

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Stanley Lewis,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2007-0267</u>
)	
Laclede Gas,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
ANSWER OUT-OF-TIME

Issue Date: February 22, 2007

Effective Date: February 22, 2007

Stanley Lewis filed a formal complaint against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") on January 16, 2007. On January 17, 2007, the Commission notified Laclede of the complaint and allowed it thirty days in which to answer as provided by 4 CSR 240-2.070(7).

Although Laclede's answer to Mr. Lewis' complaint was due on February 16, 2007, Laclede did not file it until February 20, 2007. Filed along with this pleading was a motion requesting that the Commission grant Laclede leave to file its answer out-of-time. The motion explains that although Laclede drafted its answer before the filing deadline, it inadvertently failed to file the pleading before then and did not realize the error until an attorney for the Staff of the Commission called on the morning of February 20, 2007 to inquire about Laclede's answer. The motion also avers that the answer is only four days (one business day) late, that no party is prejudiced by the late filing, and that the attorney

representing the Commission's Staff had no objection to Laclede filing its answer on February 20, 2007.

The Commission finds Laclede's request, as well as its explanation for the relatively minor four-day delay in filing, to be reasonable. Therefore, the Commission will grant Laclede's motion for leave to file its answer to Mr. Lewis' complaint out-of-time.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Laclede's motion for leave to file its answer to Mr. Lewis' complaint four days out-of-time is granted.
2. This order shall become effective on February 22, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Benjamin H. Lane, Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 22nd day of February, 2007.