FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2009

Gas Rates Drop for Clay Countians

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) announced today that natural gas rates for Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) customers in Clay County have dropped significantly as of April 17. This rate drop reflects a projected decrease in the wholesale cost of natural gas for this summer.

Before the rate drop, MGE residential customers paid approximately 77¢ per Ccf (hundred cubic feet) of natural gas. The current rate is 54¢ per Ccf—a decrease of 23¢—marking the first time since November 2002 that natural gas rates for MGE customers have been this low. Last summer, customers were paying approximately \$1.04 per Ccf.

"At a time when many Missourians are struggling to pay their most basic living expenses, this rate drop could make a substantial difference to their household budgets," Sen. Ridgeway said. "I am pleased that customers are able to directly benefit from the natural gas price reduction."

More than 500,000 MGE customers across the state are affected by the rate decrease.

###

Contact: Mike Morris (573) 751-2547