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MISSOURI GAS ENERGY
A division of Southern Union Company

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JUL 13 2004

Office of Public Counsel - Missouri
DATA INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

Case Number: GR-2004-0209

Data Request No 5003

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

Requested From: Michael Noack

Date Requested: 1/21/2004

Information Requested:

Does witness Quain believe that a principal goal of the ratemaking process is to enhance the utility's credit worthiness? If yes, please provide any and all information witness Quain relied on to arrive at this conclusion.

Requested By: Douglas Micheel

Information Provided:

Mr. Quain provided the following response.

No, a principal goal of the ratemaking process is not to enhance a utility's creditworthiness. Ratemaking's principal goal is to balance the interests of a regulated utility and its shareholders with those of the consuming public, and to provide the utility with a fair rate of return. Indeed, ratemaking could never ensure the enhancement of a utility's creditworthiness which, like that of any business, depends upon countless factors and events. Even so, an important objective in ratemaking is not to degrade a utility's creditworthiness, impairing its ability to attract investment capital.

Exhibit No. 222

Case No(s). GR-2004-0209

Date 6/24/04 **Rptr** TS

The information provided in response to the above data information request is accurate and complete, and contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, based upon present facts of which the undersigned has knowledge, information or belief. The undersigned agrees to promptly notify the requesting party if, during the pendency of Case No. GR-2004-0209 before the Commission, any matters are discovered which would materially affect the accuracy or completeness of the attached information.

Date Response Received: _____

Signed By: Michael Noack
Director, Pricing and Regulatory Affairs

Date: 2/9/04