements and objections to Staff's Motion as contained in AmerenUE's Response filed in this matter.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein and as adopted by reference, Joint Respondents respectfully request that the Commission deny Staff's Motion. In the alternative, the Commission should make it clear that the parties will be permitted to review and use only the aggregate gas supply data that does not include the details of any specific gas supply or pipeline transportation arrangements, and that such information will be treated as "Highly Confidential."

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Attorneys for:
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Atmos Energy Corporation
Southern Missouri Gas Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Joint Response has been hand-delivered or mailed, First Class mail, postage prepaid, this 24th day of April 2001, to:

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City MO 65102

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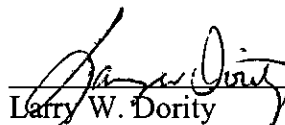
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