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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 28th
day of October, 1997.

In the Matter of the Energy)	
Assistance Program of Missouri Gas)	<u>Case No. GO-98-148</u>
Energy, a Division of Southern)	
Union Company.)	

ORDER AUTHORIZING PERFORMANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT

On October 7, 1997, Missouri Gas Energy, a division of Southern Union Company, (MGE) filed a Motion to Establish Docket for Approval of Energy Assistance Contract. MGE stated in its motion that pursuant to the stipulation and agreement filed in Case Nos. GC-97-33 and GC-97-497, the contract between MGE and Mid American Assistance Coalition (MAAC) for a residential energy assistance program should be submitted to the Commission for approval. Under the contract which is attached to the motion, MGE will make \$550,000 available to MAAC by November 1 for the funding and administration of the energy assistance program. MGE therefore requested expedited approval of the agreement.

On October 8 the Commission issued a Notice to inform the parties that responses to MGE's motion should be filed no later than October 17. On October 9 the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a response which stated that the Commission should expeditiously approve the contract attached to MGE's motion. On October 15 the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a response which indicated that the Commission should approve MGE's motion. Staff stated that the contract is consistent

with the Commission's Report and Orders approving the Stipulations and Agreements in Case Nos. GC-97-33 and GC-97-497.

The Commission has reviewed the Motion to Establish Docket for Approval of Energy Assistance Contract filed by MGE, the contract attached to the motion and the responses filed by Public Counsel and by Staff. The Commission finds that MGE should be granted authority to perform in accordance with the agreement attached to MGE's motion. The Commission will reserve for a future proceeding the right to consider the ratemaking treatment to be afforded the expenditures associated with the agreement.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Missouri Gas Energy, a Division of Southern Union Company, is authorized to perform in accordance with the Agreement attached to the Motion to Establish Docket for Approval of Energy Assistance Contract filed on October 7, 1997.

2. That nothing in this order shall be considered a finding by the Commission of the reasonableness of the expenditures involved herein, nor of the value for ratemaking purposes of these expenditures; and the Commission reserves the right to consider the ratemaking treatment to be afforded these transactions in future rate proceedings.

3. That this order shall become effective on November 1,
1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil I. Wright", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,
and Drainer, CC., concur.

George, Regulatory Law Judge