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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 17th
day of February, 1999.

In the Matter of the Application)	
of Southern Union Company for)	<u>Case No. GM-99-323</u>
Authority Under §393.190, RSMo.)	

ORDER DENYING REQUEST

On February 10, 1999, Southern Union Company (SU) filed a pleading entitled "Request for Conference Concerning Resolution of Case." SU asks the commission to allow it, along with Public Counsel and Staff, "to discuss the parties' positions in a more informal setting after which the Commission can immediately decide on the appropriate conditions for approval." The Commission will not decide this contested case based upon an informal discussion. Staff and Public Counsel have raised significant concerns about the merits of SU's application, and the Commission will decide whether to deny, grant, or conditionally grant the application based upon record evidence.

The Commission has, by order of February 16, established a prehearing conference to be held on February 17 for the purpose of allowing the parties the opportunity to discuss, define, and possibly resolve the issues presented in this case. In its February 16 order, the Commission expressed its willingness to entertain proposals for an expedited resolution of this case. The Commission will certainly attempt to resolve this matter quickly, since SU has repeatedly

stressed its sense of urgency. However, the Commission will not be able to rule on the application until there is substantial and competent evidence that the ratepayers of SU's Missouri Gas Energy division will not be harmed by the transaction SU has proposed. The Request for Conference Concerning Resolution of Case will be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Request for Conference Concerning Resolution of Case filed by Southern Union Company on February 10, 1999 is denied.
2. That this order shall become effective on March 2, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Murray, Schemenauer
and Drainer, CC., concur
Crumpton, C., absent

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION