BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing It to Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, Case No. GA-99-107 and Maintain Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities and a Gas Distribution System for the Public in a Portion of St. Charles County, Missouri, as an Expansion of Its Presently Certificated Area. In the Matter of the Application of Laclede Gas Company for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing It to Construct, Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and Case No. GA-99-236 Maintain a Gas Distribution System for the Public in a Portion of the City of Wentzville, Missouri, as an Expansion) of Its Presently Certificated Area.

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION

January 20, 1999, the City of Wentzville, On (Wentzville) filed an application to intervene and become a party in this Wentzville's application indicates that it is a fourth class case. municipality situated in St. Charles County, Missouri. The applications of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE and Laclede Gas Company request new gas service authority for a portion of Wentzville. Wentzville asserts that it has a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding that is different from that of the general public, that it is a municipality, and that granting the intervention would serve the public interest.

Wentzville filed its application to intervene thirty days after December 21, which is the date established by the Commission for intervention. Wentzville asserts that its delay in filing for intervention should be excused because of delays occasioned by the holidays and its difficulty in sorting out the legal, economic and long-term ramifications that competing applications pose for the city and its citizens. Wentzville agrees that it is willing and able to abide by the procedural schedule adopted by the Commission in its order dated December 10, 1998.

The Commission has reviewed the application to intervene filed by Wentzville and finds that it is in compliance with Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4). Wentzville has an interest in this matter that is different from that of the general public. In addition, Wentzville is a municipality entitled to intervention and granting the requested intervention would be in the public interest. The Commission also finds that Wentzville has shown good cause to grant it intervention out of time. The Commission concludes that the Application to Intervene Out of Time filed by Wentzville should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the City of Wentzville's Application to Intervene Out of Time is granted.

2. That this order shall become effective on February 11, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Ask Hard Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 1st day of February, 1999.



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COMMISSION COUNSEL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION