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

In the Matter of Southern Union Company	)		
d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy, Sigma Acquisition	)		
Corporation and Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. for	)		
an Order Authorizing them to Perform in	)	Case No. GM-2011	
Accordance with a Merger Agreement	)		
and to Undertake Related Transactions	)		

## SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY'S NOTICE OF INTENDED CASE FILING

COMES NOW Southern Union Company (Southern Union), d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy (MGE), by and through counsel, and, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-4.020, states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) as its Notice of Intended Case Filing:

- 1. MGE is a division of Southern Union, which is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware and conducts business in Missouri under the fictitious name of "Missouri Gas Energy." MGE's principal office and place of business is located at 3420 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. MGE currently conducts business as a "gas corporation" and provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in several Missouri counties, subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission as provided by law.
- 2. Commission Rule 4 240-4.020 concerns Ex Parte and Extra-Record Communications. The purpose of the rule is to "regulate communication between the commission, technical advisory staff, and presiding officers, and anticipated parties, parties, agents of parties, and interested persons regarding substantive issues that are not part of the evidentiary record."

- 3. Among other things, Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-4.020 provides, in part, as follows:
  - (2) Any regulated entity that intends to file a case likely to be a contested case shall file a notice with the secretary of the commission a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to filing such case. Such notice shall detail the type of case and issues likely to be before the commission.
- 4. On June 15, 2011, Southern Union entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement") with Energy Transfer Equity, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("ETE"), and Sigma Acquisition Corporation, a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of ETE ("Sigma"). The Merger Agreement provides for the merger of Sigma with and into Southern Union on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement (the "Merger"), with Southern Union continuing as the surviving corporation. As a result of the Merger, Southern Union will become a wholly owned subsidiary of ETE. Upon consummation of the Merger, shares of common stock of Southern Union issued and outstanding (other than shares owned by (i) the Company or any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company and (ii) stockholders who have perfected and not withdrawn a demand for appraisal rights under Delaware law) will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive one Series B Unit of ETE, a newly-created class of ETE partnership units expected to be traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The Merger Agreement and the Merger were more particularly described in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed by Southern Union with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday, June 17, 2011.
- 5. It is Southern Union's intent to file, with the above-named entities, an application with the Commission for approval to perform in accordance with the Merger Agreement and undertake related transactions which will result in the Merger described above.

6. In Commission File No. GO-2011-0281, *In the Matter of the Application of Atmos Energy Corporation for Authority to Sell Part of its Works or System Located at the Hannibal, Missouri Propane Air Plant*, the Commission addressed the applicability of Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-4.020(2) to a proceeding filed pursuant to Section 393.190.1, RSMo (2000):

The company also requests a waiver of Commission rule 4 CSR 240-4.020(2), which requires a 60-day notice prior to filing what will be a contested case. A contested case "means a proceeding before an agency . . . required by law to be determined after hearing." Section 393.190.1 does not require the Commission to hold a hearing prior to ruling on this application. This is therefore not a contested case. The Commission's rule regarding contested cases is inapplicable and a waiver of the rule is unnecessary.

7. While Southern Union may not be required to file this 60-day Notice of Intended Case Filing pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(2), it is doing so out of an abundance of caution. To the extent said rule could be deemed applicable, issues likely to be before the Commission may concern the potential impact of the Merger on customer rates and service. In addition, should the rule be deemed applicable, Southern Union may seek a waiver that would permit it to file an application in less than 60 days as permitted by Commission rule 4 CSR 240-4.020(2)(B). The purpose of the 60-day notice requirement is to establish a so-called blackout period concerning communications with the Commission about an "anticipated contested case". Were an application to be filed prior to the expiration of the 60-day period, the principal objective of the rule will be served in that discussions about the substantive issues that will be part of the Commission's review will all be part of the formal record.

WHEREFORE, Southern Union submits to the Commission and its Secretary this Notice of Intended Case Filing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Order Authorizing Sale of Propane Air Plant Facility Located in Hannibal, Missouri, p. 4, April 19, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR MISSOURI GAS ENERGY A DIVISON OF SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY

## **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via electronic mail on this  $\frac{387H}{}$  day of June, 2011, to

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