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0000014745

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Arizona Corporation Commission

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COMMISSIONERS

JEFF HATCH-MILLER, Chairman
WILLIAM A. MUNDELL
MARC SPITZER
MIKE GLEASON
KRISTIN K. MAYES

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FEB 09 2005

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCKETED BY	<i>KJ</i>
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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST AND REASONABLE
RATES AND CHARGES DESIGNED TO
REALIZE A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN
ON THE FAIR VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES OF
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION DEVOTED
TO ITS OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE OF ARIZONA.

Docket No. G-01551A-04-0876

**STAFF REQUEST TO MODIFY
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Arizona Corporation Commission Staff ("Staff") requests modification to the Procedural Schedule issued February 7, 2005. Staff believes it needs the full 180 days allowed in A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(b)(i) to prepare and file its direct testimony in this case. Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG") has filed an application introducing several new and complex issues not seen in most other rate applications – even for Class A utilities. These issues include the introduction of a conservation margin tracker ("CMT"), and rate base issue such as pipeline integrity management and pipe replacement. Furthermore, Staff believes the full 180 days from the date of sufficiency will allow its witnesses vital time to thoroughly explore, conduct discovery and formulate its position on issues including the cost and availability of natural gas, adjustor mechanisms, cost of capital, depreciation and rate design. Staff commenced discovery by issuing two sets of data requests to date.

To allow it the full 180 days to prepare its direct testimony in this case, Staff proposes the following modified procedural schedule:

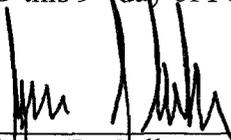
- Staff and Intervenor Direct Testimony July 26, 2005.
- SWG Rebuttal Testimony August 23, 2005
- Staff and Intervenor Surebuttal Testimony September 13, 2005
- SWG Rejoinder Testimony September 23, 2005
- Pre-Hearing Conference October 6, 2005

1 Hearing Commences

October 11, 2003

2 Finally, Staff opposes SWG's modified procedural schedule in its February 8, 2005, pleading
3 because it does not allow the time needed for Staff to explore SWG's proposals in its direct testimony
4 and does not allow sufficient time between SWG's Rebuttal and Staff/Intervenor Surebuttal.

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6 RESPECTFULLY SUMMITTED this 9th day of February 2005.

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16 The original and thirteen (13) copies
17 of the foregoing were filed this 9th day
18 of February, 2005, with:

19 Docket Control
20 Arizona Corporation Commission
21 1200 West Washington Street
22 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

23 COPIES of the foregoing
24 were mailed this 9th day of
25 February, 2005 to:

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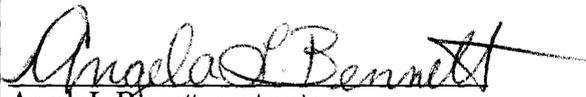
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