Exhibit No.:

Issues:

Rate Case Expense,

M&S Inventory and PSC Assessment

Witness:

Lisa J. Canady MO PSC Staff

Sponsoring Party:

Case No.: GR

GR-98-140

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

UTILITY SERVICES DIVISION

DIRECT TESTIMONY

FILED

OF

JUL 1 3 1998

LISA J. CANADY

Missouri Public Service Commission

MISSOURI GAS ENERGY A DIVISION OF SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY

CASE NO. GR-98-140

Jefferson City, Missouri July 1998

1	TRUE-UP TESTIMONY
2	OF
3	LISA J. CANADY
4 5	MISSOURI GAS ENERGY A DIVISION OF SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY
6	CASE NO. GR-98-140
7	
8	Q. Please state your name and business address.
9	A. Lisa J. Canady, Noland Plaza Office Building, 3675 Noland Road,
10	Suite 110, Independence, Missouri 64055.
11	Q. Are you the same Lisa J. Canady who has previously filed direct,
12	supplemental direct and surrebuttal testimony in this proceeding?
13	A. Yes, I am.
14	Q. What is the purpose of your true-up testimony?
15	A. The purpose of my true-up testimony is to discuss costs incurred for rate
16	case expense subsequent to the update period, December 31, 1998, which Staff agreed
17	should be reviewed during the true-up phase. This testimony will address the true-up
18	levels of materials and supplies, prepayments and cash working capital. The Public
19	Service Commission (PSC) assessment also was agreed to be trued-up.

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RATE CASE EXPENSE

Q. Please identify the different positions of Missouri Gas Energy (MGE or Company), the Office of the Public Council (OPC) and Staff.

A. The following represents the three parties positions at the time of the June 1, 1998 hearing in this case:

MGE

\$611,914 over 2 years

OPC

\$139,251 over 2 years

Staff

\$537,186 over 2 years

Since the conclusion of the hearings, Staff has learned that the Company incurred additional costs for rate case expense. The initial amount provided were costs totaling \$840,171 through May 31, 1998, in rate case expenses for the current rate case. On July 7, 1998, MGE provided additional information indicating that there was an additional \$88,040 which the company incurred for rate case expense bringing MGE total rate case expense to \$928,210.

- Q. Please describe Staff's position concerning rate case expense.
- A. Staff used the actual rate case expense incurred by MGE in its 1996 Missouri rate proceeding as a reasonable estimate of the on-going amount of rate case expense for purposes of this case. In addition, because of differences in the degree and types of issues to be litigated during this rate proceeding compared to the last case, Staff determined that it was necessary to examine rate case expense during the

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true-up. Staff believed it was important to review the costs associated with rate case expense as part of the true-up process in this case to ensure recovery of an appropriate level of on-going expenses.

- Q. Why did Staff believe it was necessary to review rate case expense during the true-up portion of this case?
- A. Rate case expenses are unlike most other costs that utilities incur. Much of these costs are incurred subsequent to the test year because they are associated with the process of filing direct and responsive testimony, preparing for and attending the prehearing conference, preparing for and conducting hearings and submitting briefs. The nature of rate case expense causes the current costs to be unknown and uncertain during a substantial portion of the audit. At the time of Staff's direct filing, very few costs had been incurred. The remainder of these costs generally are not known until after the case has been fully litigated. As such, significant costs are incurred late in the process making review and analysis of these costs more difficult than other types of expenses. Staff used the costs incurred for MGE's last rate case (Case No. GR-96-285) as a reasonable initial estimate of ongoing rate case expense for this case. Since Staff believed the costs associated with the rate case expense in Case No. GR-96-285 might be higher than rate case expense in this case, we determined that it would be appropriate to review rate case expense in the true-up portion of this case. The Stipulation and Agreement Regarding True-up Audit and Hearing (Stipulation)

True-Up Testimony of Lisa J. Canady

filed on April 10, 1998, identified rate case expense as a true-up item. Additionally, my surrebuttal testimony filed on May 15, 1998, stated that Staff intended to examine rate case expense in the true-up phase of this case.

- Q. Why did Staff use the costs for rate case expense from Case No. GR-96-285 as an initial estimate for this case?
- A. Staff was of the opinion that the rate case expense from MGE's last rate case reflected a reasonable estimate of an on-going amount of rate case expense. The last case contained numerous complex issues for which Company engaged consulting services and filed direct and responsive testimony. Also, that case was fully litigated and briefed which increased the cost of rate case expense. Several of the issues were unique, novel and controversial. Because the Company retained consultant services for many issues, and outside counsel to litigate the entire case, it was believed that the 1996 rate case was a good conservative estimate of ongoing expenses.
- Q. What was Staff's rationale for recommending an on-going level of rate case expense and later reviewing this issue in the true-up phase?
- A. Staff believed the rate case expense for Case No. GR-96-285 would exceed the current case. This is why Staff wanted the option of reviewing this area in the true-up phase to ensure that MGE only recovered an appropriate level of rate case expense. The ongoing level identifies an amount for rate case expense which is reflected in rates to cover the costs to file for increased tariffs on an ongoing basis.

 This amount can be thought of as an annualization amount over a two year period which would cover the costs necessary to file proposed tarriffs and fully litigate a normal level of issues.

- Q. What types of costs are incurred as part of rate case expense?
- A. According to the Gas Uniform System of Accounts found in the Code of Federal Regulations, 18 CFR Ch. 1 (4-1-96 Edition), the following costs are found in Account 928, Regulatory Commission Expense:
 - 1. Salaries, fees, retainers, and expenses of counsel, solicitors, attorneys, accountants, others engaged in the prosecution of, or defense against petitions or complaints presented to regulatory bodies, or in the valuation of property owned or used by the utility in connection with such cases.
 - 2. Office supplies and expenses, payments to public service or other regulatory commissions, stationery and printing, traveling expenses, and other expenses incurred directly in connection with formal cases before regulatory commissions.
 - 3. All application fees except those involving construction certificate applications which have been approved.

Note A: Exclude from this account and include in other appropriate operating expense accounts, expenses incurred in the improvement of service, additional inspection, or rendering reports, which are made necessary by the rules and regulations, or orders, of regulatory bodies.

Q. What is the total dollar amount that Company has incurred for rate case expense in Case No. GR-98-140?

A. As indicated previously in this testimony in response to OPC Data Request No. 1.19T, Company stated that they have incurred \$928,210 as of May 31, 1998 (end of the true-up period). This amount represents a 73 percent increase over the \$537,186 incurred for the 1996 rate case. These amounts also would not reflect any additional costs for the true-up and the briefing of the current case. Thus, the ultimate costs associated with the current 1998 case may very well be higher than \$928,210.

- Q. Does Staff believe that \$928,210 is a representative amount of ongoing rate case expense for this case?
- A. No. Staff is of the opinion that this amount of rate case expense is excessive and not reasonable. In Case No. GR-98-140, fewer issues went to hearing, the issues were less complicated and Company had a senior regulatory accountant and in-house counsel to aid in litigating this case. Staff believes that the costs of the current rate case should not have exceeded the costs of the 1996 rate case. Certainly, the Case No. GR-98-140 costs should not have exceeded those 1996 rate case costs by 73 percent.
- Q. Were there less issues litigated in this case compared with the 1996 rate case?

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A. Yes. There were many more issues contested in MGE's Case No. GR-96-285 than in the current case. The hearing memorandum in Case No. GR-96-285 identifies the issues litigated in that case (a copy of the Table of Contents is attached as Schedule 1). In Case No. GR-96-285 there were five issues for revenues while no revenue issues went to hearing in the current case. These included weather normalization, economic development discounts and flex rates revenues. In the area of Pensions and Benefits, there were four issues litigated and none in this case. There were four issues for corporate costs litigated in the 1996 rate case and none contested in this case. Although the equity component of rate of return was an issue in both cases, the 1996 rate case also had five other issues for rate of return litigated that were not contested in this case.

There were numerous complex and unique tariff issues proposed by MGE relating to Weather Normalization Clause, Gas Safety Project Rider, Incentive Regulation Rider, Economic Development Rider and Curtailment Plan. MGE also pursued an Acquisition Savings adjustment in the last case which was not litigated in the current case.

In Case No. GR-96-285, there were other numerous issues which were not litigated in this case such as Payroll and Payroll Taxes, Injuries and Damages, Reorganization Costs, Street Cut Fees, Weatherization program, Property Tax Expense, Uncollectible Expense and Income Tax issues. The 1996 rate case was

	True-Up Testimony of Lisa J. Canady
1 2 3 4	Q. Based upon your experience, would you expect that MGE will be litigating 59 or so issues in this rate case or the next rate case that MGE files?
5	A. I certainly hope not.
6	[Source: Transcript of Proceedings, Vol. 14, page 958, Lines 2-20]
7	Q. Has Company incurred costs in this case for rate case expense which
8	should not be recovered from ratepayers?
9	A. Yes. Staff is of the opinion that many of the expenses Company
10	incurred are not recoverable. We believe that Company has not prudently spent
11	money for rate case expense.
12	Q. Please describe some of the items that have been included in Company's
13	rate case expense.
14	A. These costs include the following items:
15	♦ 550 stress balls
16	♦ Massages in Missouri and Texas
17	♦ 400 minisport bottles with sport top for employee incentives
18	♦ \$2,300 poster to say "Let's Stay on Track"
19	♦ Reimbursement for opera tickets
20	♦ Project management consultant to plan incentives for employees that
21	participate in the rate case
22	♦ 415 "Executive World of Thanks calculators" and set up charge
23	♦ Charges for hotel no-shows
24	♦ Rate case luncheons planned for up to 160 people
25	- a magic act for one luncheon
25 26	- catered food items
27	- renting space at the Uptown theater
28	- renting audio equipment for presentations
29	- renting tables and chairs

True-Up Testimony of Lisa J. Canady

- business lunch with the entertainer
- travel costs for corporate officers located in Texas to attend
- ♦ Appeal costs that are not associated with the current rate case [Source: OPC Data Request 1.19T]
- Q. What is MGE's position with respect to the recovery of rate case expense?
- A. It is my understanding that MGE intends on making some adjustments to remove some of the "questionable" costs it incurred for rate case expense. Staff & OPC were informed on Friday afternoon, July 10, 1998, that the Company planned on removing some of the costs for rate case expense. As of the filing of this true-up testimony, Staff has not seen any adjustment and is unaware what the Company will actually propose as a disallowance.
- Q. Why does Staff believe appeal costs should not be included in the rate case expense?
- A. Staff believes appeal costs should not be included because they are not normal rate case expenses. Every case that goes to hearing is not appealed in an attempt to overrule a Commission decision and as such these costs are nonrecurring. Therefore, Staff believes it would be incorrect to include these costs in rate case expense to be recovered on a going forward basis.

In addition, expenses for appeals are not rate case expenses according to the Uniform System of Accounts. Account 928, Regulatory Commission Expense,

of, or defense against petitions or complaints presented **to regulatory bodies**. Since the appellate courts in Missouri are not regulatory bodies, the costs of the appeals can not be considered rate case expense.

Finally, part of MGE's appeal costs include invoices for services regarding an *Amicus Curiae* brief filed by the Company's external auditor, Coopers & Lybrand in the appeal of MGE's last rate case. This brief represented only the position of Coopers & Lybrand and therefore is not properly chargeable to ratepayers. Coopers & Lybrand billed MGE for the costs associated with filing this brief and MGE is attempting to recover these costs in rate case expense. MGE is also attempting to recover the costs associated with filing its brief. Thus, MGE is expecting its customers to pay for both briefs to overturn the Commission decision reached in Case No. GR-96-285. Attached as Schedules 2-2 and 2-3 are invoices for the costs Coopers and Lybrand incurred preparing its brief.

- Q. Did Staff have any other problems reviewing additional rate case expense amounts incurred through true-up?
- A. Yes. In addition to the types of costs listed above, invoices from outside consultants did not readily provide sufficient information to determine the work performed. For instance, Coopers & Lybrand performed work for Company on the corporate office external audit, internal audits, the appeal of the Commission decision

True-Up Testimony of Lisa J. Canady

in Case No. GR-96-285, billing problems/errors from the 1996/1997 winter heating season and the current rate case (GR-98-140). The invoices did not identify the time and amount associated with performing each of the various functions. Because the true-up phase of the audit has a more compressed time frame it is extremely difficult to determine the appropriateness of these costs in the current instance. Attached as Schedule 2 are examples of the Coopers & Lybrand invoices that do not specify whether services were rendered for the current GR-98-140 case.

- Q. What is Staff's recommendation with respect to rate case expense for the true-up phase of this proceeding?
- A. Staff recommends that the amount relating to rate case expense from Case No. GR-96-285 continue to be used as the most appropriate level of ongoing rate case expense for this case. This amount represents an ongoing level which MGE incurred to litigate a very contentious and complicated case; and, if anything overstates the expense that should have been required for this rate proceeding.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- Q. Has Staff changed the methodology for calculating the materials and supplies balance?
- A. No. The change to the materials and supplies balance is a result of changing the 13-months ended from December 31, 1997, to May 31, 1998.

True-Up Testim Lisa J. Canady	ony of
PREPAYMENT	'S'
Q. Ha	s Staff changed the methodology for calculating the prepayments
balance?	
A. No	. The change to the prepayments balance is a result of changing the
13-months ended	I from December 31, 1997, to May 31, 1998.
CASH WORKIN	'G CAPITAL
Q. Ha	s Staff changed the methodology for calculating the cash working
capital requireme	ent (Schedule 8)?
A. No	None of the cash working capital lags were changed. The changes
to the cash working	ng capital requirement are a result of updating the annualized levels
for the items that	are listed in the Stipulation as true-up items.
PUBLIC SERVI	CE_COMMISSION ASSESSMENT
Q. Ple	ase explain the increase for the PSC assessment.
A. MC	E's costs for the Commission's PSC assessment increased for the
beginning of the	fiscal year ended June 30, 1999. The PSC assessment was agreed

A. Yes, it does.

1 2

to be trued-up by MGE, OPC and Staff as part of the April 10, 1998 Stipulation.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Rates.	if Design to Increase)	Case No. GR-98-140
	AFFIDAVIT OF LIS	SA J. CANAD	Y
STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss.		
COUNTY OF COLE)		
preparation of the foregoing pages to be presented in the a	True-Up Testimony in on the construction of the matters owledge of the matters	question and an wers in the fore set forth in suc	that she has participated in the swer form, consisting of 13 egoing True-Up Testimony were hanswers; and that such matters
Subscribed and sworn to bef	(of July, 1998. Notary Public	(lithum)
My Commission Expires: _		- NOTAR Y PUE Coun	ONI WILLMENO BLIC STATE OF MISSOURI ITY OF CALLAWAY ON EXPIRES JUNE 24 2000

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POBOX 841221 DAILAS, TX

COOPERS & LYBRAND

BATCH ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TRANSMITTAL DOCUMENT

Due-3/17/98 YR

(THIS FORM MUST HAVE ALL ORIGINAL INVOICES FOR THIS BATCH ATTACHED) (THIS FORM CAN ONLY BE USED FOR SINGLE LINE DISTRIBUTION ONLY)

ACCOUNTING PERIOD MO

75284-1221

SPECIAL HANDLING: BETURN CHECKS TO VENDOR NO

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Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P.

Invoice for Services

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

February 18, 1998

Invoice Number 1635-001175-B

Mr. Dave J. Kvapil Senior VP and Corporate Controller Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701

Billing for professional services rendered in connection with consultation with respect to the MGE rate case. (i'.e. amicus brief).

(see attached detail)

Total Fees

\$4,995.00

Total Invoice

\$4,995.00

Contact: Martha F. Zelsman (713) 757-5236

Engagement No. 197800-4171-02

tax identification number 13-5218870

Mr. David Kvapil

February 18, 1998

Senior VP and Corporate Confroller Invoice No. 1635-001175-B

Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Invoice Amount: \$4,995.00

Austin, TX 78701

Amount Paid

remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

Schedule 2-2

Missouri Gas Energy MGE Rate Case Detail of Billing - January 1998

Individua	l Classifica	tion Hours	Charged	Extended
Zelsman	Partner	13.5	370	4,995
		13.50		4,995
		Expenses:		
		Other	. 0	0 4,995



Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P.

a professional services firm

Invoice for Services

please remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

February 18, 1998

Invoice Number 1635-001175-A

Mr. Dave J. Kvapil Senior VP and Corporate Controller Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701

Billing for professional services rendered in connection with consultation with respect to the MGE rate case. (i.e. drilling accounts and spread sheet preparation of Mot come Participation information).

(see attached detail)

Contact: Martha F. Zelsman

Engagement No. 197800-4171-02

Total Fees Total Expenses

Total Invoice

\$6,300.00 330,00...

tax identification number 13-5218870

return this portion with your remittance

(713) 757-5236

Mr. David Kvapil Senior VP and Corporate Controller Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701

February 18, 1998 Invoice No. 1635-001175-A Invoice Amount: \$6,630.00

Amount Paid

remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

Schedule 2-4

Missouri Gas Energy MGE Rate Case Detail of Billing - January 1998

Individua	l Classification	Hours	Charged	Extended
Dennison Smith	Associate Associate	42 18	105 105	4,410 1,890
		60.00		6,300
		Expenses:		
		Other	330	330 6,630

Coopers &Lybrand

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P.

a professional services firm

Invoice for Services

please remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas. Texas 75284-1221

February 18, 1998

Invoice Number 1635-001175-1

Mr. David J. Kvapil Senior VP and Corporate Controller Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701

Billing for professional services rendered in connection with consultation with respect to the MGE rate case.

(see detail attached)

15 Junjun

Total Fees Total Expenses

Total Invoice

\$11,295.00 330.00 \$11,625.00

Contact: Martha F Zelsman (713) 757-5236 Engagement No. 197800-4171-02

tax identification number 13-5218870

return this portion with your remittance

Mr. David J. Kvapil Senior VP and Corporate Controller Southern Union Company 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701 February 18, 1998
Invoice Number 1635-001175-1
Invoice Amount \$11,625.00

Amount Paid_____

remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

Schedule 2-6

ฝissouri Gas Energy MGE Rate Case Detail of Billing - January 1998

Individua	Classification	on Hours	harged 🌃 Extended
Zelsman	Partner	13.5	370 4,995
Dennison	Associate	42	105 4,410
Smith	Associate	18	105 1,890
		73.50	11,295
		Expenses:	
		Other	330
			330 11,625

Coopers &Lybrand Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P.

a professional services firm

Invoice for Services

please remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

December 23, 1997

Invoice Number 1635-001089-4

Mr. David J. Kvapil Vice President and Controller 504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900 Austin, TX 78701

A) with

Billing for professional services rendered in connection with consultation with respect to the MGE rate case.)

(see detail attached)

Total Fees Total Expenses

\$6,470.00

65.00

\$6,535.00

Total Invoice

Contact: Martha F. Zelsman (713) 745-5236

Engagement No. 197800-4171-02

tax identification number 13-5218870

return this portion with your remittance

Mr. David J. Kvapil
Vice President and Controller
Southern Union Company
504 Lavaca Street - Suite 900
Austin, TX 78701

December 23, 1997

Invoice Number

1635-001089-4

Invoice Amount

\$6,535.00

Amount Paid_____

remit to:

Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. P.O. Box 841221 Dallas, Texas 75284-1221

Schedule 2-8

Missouri Gas Energy MGE Rate Case Detail of Billing - December 1997

Individual	Classification	Hours	Charged	Extended
Zelsman	Partner	10.5	370	3,885
Schaefer	Partner	5	370	1,850
George	Associate	7	105	735
	-	22.50		6,470
		Expenses:		
		Other	65	- 65
				6,535