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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of St. Joseph Light &)
Power Company's Purchased Gas) **Case No. GR-97-206**
Adjustment Factors to be Audited in)
its 1996-1997 Actual Cost Adjustment.)

ORDER DIRECTING RESPONSE

On March 31, 1998, the Procurement Analysis Department of the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum indicating that Staff has reviewed the 1996-1997 Actual Cost Adjustment (ACA) filing of St. Joseph Light & Power Company (SJLP or Company). Staff stated that it audited the billed revenues and actual gas costs for the period of May 1, 1996, through April 30, 1997, and examined the prudence of the Company's gas purchasing decisions. Staff further indicated that based upon its review, no adjustments to the ACA refund or transition cost balances were necessary.

Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order requiring SJLP to establish the ACA account balances in its next ACA filing to reflect the following ending balances to be collected from (or refunded to) the ratepayers:

	Balance per SJLP Filing	Staff Adjustments	Ending Balances
ACA	\$ (65,229.51)		\$ (65,229.51)
Refund	\$2,425.91		\$2,425.91
Transition Cost	\$ (55,386.56)		\$ (55,386.56)

Staff further recommends that the Commission order the Company to respond to Staff's recommendation within thirty days.

The Commission has reviewed the memorandum filed by Staff. The Commission determines that the Company shall file a response to Staff's recommendation no later than April 30, 1998.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Company shall file a response to the recommendation of the Staff of the Commission no later than April 30, 1998.
2. That this order shall become effective on April 6, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



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.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION