

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

In the Matter of the Application of Missouri Gas Utility,)
Inc., for Authority to Issue Up to and Including)
\$88,000,000 of Long-Term Indebtedness in One or More)
Tranches After the Closing of the Merger Between)
Missouri Gas Utility, Inc., and Southern Missouri Gas)
Company, L.P. d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas,)
and to, Among Other Things, Encumber the Operating)
Assets of the Consolidated Entity.)

File No. GO-2012-0102

STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"), by and through undersigned counsel, and in response to the Commission's Order Directing Filing dated October 4, 2011, Staff hereby states as follows:

1. The Commission's Order Directing Filing dated October 4, 2011, ordered Staff to file a pleading stating when it expects to file a Recommendation in the above-referenced case.
2. Staff is reviewing the application and conducting all necessary discovery.
3. Staff believes it can file a Recommendation on or about December 9, 2011.

WHEREFORE, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission respectfully submits this Staff Response to Commission Order.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/John D. Borgmeyer
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Missouri Public Service Commission
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 24th day of October, 2011.

/s/ John D. Borgmeyer