

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,)
install, own, operate, control, manage and)
maintain a natural gas distribution system)
to provide gas service in Lebanon,)
Missouri.)

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4. Staff is currently in the process of scheduling a conference call with the Applicants for the week of January 22 to discuss what information is necessary for Staff to proceed with developing its recommendation.

5. Until Staff receives adequate information necessary to make an informed recommendation to the Commission, it cannot estimate when it will file its Report. Staff proposes to file a status report or its final report on February 27 unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

WHEREFORE Staff requests the Commission accept this pleading in response to the Commission's Order Establishing Protective Order and Directing Staff to File a Pleading Stating When It Will File a Recommendation in 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, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 23rd day of January 2007

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell