

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

In the Matter of the Application of Alliance Gas Energy )  
Corporation for a Certificate of Public Convenience and )  
Necessity Authorizing It to Construct, Install, Own, )  
Operate, Control, Manage and Maintain a Natural Gas ) **Case No. GA-2007-0168**  
Distribution System to Provide Gas Service in Branson, )  
Branson West, Reeds Spring, and Hollister, Missouri )

## **ORDER GRANTING APPLICATIONS TO INTERVENE, DIRECTING STAFF TO INVESTIGATE, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS**

Issue Date: December 11, 2006

Effective Date: December 11, 2006

On October 26, 2006, Alliance Gas Energy Corporation ("AGE") filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission requesting that the Commission grant AGE authority to provide natural gas service to customers in four southwest Missouri communities (Branson, Branson West, Reeds Spring, and Hollister), all of which are located in either Stone or Taney County.

On November 2, 2006, the Commission issued notice of AGE's application to members of the public at large and other potentially interested parties and established an intervention deadline of December 4, 2006. On November 8 and November 30, 2006, respectively, Missouri Gas Energy ("MGE," a division of Southern Union Company) and Ozark Energy Partners, LLC ("Ozark") filed applications to intervene pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075, which governs intervention.

In accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(2), the applications of both MGE and Ozark state their interests in this case, the reasons they are seeking intervention, and that they are unsure of the positions they will ultimately take on the relief sought by AGE. The applications also demonstrate that MGE and Ozark both have interests in this case that are different from those of the general public and which may be adversely affected by a final order arising from this case. See 4 CSR 240-2.075(4)(A). Moreover, no other party has opposed intervention by either MGE or Ozark. Consequently, the Commission grants both applications to intervene, and MGE and Ozark are authorized to participate fully in this matter as intervening parties.

The Commission would like to have the benefit of an investigation and report by its Staff before it further considers this matter. Therefore, Staff will be directed to promptly commence an investigation into the merits of AGE's application and will also be ordered to file monthly status reports informing the Commission of Staff's progress.<sup>1</sup>

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Application to Intervene filed by Missouri Gas Energy, a division of Southern Union Company, on November 8, 2006, is granted.
2. The Application to Intervene filed by Ozark Energy Partners, LLC on November 30, 2006, is granted.
3. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall promptly commence an investigation into the merits of Alliance Gas Energy Corporation's October 26, 2006 application for authority to provide natural gas service to customers in Branson, Branson West, Reeds Spring, and Hollister, Missouri.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission is aware that AGE's application, as currently filed, is incomplete and that AGE has stated it intends to file the missing information at a later date.

4. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall, by no later than January 11, 2007, file a status report informing the Commission of Staff's progress in its investigation. Additional status reports shall subsequently be filed on a monthly basis until Staff is in a position to file a report and recommendation in this matter.

5. This order shall become effective on December 11, 2006.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Benjamin H. Lane, Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 11th day of December, 2006.