

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

In the matter of the Application of	)	
Southern Missouri Gas Company, L.P.	)	
d/b/a Southern Missouri Natural Gas for a	)	
certificate of public convenience and	)	
necessity authorizing it to construct,	)	Case No. GA-2007-0212
install, own, operate, control, manage and	)	
maintain a natural gas distribution system	)	
to provide gas service in Lebanon,	)	
Missouri.	)	

**STAFF RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER  
DIRECTING FILING OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and in response to the Commission's April 18, 2007 Order Directing Filing and states:

1. On December 6, 2006, Southern Missouri Gas Company, LP (dba) Southern Missouri Natural Gas, filed its Application for Commission authority to construct, install, own, operate, control, manage and maintain a natural gas distribution system to provide gas service in Lebanon, Missouri.
2. On December 21, the Commission issued its order directing Staff to file a recommendation or a status report on January 22.
3. Staff has submitted requests for detailed information necessary to an analysis of the feasibility and financing of the proposed project. Staff is still investigating this matter and is not yet in a position to make an informed recommendation.
4. On February 15, 2007, Applicants filed a Motion to Consolidate this case with Case No. GF-2007-0215 and GA-2007-0310.

5. Staff anticipates providing the Company a draft of its proposed recommendation by May 22 to determine if Staff and the Company can resolve any remaining outstanding issues. Staff will request that the Company respond as soon as possible after being provided the draft, but, in any event, within two weeks. After Staff receives the Company's comments, it will notify the Commission within forty-eight hours after receipt, and, within two weeks after receipt of the Company's comments, will provide the commission a final recommendation, a stipulation and agreement, or a statement that there is an agreement in principle.

WHEREFORE Staff requests the Commission accept this pleading as the report due on May 15, 2007 and accept Staff's proposed schedule for resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell

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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007.

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell