

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
April 27, 2001**

CASE NO: GR-2001-292

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Gary W. Duffy

Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.
P. O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Stuart W. Conrad/Jeremiah D. Finnegan

Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson, L.C.
3100 Broadway, Suite 1209
Kansas City, MO 64111

Mark W. Comley

Newman, Comley & Ruth P.C.
601 Monroe Street, Suite 301
Jefferson City, MO 65101

General Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Robert J. Hack

Missouri Gas Energy
3420 Broadway
Kansas City, MO 64111

Larry W. Dority, Esq.

Fischer & Dority, P.C.
101 Madison Street, Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Enclosed find certified copy of NOTICE OF EX PARTE CONTACT in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



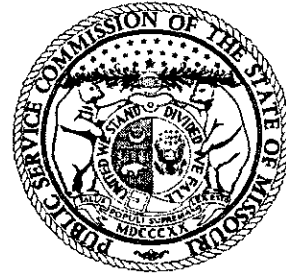
**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department:
All Parties in Case No. **GR-2001-292**
All Commissioners

FROM: Chair Sheila Lumpe *SL*

DATE: April 27, 2001



On April 27, 2001, I received a letter from Senator Ronnie DePasco of the 11th District. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case Number **GR-2001-292**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

DISTRICT OFFICES:

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64127
TELEPHONE (816) 231-2515

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050
TELEPHONE (816) 836-2737

RONNIE DEPASCO
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

ROOM 321
STATE CAPITOL
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101
TELEPHONE (573) 751-3074
TDD (573) 751-3969

April 26, 2001

Ms. Sheila Lumpe, Chair
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Madam Chair:

I recently received a notice of public hearings regarding Missouri Gas Energy Company's proposed rate of return increase from 9.40 percent to 10.56 percent. I am contacting you to express my opposition to any increase.

As a Senator of Missouri's 11th District, I have witnessed the hardships the 44% increase in gas prices brought to my constituents. The timing of this increase will be very detrimental. Most of the families in my district are either elderly or young families. An increase of \$5.20 to a monthly bill will only add financial hardship to these individuals and their already staggering gas bills.

Over the past few months, I have received numerous letters from my constituents expressing the hardships the increase in natural gas prices have brought to their families. As an advocate for my constituents and their welfare, I urge you to turn down this proposed increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie DePasco". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "R" and "D".

Ronnie DePasco
STATE SENATOR
District 11

RD/es

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 27th day of April 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

