Ernie Fletcher Governor

Teresa J. Hill, Secretary Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly Commissioner Department of Public Protection

Wilma Ison Elam Utility Company, Inc. 459 Main Street West Liberty, KY 41472



Commonwealth of Kentucky **Public Service Commission** 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615 Telephone: (502) 564-3940 Fax: (502) 564-3460 psc.ky.gov

November 28, 2006

Mark David Goss Chairman

> John W. Clay Commissioner

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Case No. 2006-00302 Elam Utility Company, Inc.

I, Beth O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, hereby certify that the enclosed attested copy of the Commission's Order in the above case was served upon the addressee by U.S. Mail on November 28, 2006.

**Executive Director** 

BOD/sh Enclosure



#### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT FILING OF ELAM UTILITY COMPANY

CASE NO. 2006-00302

#### ORDER

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On October 24, 2003, in Case No. 2003-00171, the Commission approved rates for Elam Utility Company ("Elam") and provided for their further adjustment on a guarterly basis in accordance with Elam's gas cost adjustment ("GCA") clause.<sup>1</sup>

On June 15, 2006, Elam filed its proposed GCA to be effective July 1, 2006. On June 27, 2006, the Commission suspended Elam's revised tariff for 5 months up to and including November 30, 2006. On September 18, 2006, Columbia Gas Transmission ("Columbia") supplied information on its settlement agreement with Elam. On October 17, 2006, Elam supplied a copy of its contract with North American Energy Corporation ("North American"). Since a substantial amount of the information in Elam's original filing has been updated, Commission Staff ("Staff") has recalculated Elam's entire GCA filing which is attached as Appendix B.

On June 1, 2006, Columbia notified the Commission of its discovery that as of April 2006 Elam had an imbalance on its system totaling 44,359 Dth. Columbia and Elam reached a settlement which was subsequently provided to the Commission. The settlement requires Elam to replace 46,899 Dth of natural gas into Columbia's pipeline

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Case No. 2003-00171, A Review of the Rates of Elam Utility Company, Inc. Pursuant to the Decision to Approve the Financing Requested in Case No. 2001-00324.

system at a rate of 5,000 Dth per month until the imbalance is repaid.<sup>2</sup> Under its contract with Elam, North American agrees to supply the settlement monthly volume in addition to the natural gas Elam will need to service its own system.

The above referenced imbalance situation with Columbia began in 2005 when Cumberland Valley Resources ("Cumberland Valley"), one of Elam's two suppliers, discontinued purchasing gas for the main portion of Elam's system while Elam continued to take gas from the Columbia system. After Cumberland Valley discontinued service, Elam continued to bill its customers under its authorized tariff even though it was not being invoiced for any of the gas it took from the Columbia system.

At an informal conference, Elam stated that it recognized that it was liable for the gas taken from the Columbia system and that payment would eventually be required. Elam established a Money Market Plus ("Money Market") account to deposit funds that would be used to pay for its negative imbalance with Columbia. On May 31, 2006, there was a balance of \$200,389.48 in the Money Market account according to Elam's general ledger.

The general ledger as of September 30, 2006, however, indicates that Elam has systematically transferred funds from the Money Market account. The September 2006 general ledger shows there have been four transfers of \$10,000 or more totaling \$45,000 to Elam's general checking account since July 20, 2006, presumably to pay expenses other than the purchase of natural gas. The Commission takes note of this situation and orders Elam to use the Money Market account solely for the payment of its natural gas purchases and not to pay other operating expenses.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The settlement agreement includes additional volumes withdrawn since April 2006.

After reviewing the record in this case and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. Elam's notice includes revised rates designed to pass on to its customers its expected change in wholesale gas costs.

2. Elam's recalculated Expected Gas Cost ("EGC") is \$10.1251 per Mcf, which is \$1.4347 per Mcf more than the previously approved EGC of \$8.6904.

3. Elam's notice sets out no current refund adjustment ("RA").

4. Elam's recalculated current quarter actual adjustment ("AA") is \$1.5078 per Mcf. Elam's total AA is \$1.5078 per Mcf, which is an increase of \$1.4035 per Mcf from the previous total AA.

5. Staff did not calculate a current quarter balance adjustment ("BA"), due to the difficulty of the calculation on a period that has not yet ended. Staff will calculate Elam's new current quarter BA in its next quarterly GCA. All of Elam's previous BA's have expired, therefore, Elam has no total BA, which is an increase of 62.5 cents per Mcf from the previous total BA.

6. Elam's revised GCA is \$11.6329 per Mcf, which is \$3.4632 per Mcf more than the previous GCA of \$8.1697.

7. The rates in the Appendix to this Order are fair, just and reasonable, and should be approved for billing for service rendered by Elam on and after December 1, 2006.

8. Elam established a Money Market account to deposit funds that would have been used to pay for the imbalance it incurred with Columbia. Elam has, however, used this amount for other purposes.

Case No. 2006-00302

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#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Elam's proposed rates are denied.

2. The rates in the Appendix to this Order are approved for billing for service rendered on and after December 1, 2006.

3. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, Elam shall file with this Commission its revised tariff sheets setting out the rates authorized herein.

4. Elam shall use the funds in the Money Market account solely for the purpose of paying for its natural gas.

5. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, Elam shall provide notice to the Commission certifying the current amount of the Money Market account.

6. Each time Elam transfers funds from the Money Market account, Elam shall notify the Commission within 10 days of the amount of the transfer, the purpose of the transfer, and the payee.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 28th day of November, 2006.

By the Commission

ATTEST xeeptive Director

Case No. 2006-00302

# APPENDIX A

# APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2006-00302 DATED November 28, 2006.

The following rates and charges are prescribed for the customers served by Elam Utility Company. All other rates and charges not specifically mentioned herein shall remain the same as those in effect under authority of this Commission prior to the effective date of this Order.

# RATES:

# **Residential**

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| Customer Charge<br>All Mcf | \$3.8101  | \$11.6329                     | \$9.00<br>\$15.4430 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Industrial                 |           |                               |                     |
| Customer Charge<br>All Mcf | \$4.2999  | \$11.6329                     | \$6.15<br>\$15.9328 |
|                            | Base Rate | Gas Cost<br><u>Adjustment</u> | Total               |

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# APPENDIX B

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2006-00302 DATED November 28, 2006.

# SCHEDULE I

# GAS COST RECOVERY RATE SUMMARY

| Component                    | Unit   | Amount    |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Expected Gas Cost (EGA)      | \$/Mcf | \$10.1251 |
| Refund Adjustment (RA)       | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000  |
| Actual Adjustment (AA)       | \$/Mcf | \$1.5078  |
| Balance Adjustment (BA)      | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000  |
| Gas Cost Recovery Rate (GCR) | \$/Mcf | \$11.6329 |

to be effective for service rendered from December 1, 2006 to March 1, 2007.

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|   |        | ·····        |
|---|--------|--------------|
| A. EXPECTED GAS COST CALCULATION                          | Unit   | Amount       |
| Total Expected Gas Cost (Sch II)                          | \$/Mcf | \$471,030.61 |
| /Sales for the 12 months ended May 31, 2006               | \$/Mcf | 46,521.00    |
| Expected Gas Cost   | \$/Mcf | \$10.1251    |
| B. REFUND ADJUSTMENT CALCULATION                          | Unit   | Amount       |
| Supplier Refund Adjustment for Reporting Period (Sch III) | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Previous Quarter Supplier Refund Adjustment              | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Second Previous Quarter Supplier Refund Adjustment       | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Third Previous Quarter Supplier Refund Adjustment        | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| =Refund Adjustment (RA)                                   | \$ Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| C. ACTUAL ADJUSTMENT CALCULATION                          | Unit   | Amount       |
| Actual Adjustment for the Reporting Period (Sch IV)       | \$/Mcf | \$1.5078     |
| +Previous Quarter Reported Actual Adjustment              | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Second Previous Quarter Reported Actual Adjustment       | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Third Previous Quarter Reported Actual Adjustment        | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| =Actual Adjustment (AA)                                   | \$ Mcf | \$1.5078     |
| D. BALANCE ADJUSTMENT CALCULATION                         | Unit   | Amount       |
| Balance Adjustment for the Reporting Period (Sch V)       | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Previous Quarter Reported Balance Adjustment             | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Second Previous Quarter Reported Balance Adjustment      | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| +Third Previous Quarter Reported Balance Adjustment       | \$/Mcf | \$0.0000     |
| =Balance Adjustment (BA)                                  | \$ Mcf | \$0.0000     |

# SCHEDULE II

# EXPECTED GAS COST

| Actual Mcf Purchases for 12 mon                     | ths ended       | May 31, 2006      |                       |                       |                             |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1)   | (2)             | (3)<br>Btu        | (4)                   | (5)                   | (6)<br>(4) x (5)            |
| Supplier  | Dth             | Conversion Factor | Mcf                   | Rate                  | Cost                        |
| Jefferson Gas Transmission<br>North American Energy | 2,517<br>43,469 | 1<br>1.07         | 2,517.00<br>40,625.00 | \$7.5300<br>\$10.4000 | \$18,953.01<br>\$452,077.60 |

| Totals  | 43,142                                    | ********************************** | \$471,030.61                            |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| \   | I/06 is based on purchases of.00 Mcf7.83% | 43,142.00                          |   |
| Total Expected Cost of Purchases (6)<br>/ Mcf Purchases (4) |   | <u>Unit</u>                        | <u>Amount</u><br>\$471,030.61<br>43,142 |
| = Average Expected Cost Per Mcf Purcha                      |   |                                    | \$10.9181                               |
| x Allowable Mcf Purchases (must not exc                     | eed Mcf sales / .95)                      |                                    | 43,142.00                               |
| = Total Expected Gas Cost (to Schedule                      | A)  |                                    | \$471,030.61                            |

APPENDIX B Page 5

# SCHEDULE IV ACTUAL ADJUSTMENT

# For the 12 month period ended May 31, 2006.

| Total                       | 43,142.0                      | \$479,427.64                    |                 |                      |  |   | 46,521.0                                      | \$70,145.15               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| May '06<br>Month 12         | 1,602.0                       | \$17,886.47                     | 2,001.0         | \$8.9388             | \$8.6904   | \$0.2484  | 2,001.0                                       | \$496.98                  |
| Apr. '06<br>Month 11        |                               | 69                              | _               |                      |  |   |   |                           |
| <u>Mar. '06</u><br>Month 10 | 5,853.0                       | \$64,862.20                     | 7,093.0         | \$9,1445             | \$8.6904   | \$0.4541  | 7,093.0                                       | \$3,221.19                |
| Feb. '06<br>Month 9         | 7.772.0                       | \$85,517.64                     | 8,079.0         | \$10.5852            | \$8.6904   | \$1.8948  | 8,079.0                                       | \$15,307.90               |
| <u>Jan. '06</u><br>Month 8  | 6,649.0                       | \$73,875.52                     | 6,429.0         | \$11.4910            | \$8.6904   | \$2.8006  | 6,429.0                                       | \$18,004.94               |
| Dec. '05<br>Month 7         | 9,314.0                       | \$102,544.80                    | 9,975.0         | \$10.2802            | \$8.6904   | \$1,5898  | 9,975.0                                       | \$15,858.06               |
| Nov. '05<br>Month 6         | 4,735.0                       | \$53,631.47                     | 4,498.3         | \$11.9227            | \$8.6904   | \$3.2323  | 4,490.0                                       | \$14,513.21               |
| <u>Oct. '05</u><br>Month 5  | 2,114.0                       | \$23,916.57                     | 2,008.3         | \$11.9089            | \$8,6904   | \$3.2185  | 1,493.0                                       | \$4,805.17                |
| Sept. '05<br>Month 4        | 770.0                         | \$8,615,10                      | 1,137.0         | \$7.5770             | \$8,6904   | (\$1.1134)  | 1.137.0                                       | (\$1,265.88)              |
| Aug. '05<br>Month 3         | 761                           | \$8,608.64                      | 1.057.0         | \$8.1444             | \$8.6904   | (\$0,5460)  | 1.057.0                                       | (\$577.11)                |
| July '05<br>Month 2         | 773                           | \$8,653.62                      | 972.0           | \$8.9029             | \$8,1507   | \$0.7522  | 972.0   | \$731.14                  |
| <u>June '05</u><br>Month 1  | 787                           | \$8,902.69                      | 1.323.0         | \$6.7292             | \$8.1507   | (\$1.4215)  | 1.323.0                                       | (\$1,880.69)              |
| 1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1       | Mcf                           | \$                              | Mcf             | \$/Mcf               | SAMcf  | SMcf  | Mcf   | \$                        |
| Particulars                 | Total Sundy Volumes Purchased | Total Cost of Volumes Purchased | / Total Sales * | = I fuit Cost of Gas | - Cinc Cost of Cost<br>- ECC in Effect for Month | - Dover the state of the state | <ul> <li>Actual Sales during Month</li> </ul> | = Monthly Cost Difference |

| \$70,145.15           | 46,521.0                            | \$1.5078   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 69                    | Mcf                                 |  |
| Total Cost Difference | / Sales for 12 months ended 5/31/06 | = Actual Adjustment for the Reporting Period (to Sch IC) |

\* May not be less than 95% of supply volume

| June 2005843\$10.40\$8,767.20\$135.49\$8,902.69July 2005821\$10.40\$8,538.40\$115.22\$8,653.62Aug. 2005814\$10.40\$8,465.60\$143.04\$8,608.64Sept. 2005815\$10.40\$8,476.00\$139.10\$8,615.10Oct. 20052225\$10.40\$23,140.00\$776.57\$23,916.57Nov. 20054748\$10.40\$49,379.20\$4,252.27\$53,631.47Dec. 20059096\$10.40\$94,598.40\$7,946.40\$102,544.80Jan. 20066673\$10.40\$69,399.20\$4,476.32\$73,875.52Feb. 20067757\$10.40\$80,672.80\$4,844.84\$85,517.64Mar. 20065962\$10.40\$62,004.80\$2,857.40\$64,862.20Apr. 20062069\$10.40\$21,517.60\$895.32\$22,412.92May 20061646\$10.40\$17,118.40\$768.07\$17,886.47Total43469\$452,077.60\$27,350.04\$479,427.64  | Period     | Dth   | Rate    | Subtotal     | Jefferson   | Total Cost   |
|---|------------|-------|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Aug. 2005814\$10.40\$8,465.60\$143.04\$8,608.64Sept. 2005815\$10.40\$8,476.00\$139.10\$8,615.10Oct. 20052225\$10.40\$23,140.00\$776.57\$23,916.57Nov. 20054748\$10.40\$49,379.20\$4,252.27\$53,631.47Dec. 20059096\$10.40\$94,598.40\$7,946.40\$102,544.80Jan. 20066673\$10.40\$69,399.20\$4,476.32\$73,875.52Feb. 20067757\$10.40\$80,672.80\$4,844.84\$85,517.64Mar. 20065962\$10.40\$62,004.80\$2,857.40\$64,862.20Apr. 20062069\$10.40\$21,517.60\$895.32\$22,412.92May 20061646\$10.40\$17,118.40\$768.07\$17,886.47   | June 2005  | 843   | \$10.40 | \$8,767.20   | \$135.49    | \$8,902.69   |
| Sept. 2005         815         \$10.40         \$8,476.00         \$139.10         \$8,615.10           Oct. 2005         2225         \$10.40         \$23,140.00         \$776.57         \$23,916.57           Nov. 2005         4748         \$10.40         \$49,379.20         \$4,252.27         \$53,631.47           Dec. 2005         9096         \$10.40         \$94,598.40         \$7,946.40         \$102,544.80           Jan. 2006         6673         \$10.40         \$69,399.20         \$4,476.32         \$73,875.52           Feb. 2006         7757         \$10.40         \$80,672.80         \$4,844.84         \$85,517.64           Mar. 2006         5962         \$10.40         \$62,004.80         \$2,857.40         \$64,862.20           Apr. 2006         2069         \$10.40         \$21,517.60         \$895.32         \$22,412.92           May 2006         1646         \$10.40         \$17,118.40         \$768.07         \$17,886.47 | July 2005  | 821   | \$10.40 | \$8,538.40   | \$115.22    | \$8,653.62   |
| Oct. 20052225\$10.40\$23,140.00\$776.57\$23,916.57Nov. 20054748\$10.40\$49,379.20\$4,252.27\$53,631.47Dec. 20059096\$10.40\$94,598.40\$7,946.40\$102,544.80Jan. 20066673\$10.40\$69,399.20\$4,476.32\$73,875.52Feb. 20067757\$10.40\$80,672.80\$4,844.84\$85,517.64Mar. 20065962\$10.40\$62,004.80\$2,857.40\$64,862.20Apr. 20062069\$10.40\$21,517.60\$895.32\$22,412.92May 20061646\$10.40\$17,118.40\$768.07\$17,886.47  | Aug. 2005  | 814   | \$10.40 | \$8,465.60   | \$143.04    | \$8,608.64   |
| Nov. 2005         4748         \$10.40         \$49,379.20         \$4,252.27         \$53,631.47           Dec. 2005         9096         \$10.40         \$94,598.40         \$7,946.40         \$102,544.80           Jan. 2006         6673         \$10.40         \$69,399.20         \$4,476.32         \$73,875.52           Feb. 2006         7757         \$10.40         \$80,672.80         \$4,844.84         \$85,517.64           Mar. 2006         5962         \$10.40         \$62,004.80         \$2,857.40         \$64,862.20           Apr. 2006         2069         \$10.40         \$21,517.60         \$895.32         \$22,412.92           May 2006         1646         \$10.40         \$17,118.40         \$768.07         \$17,886.47   | Sept. 2005 | 815   | \$10.40 | \$8,476.00   | \$139.10    | \$8,615.10   |
| Dec. 20059096\$10.40\$94,598.40\$7,946.40\$102,544.80Jan. 20066673\$10.40\$69,399.20\$4,476.32\$73,875.52Feb. 20067757\$10.40\$80,672.80\$4,844.84\$85,517.64Mar. 20065962\$10.40\$62,004.80\$2,857.40\$64,862.20Apr. 20062069\$10.40\$21,517.60\$895.32\$22,412.92May 20061646\$10.40\$17,118.40\$768.07\$17,886.47  | Oct. 2005  | 2225  | \$10.40 | \$23,140.00  | \$776.57    | \$23,916.57  |
| Jan. 20066673\$10.40\$69,399.20\$4,476.32\$73,875.52Feb. 20067757\$10.40\$80,672.80\$4,844.84\$85,517.64Mar. 20065962\$10.40\$62,004.80\$2,857.40\$64,862.20Apr. 20062069\$10.40\$21,517.60\$895.32\$22,412.92May 20061646\$10.40\$17,118.40\$768.07\$17,886.47   | Nov. 2005  | 4748  | \$10.40 | \$49,379.20  | \$4,252.27  | \$53,631.47  |
| Feb. 2006         7757         \$10.40         \$80,672.80         \$4,844.84         \$85,517.64           Mar. 2006         5962         \$10.40         \$62,004.80         \$2,857.40         \$64,862.20           Apr. 2006         2069         \$10.40         \$21,517.60         \$895.32         \$22,412.92           May 2006         1646         \$10.40         \$17,118.40         \$768.07         \$17,886.47  | Dec. 2005  | 9096  | \$10.40 | \$94,598.40  | \$7,946.40  | \$102,544.80 |
| Mar. 2006         5962         \$10.40         \$62,004.80         \$2,857.40         \$64,862.20           Apr. 2006         2069         \$10.40         \$21,517.60         \$895.32         \$22,412.92           May 2006         1646         \$10.40         \$17,118.40         \$768.07         \$17,886.47  | Jan. 2006  | 6673  | \$10.40 | \$69,399.20  | \$4,476.32  | \$73,875.52  |
| Apr. 2006         2069         \$10.40         \$21,517.60         \$895.32         \$22,412.92           May 2006         1646         \$10.40         \$17,118.40         \$768.07         \$17,886.47  | Feb. 2006  | 7757  | \$10.40 | \$80,672.80  | \$4,844.84  | \$85,517.64  |
| May 2006 1646 \$10.40 \$17,118.40 \$768.07 \$17,886.47  | Mar. 2006  | 5962  | \$10.40 | \$62,004.80  | \$2,857.40  | \$64,862.20  |
|   | Apr. 2006  | 2069  | \$10.40 | \$21,517.60  | \$895.32    | \$22,412.92  |
| Total 43469 \$452,077.60 \$27,350.04 \$479,427.64   | May 2006   | 1646  | \$10.40 | \$17,118.40  | \$768.07    | \$17,886.47  |
|   | Total      | 43469 |         | \$452,077.60 | \$27,350.04 | \$479,427.64 |

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Source: Detail on Schedule II filed June 15, 2006