BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Kansas Gas)
Service Company, a Division of ONEOK, Inc.)
For Commission Determination for the Rate	Docket No. 00-KGSG-420-RTS
Treatment of Discounted Service Agreements)
Entered Into to Meet Competitive Alternatives.	FEB 1 8 2000
RESPONSE OF KANSA	S GAS SERVICE
COMPANY, A DIVISION O	FONEOK, INC., TO Joby S. Celyporon Booker
STAFF'S PETITION FOR I	

COMES NOW Kansas Gas Service Company, a Division of ONEOK, Inc. ("Kansas Gas Service" or "Company") and files this response to the Petition for Reconsideration filed in this matter by the Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("Staff" and "Commission", respectfully). In support of its Response, Kansas Gas Service hereby states as follows:

- 1. On November 19, 1999, Kansas Gas Service filed an Application seeking a determination from the Commission of the rate treatment to be accorded the Company's discounted service agreements entered into to meet competitive alternatives.
- 2. On December 22, 1999, Staff filed a pleading described as "Report and Recommendation" wherein Staff requested that the Company's Application be dismissed due to Staffs belief that this issue should only be considered on a case-by-case basis. In the alternative, Staff suggested that the Application be dismissed and that the Commission open a general investigation concerning the need for a general policy regarding revenue imputation for all rate-regulated public utilities in Kansas.
- 3. On January 4, 2000, Kansas Gas Service filed its Response to the Staffs Report and Recommendation. In its Response, the Company opposed Staffs efforts to dismiss the

Application or to combine the Application with a "generic" investigation involving all Kansas utilities, both gas and electric. The Company did suggest that this docket could be converted to a general investigation to establish a general policy for gas utilities only.

- 4. On January 27, 2000, the Commission issued its Order No. 3 adopting the Company's proposal to convert this matter to a gas utility-only general investigation. The Order established a reasonable procedural schedule which permitted the simultaneous filing of Comments by Staff and the natural gas utilities and simultaneous Reply Comments. The Company believes that the Commission's proposed procedure and schedule contained in Order No. 3 represents a fair and timely approach to considering the issue.
- 5. Staff requests that the Commission further delay consideration of the Application by allowing it to "formulate and file appropriate suggested topics" without stating what these topics would be. Staff alludes to "specific questions and hypothetical situations as topics for Comment". Kansas Gas Service would urge the Commission to deny the Petition for Reconsideration and maintain the procedure contained in Order No. 3. Staff will have ample opportunity to raise whatever topics, questions or hypothetical situations it desires in its Comments and Reply Comments. As the Commission so accurately pointed out in Order No. 3:

"...this issue should be addressed now instead of waiting for it to arise in individual rate cases. Utilities deciding whether to negotiate and enter into discounted Service Agreements would benefit from guidance on how the Commission will review and evaluate these Agreements when filed with the Commission and in rate proceedings." <u>id</u> at paragraph 4.

Kansas Gas Service and the other gas utilities in Kansas are faced with this very real uncertainty every business day. Additional delay to formulate hypothetical situations and questions is unnecessary and is far outweighed by the need to resolve this issue. Staff has for many years sponsored rate case adjustments based upon its position concerning imputation of discounted

revenues and should be quite prepared to express and defend its position on this issue within the time constraints as set forth for Comments in Order No. 3.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, Kansas Gas Service requests that the Commission reject Staffs Petition for Reconsideration and proceed with Kansas Gas Service's Application on a timely basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

KANSAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY, A DIVISION OF ONE OK, INC.

John P. DeCoursey # 11050
Larry M. Cowger #11469
KANSAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY
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ITS ATTORNEYS

VERIFICATION

COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)
Larry M. Cowger, being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and says that he is an Attorne
for Kansas Gas Service Company, a Division of ONEOK, Inc.; that he has read and is familia
with the foregoing Petition for Reconsideration; and that the statements contained therein are

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this 15 day of February, 2000.

My Appointment Expires: [1/07/0].

true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Notary Public

STATE OF KANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this $\sqrt{6}$ of February, 2000, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing **Response of Kansas Gas Service Company, A Division of ONEOK, Inc., to Staffs Petition for Reconsideration** was placed in the U.S. Mail for delivery to the following:

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