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

)

In the Matter of the Cause of the February 2021 Cold Weather Event and its Impact On Investor Owned Utilities

File No. AO-2021-0264

#### SNGMO'S WRITTEN RESPONSES TO COMMISSION QUESTIONS

**COMES NOW** Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. ("SNGMO") submits its written responses to the questions posed by the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") *Order Directing Appearances* issued March 11, 2021, and the *Order Directing Response* issued March 19, 2021.

#### INTRODUCTION

SNGMO appreciated the opportunity to participate in the recent workshop and to provide information to the Commission regarding its gas purchase impacts related to the extremely cold winter weather beginning February 13, 2021, and the related extraordinary events in the gas markets.

SNGMO is a gas-only investor-owned utility, serving approximately 19,300 customers in five base rate areas - Gallatin, Warsaw, Lake of the Ozarks, Branson, and Rogersville. The customer base consists primarily of residential and small commercial customers in rural areas and small towns.

For purposes of the PGA/ACA, the Warsaw and Lake of the Ozarks area, and the Rogersville and Branson areas are combined. The Gallatin district is served by the ANR Pipeline, while both the Warsaw/Lake of the Ozarks area and the Rogersville/Branson area are served by the Southern Star Pipeline.

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SNGMO manages its natural gas supply through a combination of fixed price contracts and gas purchased at index pricing. These procurement practices, which are provided annually to the Staff of the Commission, are designed to balance the risks and opportunities of the commodity market, allowing gas prices to stay relatively low and relatively stable for SNGMO customers. In a wide range of weather and market conditions, SNGMO's procurement practices have, in the past, mitigated upward natural gas spikes and helped keep the Company's cost of gas stable.

The historic spike in natural gas prices during the period of February 13-17 fell well outside the typical range of forecastable market conditions or anything previously experienced. In this instance, market prices increased from approximately \$2.50/mmbtu to over \$620/mmbtu by the end of the cold weather event. To provide an idea of the order of magnitude represented by this event, SNGMO spent \$6,884,678 to purchase natural gas for the entire 2020 calendar year. By comparison, SNGMO spent \$34,335,700 to purchase the necessary natural gas to keep gas flowing to its customers in February 2021 only.

To keep supply and service secure during this extraordinary event, while trying to mitigate the price impact on customers, SNGMO implemented additional measures including: reaching out through multiple channels to encourage customers to conserve energy; kept in communication with the Staff of the Commission; made daily nomination adjustments throughout the long weekend; ordered our non-human needs transport customers in the Rogersville district to reduce process load and use heat only; and operated our compressed natural gas ("CNG") facility to support system needs.

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SNGMO continues to assemble and assess the data from this period. However, the information known today very much suggests that a recovery process different from that called for by SNGMO's existing PGA/ACA tariffs is necessary to both reasonably provide the Company with an opportunity for recovery and to recognize the impact to customers that could result.

SNGMO believes that extending the recovery period for these costs from the 12 months reflected in existing tariffs is in the best interest of its customers. Achieving this result will likely require, at a minimum, tariff waivers and/or modifications to SNGMO's PGA/ACA tariff provisions.

#### Order Directing Appearances – March 11, 2021

# 1. What are possible solutions to rules and tariff language that may impede financial relief for the utility and its customers? This could include discussion of the potential extreme prices on PGA/ACA.

SNGMO's PGA tariff currently requires recovery of gas costs over a 12-month period. SNGMO believes that extending the recovery period is in the best interest of its customers. As stated above, achieving this result will likely require tariff waivers to waive or modify certain PGA tariff provisions and, perhaps, an accounting authority order.

## 2. What magnitude of a price increase could result? Could the period of recovery be extended? Would another mechanism such as an Accounting Authority Order (AAO) need to be available?

Gas prices during the cold weather event spiked well above historical figures. A chart identifying possible impacts upon customers is provided below in response to question 3 from the March 19, 2021 Commission Order.

SNGMO believes an extended recovery time period is necessary and would benefit customers. An extended time period for recovery would allow the costs to be spread out, resulting in lower bill impacts, albeit for a longer period of time.

An AAO likely is not necessary to recover under SNGMO's PGA; however, under certain circumstances, an AAO may be beneficial for auditing purposes.

# 3. Did the gas utility issue operational flow orders (OFOs) lead to penalties to customers? If so, what solutions may need to be considered if tariff language restrictions create extreme hardships for customers? Did the gas utility curtail customers and what impact did that have on the utility system? How did the utility work with its customers during the weather event?

SNGMO did not issue operational flow orders as to its system. However, SNGMO was operating under an OFO from the interstate pipelines and these costs would be passed through to interruptible transport customers under existing tariff provisions. At this time, SNGMO has not received billing for any OFO penalties from upstream pipelines. SNGMO has sent notification to its interruptible transport customers of the potential for OFO penalties.

During the cold weather event, SNGMO closely monitored its system and sent messaging to all customers about how to conserve gas usage. Additionally, SNGMO asked interruptible customers to reduce usage to heat load only but did not fully curtail any customers. Those asked to reduce to heat load complied and SNGMO was able to avoid any curtailments.

#### Order Directing Response – March 19, 2021

1. How did your gas costs for February 2021 compare total calendar year 2020 gas costs?

Gas costs for February 2021 were \$34,335,700. Gas costs for the 2020 calendar year were \$6,884,678. A break down of these costs between the three PGA areas is found below:

			Warsaw/		ogersville/
	Gallatin		Lake		<u>Branson</u>
Total 2020 Gas Costs	\$	516,625	\$ 1,443,069	\$	4,924,984
Feb 2021 Gas Costs	\$	1,086,261	\$ 8,539,062	\$	24,710,377
Dollar Difference	\$	569,636	\$ 7,095,994	\$	19,785,393
Percent Difference		210%	592%		502%

#### 2. a. Do you anticipate being billed penalties from any gas pipeline?

SNGMO has not yet been billed for upstream pipeline penalties. The Southern Star Pipeline, one of SNGMO's upstream pipelines, is currently seeking a wavier for OFO penalties incurred during this time period from FERC.

#### b. If yes, what is the potential magnitude of the penalties?

If OFO penalties are assessed by Southern Star, SNGMO estimates them to be in excess of \$6M.

## 3. What do you estimate the impact of the weather event will be on your Purchased Gas Adjustment tariff rate?

SNGMO expects that the customer impacts would be substantial, if recovered over

a 12-month period. Those estimated impacts are shown in the table below.

#### **SNGMO Customer Impact Analysis**

		Estir	mated Annual	Es	stimated Monthly	Avg Percent
Rate Area	Customer Class	lm	pact per Cust		Impact per Cust	Bill Increase
Gallatin	GS Residential	\$	338.85	\$	28.24	40%
Gallatin	GS Commercial	\$	602.43	\$	50.20	44%
Gallatin	<b>Commercial Service</b>	\$	3,379.38	\$	281.61	48%
Gallatin	Large Volume Service	\$	91,110.66	\$	7,592.55	50%
Warsaw/Lake	GS Residential	\$	635.73	\$	52.98	95%
Warsaw/Lake	GS Commercial	\$	2,869.52	\$	239.13	121%
Warsaw/Lake	<b>Commercial Service</b>	\$	13,034.11	\$	1,086.18	128%
Warsaw/Lake	Large Volume Service	\$	82,792.25	\$	6,899.35	128%
Rogersville/Branson	GS Residential	\$	963.06	\$	80.26	106%
Rogersville/Branson	GS Opt Residential	\$	889.81	\$	74.15	102%
Rogersville/Branson	GS Commercial	\$	3,701.38	\$	308.45	122%
Rogersville/Branson	GS Opt Commercial	\$	1,586.13	\$	132.18	103%
Rogersville/Branson	<b>Commercial Service</b>	\$	18,854.22	\$	1,571.19	131%
Rogersville/Branson	Large Volume Service	\$	186,300.13	\$	15,525.01	141%

Notes:

Based on a 12 month amortization period Potential OFO penalties are not included Carrying costs are not included

## 4. Would recovery of the weather event costs over a period of more than one year benefit customers and the utility?

Extending recovery over a period of years including appropriate carrying costs

would help mitigate rate shock and hardships on customers without unduly burdening

utilities. See table below for an example of how such an extension would impact the

Gallatin area:

Gallatin - GS Residential

Amortization	Carrying	Estimat	ed Annual	Estim	ated Monthly	Avg Percent
Period	Costs Incl?	Impact	t per Cust	Imp	act per Cust	Bill Increase
1 Year	No	\$	338.85	\$	28.24	40%
5 Years	Yes	\$	88.57	\$	7.38	11%
10 Years	Yes	\$	54.30	\$	4.52	6%

Notes:

WACC of 9.64% used to calculate carrying costs

## 5. a. Did you communicate with your customers before or during the weather event?

Yes, SNGMO sent letters to customers who may be subject to OFO penalties and

curtailments. Additionally, SNGMO sent messaging about gas usage conservation to all

customers.

#### b. How and what was communicated to customers?

Please see Appendix A, which includes the customer communications and details

(Winter Storm Communications Feb-2021).

## c. Do you have any information on the number of customers that received your communications, e.g. the number of people who read e-mails sent to them?

Please refer to subpart b above.

6. Where you able to provide gas service to all your customers throughout the weather event?

Yes, SNGMO did not have to completely curtail any customers.

#### 7. a. Are you aware of any customer outages during the weather event?

No.

#### b. If yes, explain the circumstances and when service was restored.

N/A

#### 8. a. Did you curtail any interruptible customers during the weather event?

SNGMO ordered interruptible customers to reduce to heat load only but did not

completely curtail these customers.

## b. If yes, for each day curtailment was implemented, how many customers were affected and for how long?

Interruptible customers were restricted to heat load only from approximately 9:00 pm on February 14, 2021, until 2:00 pm on February 17, 2021, but due to supply,

customers were not able to start production again until 9:00 am on February 18, 2021.

This impacted approximately 17 customers on the Southern Star system.

## 9. a. Did you assess Operational Flow Orders penalties to any customers for their actions during the weather event?

SNGMO has not currently assessed any OFO penalties to customers.

#### b. If yes, what is your estimate of the total penalties to be billed?

N/A

#### c. If yes, how many customers will be billed penalties?

N/A

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

<u>/s/ Matthew Kaply</u> Matthew Kaply Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. 116 Chiefs Court Branson, MO 65616-4089 207-621-8000 x1430

Date	10-Feb	Feb 13-16 (still running; results will change)	Feb 15th	Feb 16th	Feb. 18th
Message	Winter storm watch safety tips	Conservation Tips	Conserve Energy	It's time to reduce your energy use	Thank you for doing your part to conserve energy
Boosted Budget		\$150			
Reach	125	16512	1271	378	210
ingagement	1	1301	45	7	9
leactions	0	439	7	0	
omments	0	22	0	0	
hares	0 Summit Natural Gas	172	14	2	
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Feb 19th	Feb 23rd	Feb 26th	March 1st	March 8th
Thank you for doing your part!	We have easy ways to help save energy	Payment assistance	We're here to help	Emergency Rental Assistance
169	98	28	35	113
7	4	0	1	2
<section-header><text><section-header><section-header><text><text><text></text></text></text></section-header></section-header></text></section-header>	Summi Natural Gs       ***         Additional of Madiyah Grant C. Behnarg 23 at 53 20 M. **       ***         The Base say ways to be log you save energy and money in your home this Winter. Read our energy-efficiency tips to help you save three/turmintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ***         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ****       ***         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ****         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ****         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       *****         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ******         Stripte/Lummintaturalgas.com/Winter-energy.stving-tip:       ************************************	<text><text><text><text><text><image/><image/></text></text></text></text></text>	Summ Natural GS     ***       Considering in Margin Gam 1 (***) (***) (***)     ***       Considering in Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***) (***)     ***       Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***) (***)     ***       Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***) (***)     ***       Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***) (***)     ***       Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***) (***)     ***       Constraints of the Margin Gam 1 (***)     ***	Summit Natural Gas Patished by Alapha Brant ® - March 10 at 10.28 AM • ®           Day Kawa Sumone who needs help paying their rent and util idua to COVID-19 Help is available through the Federal Imergency Rental Asstance Program.           To more information and to see if you qualify for the Emergency Rental Asstance Program.           Weiter State Program.           To application of the see if you qualify for the Emergency Rental Asstance Program.           Weiter State Program.           State Program.

CHANNEL: EMAIL

day, Feb 14, 2:30pm ole steps to stay warm and save energy 08 )	Monday, Feb 15 3:45 pm Customers asked to conserve energy during winter storm 11,715 5359 46% 5 5 157	Weds, Feb 17 5:21 pm Thank you for doing your part to conserve energy! Keep up the good work! 11731 4416 38%	Tues, March 2, 2021 9:15 am Questions about your bill? We're here to help 1178 509
ole steps to stay warm and save energy 08 0	Customers asked to conserve energy during winter storm 11,715 5359 46% 5	Thank you for doing your part to conserve energy! Keep up the good work! 1731 4416 38%	Questions about your bill? We're here to help 1178 509
08	11,715 5359 46% 5	11731 4416 38%	1178 505
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	46% 5	38%	
	5		
	5		43%
	157	12	3
		87	13
		3%	2%
		Dear Valued Customer,	
	Dear Valued Customer, Due to automa weather conditions, electric and gas utilities across the Molecust are experiencing constrained natural gas subjies. Like other utilities across the state, we are asking for your help, provided you are able to do so askly, by concerning your energy usage for the next free days.	Thank you for doing your part to help conserve energy. In recent days, historically cold temperatures have driven up demand for natural gas across the Midwest. In addition, gas vels have forcezn, resulting in a supply shortage that has impacted electric and gas utilities in multiple states, including Missour. The conservation that you are doing is making a difference in helping our whole community – thankyou. As is the case for many utilities in our region, our gas suppliers have been unable to deliver enough gas to our system. This has resulted in the need for us to curfail gas service to indigital customers and ask residential customers to service here.	We're here to help
With below average temperatures across the Midwest, including in your community, we wanted to remind you of some simple steps you can take to step wern and save money at the same time. Summit's Cold Weather Tips: • Keep your themostate between 68 and 70 degrees during the day and 58	There are many simple steps you can take to keep your home warm and save energy, including: • Keep your thermostatis few degrees lower than normal, as long as there are no health hibles and lower. If you are away from home for more than a two hours. Alcosit turning your thermostatis to too how too. Not • Ches space around your registers so hearth air can flow freely. • Ches space around your registers so hearth air can flow freely.	to continue to conserve energy. Thank you to all of our customers for turning down your thermostats and reducing your energy usage – it is making a difference. We know it is affecting you in many ways, and we appreciate your contributing to the solution in this difficult moment. Because of your efforts, we ve been able to maintin gas service through this diffucult time to homes and essential	many of our outlomers. Reat assured, Summit creaks worked around the alook to monitor the severe wather and gas supply constraints happening all across the country. We were able to maintain gas service to homes and businesses throughout the communities we serve, nauring our outlomers were sets and able to stey worm throughout the storm.
degrosi if you are away from home for mere then a few hours. • Avoid turning your thermostat up too hoigh, too fast. • Clear space around your registers so warm air can flow freely • Cloac deprose on unuear fingulates and keep garage doors cloaed to prevent warm air from escaping. • Insulate around windows and doors to prevent air lasks and keep warm wit insul	<ul> <li>prevent warm air from escaphig.</li> <li>Insulate around window and doors to prevent air leaks and keep warm air incide.</li> <li>Deak up the sun by opening outsins on your south-facing windows during the day and let the suitigh thet your bren. Then, close them at night to reclude the incoming odd from any drafty windows.</li> <li>Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120'F).</li> </ul>	services throughout the communities we serve. Rest assured, Summit crews are monitoring the severe weather and upstream supply constraints and working around the clock to address this situation. Work is already underway to restore service to those who have been curtailed In the meantime, we, like other utilities across the state, ask you to keep up the good work for the next few days by conserving your energy usage	Thank you to all of our customers for turning down your thermostats and reducing your energy usage during the storm - it made a difference, and helped keep your neighbors comfortable and safe. We understand you may have questions about the impact on your gas bill Gausapa it he single lengest portion of energy bill, and old weather is the biggest faster in increased usage. When temperatures drop and usage increases diamatibally, the law of supply and demand usatis a temporary increase in commodity proteis.
<ul> <li>Soak up the surt by opening cutatins on your south-facing windows during the day and lat the sunlight heat your home. Then, close them at right to reduce the incoming cold from any durity windows.</li> </ul>	It is imperative for the health and safety of the whole community for each of us to do our part in reducing our energy consumption during this unprecedented time.	There are many simple steps you can take to keep your home warm and save energy, including: • Wear layers of warmer clothes inside and set your thermostat a few degrees	While the winter storm caused unprecedented demand and increased commodity prices, we are committed to making sure the impact on our customers' cost of gas will be reasonable. Vier evolving dickey with state regulators to determine the best options to help mitigate the impact on outcome bills.
Inese small steps can save you money and keep you controtable during the writer monte. For more energy saving lips, check out these Summit resources: • <u>Mutter Energy Saving</u> lips, check out these Summit resources: • <u>Energy Energy Saving</u> lips, check out these Summit resources. Stay warm, stay safe and have a great weakend,	and help you save some money during the writer months. For more average average tips, check out these Summit resources · Water Ensury Zarius Time · Energy Efficiency Programs	I lower than normal, as long as there are no heatin tists. • Clear space around your registers so warm air can flow freety. • Close off unused rooms to keep the warmth in the rooms you do use. • Insulate or stuff towels in cracis under doors to prevent drafts. • Close binds and currains to treatin heat and to reduce the incoming cold from any draft windows. • Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).	We're facre to help If you're concerned about being able to pay your bills, please reach out to our Custome Cara team at 1400 427 6787, or viait <u>SummitteamStas comformermenteadstarrop</u> to see what additional resources are available.
End Klassod Sunnet Riskand Gas Cheel Customer Officer List Onto Ca Burnets Riskand Sink Son List Onto Ca Burnets Not Gelder Burnets Not Gelder	Fred Kittkwood Summit Natural Gas Chiel Customer Officer Summit Statural Gas Barano, MicSald	For more energy saving tips, theck out our Cold Weather Conservation Tips. Now is the time for us all to work together and do our part to conserve energy during these nuosual circumstances. Every little bit helps. Stay warm and stay safe. Fréd Kirkwood	Summit Ration Res. Inc. Lit Chine Control Cont
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CHANNEL: Press Release	e & Press						
Missouri:							
Date	HEADLINE	Channel	Lawmakers contacted:	Inquiries	Posted to Website:		Press release:
Sun, Feb 14 9:10 pm	Summit Natural Gas Asks Customers to Conserve Energy Usage	(See column H)	Lebanon/Rogersville area Lawmakers: Rep Jeff Knight, Sen Sandy Crawford; Mayor Carr, all city council assembly members, City adminsitrator, and lobby team; Lobby team communicating directly with Governor Parson.	3 media inquiries: KOLR Ch 10 Springdale; Fox News KRCG Columbia; / one inquiry re: electric blackouts	2/13/2021 0:00	https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/144/cold-weather- conservation-tips	
Mon, Feb 15, 8:47 am	Summit Natural Gas Asks Customers to Conserve Energy Usage	(See column H)	Lebanon/Rogersville area Lawmakers: Rep Jeff Knight, Sen Sandy Crawford; Mayor Carr, all city council assembly members, City administrator, and lobby team; Lobby team communicating directly with Governor Parson.	3 media inquiries: KOLR Ch 10 Springdale; Fox News KRCG Columbia; o one inquiry re: electric blackouts	2/14/2021 0:00	https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/144/cold-weather- conservation-tips	
Mon, Feb 15	UPDATE: Frigid Weather Sees Utilities Urging Customers to Conserve Energy	Kansas Public Radio				Frigid Weather Sees Utilities Urging Customers to Conserve Energy	2
Mon, Feb 15	Summit Natural Gas Asks Customers to Conserve Energy Usage	Lake News Online				https://www.lakenewsonline.com/story/news/2021/02/1 5/summit-natural-gas-asks-customers-conserve-energy- usage/6752567002/	
Mon, Feb 15	Missouri utilities ask customers to conserve energy during winter storm	The Missouri Times				https://themissouritimes.com/missouri-utilities-ask- customers-to-conserve-energy-during-winter-storm/	
Mon, Feb 15	Area residents asked to conserve energy during extreme cold weather	Branson Tri Lakes News				https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article 13019894-6fd0-11eb-b876-9b5839cd5c55.html	
Mon, Feb 15	Frigid weather sees utilities urging customers to conserve power	CBS 13 KRCG				https://krcgtv.com/news/local/frigid-weather-sees-utilities urging-customers-to-conserve-02-15-2021	<u>\$</u>
Thurs, Feb 18	Summit Natural Gas Restores Gas Service to Industrial Customers	Media release / website			2/18/2020	https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/154/summit- natural-gas-restores-gas-service-to-industrial-customers	
Mon, March 1st	Questions about your bill? We're here to help	media release / website			3/1/2021	https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/158/questions- about-your-bill-we-re-here-to-help	

CHANNEL: Websites	5					
Missouri:	ww	w.SummitNaturalGas.com				
Posted to Website:	Asset:	Subject	Page Visits	Web address:	_	
2/13/2021	press release / landing page	Cold Weather Conservation Tips		https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/144/cold-weather-conservation-tips	https://summitnaturalgas.com/News	
2/14/2021	press release / landing page	Summit Natural Gas Asks Customers to Conserve Energy Usage		https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/147/summit-natural-gas-asks-customers-to- conserve-energy-usage	https://summitnaturalgas.com/News	
2/15/2021	Home page header	Alert: We are asking customers to conserve energy use if able. Click here to learn more!		https://summitnaturalgas.com/index		About • Rendential Service • Commercial Service • Salety • Programs • Customer Service •
					Alert: We are asking custom	ners to conserve energy use if able. Click here to learn more!
Thurs, Feb 18		Summit Natural Gas Restores Gas Service to		https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/154/summit-natural-gas-restores-gas-service	<u>-</u>	
Mon, March 1st	page press release / landing page	Industrial Customers Questions about your bill? We're here to help		to-industrial-customers https://summitnaturalgas.com/Article/158/questions-about-your-bill-we-re-here-to help	=	

#### Texting: Total Spent: \$4,806.81 726,772 (each message was 3-5 messages 160 char per part) Text Sent:

MO All Conserve

Start:	2/16/2021 13:55
End:	2/16/2021 15:43
File:	SNGMO Emergency Calls.csv
Texts Sent:	29,591
Total Bounce Backs:	13,852

Robocalls						
State Start Calls	2/14/2021	2/15/2021	2/16/2021	2/17/2021	TOTAL	
мо	4,654	1,469	32,876	0	38,999	

NOTES:

MO 2/14 started calls Sunday night

2/15 Contacted engineers at Teleworks for speed of calls - they said system not set up to send this many calls - not good for emergencies

MO 2/16 change to voice recording and higher port capacity

	2/14 8:54pm -	2/15 6:08pm -	2/16 7:36am-	
Start/End	2/15 6:28pm	2/15 7:16pm	2/17 8:20am	TOTALS
State	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	
Total Number of Calls	29,898	998	25,328	
Human	1,765	326	9,081	
Voicemail	947	239	9,582	
Busy Signal	44	7	189	
No Answer	1,027	177	2,515	
Not Attempted	25,244	0	0	
Other	871	249	3,961	
Tota Attempted Calls	4,654	1,469	32,876	38,999
Average Call Duration	1	0.9	0.9	

#### MO Feb 14 Robocall:

Hello, this is Summit Natural Gas. Due to extreme weather conditions, electric and gas utilities across the Midwest are experiencing constrained natural gas supplies. Like other utilities across the state, we are asking for your help, provided you are able to do so safely, by conserving your energy usage for the next few days. You can do this by turning your thermostat down lower than usual if health permits, closing your curtains, shutters and garage doors to keep in warm air, and closing your fireplace damper unless a fire is burning. Even small individual adjustments can make a big difference. Thank you for doing your part as we all work together during these unusual circumstances.