BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Missouri Gas Energy's)	
Tariff Sheets Designed to Increase rates)	Case No. GR-98-140
for Gas Service in the Company's Missouri)	
Service Area		

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO FILE TESTIMONY OUT OF TIME AND GRANTING MOTIONS TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY

On March 19, 1998, Mountain Energy Corp. (Mountain Energy) filed a Motion to File Testimony Out of Time. Mountain Energy requests that it be allowed to file its direct testimony four business days out of time. Mountain Energy states that it provided copies of the testimony to all parties of record and that its motion was not made to harass Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) nor to delay this proceeding. Mountain Energy indicates that its motion will not prejudice MGE because MGE has 35 days in which to file its rebuttal testimony.

On March 19 the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a Motion to File Supplemental Direct Testimony of Barry F. Hall. Public Counsel states that Mr. Hall has prepared three pages of supplemental direct testimony to correct a misunderstanding regarding MGE's net present value of revenue requirement impact related to the automated meter reading equipment. Public Counsel indicates that no parties to this proceeding will be prejudiced by allowing this supplemental testimony to be filed and that the issues in dispute should be reduced by this filing.

On March 24 the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a Motion to File Supplemental Direct Testimony of Lisa J. Canady. Staff states that it filed the direct testimony of Ms. Canady on March 13 in which Ms. Canady made an adjustment to MGE's rate case expense and regulatory assessment.

Staff indicates that due to an oversight Ms. Canady did not include any written explanation of these adjustments. Therefore, in order to clarify the reasons for the adjustments and to provide the Company with a better understanding of the adjustments, Staff wishes to file supplemental direct testimony. Staff asserts that no party to this proceeding will be prejudiced by allowing this supplemental testimony to be filed.

No party has filed an objection in response to the motions filed by Mountain Energy, Public Counsel and Staff. The Commission has reviewed all three of the motions. The Commission determines that the motions are reasonable and will not result in prejudice to any party. Therefore, the Commission determines that Mountain Energy should be allowed to file its direct testimony four days out of time and that Public Counsel and Staff should be allowed to file supplemental direct testimony as requested.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the Motion to File Testimony Out of Time filed by Mountain Energy Corp. on March 19, 1998, is granted.
- That the Motion to File Supplemental Direct Testimony of Barry
 F. Hall filed by the Office of the Public Counsel on March 19, 1998, is granted.
- 3. That the Motion to File Supplemental Direct Testimony of Lisa J. Canady filed by the Staff of the Commission on March 24, 1998, is granted.

4. That this order shall become effective on April 16, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hoke Hared Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Gregory T. George, 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 6th day of April, 1998.