

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Clyde Bradford,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b><u>Case No. GC-2007-0382</u></b>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER SETTING SECOND PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Issue Date: July 12, 2007

Effective Date: July 12, 2007

Clyde Bradford filed a formal complaint against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") on April 9, 2007.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Bradford sought an order requiring Laclede to refund to him the sum of \$1,266.73 plus interest, which he paid to Laclede for natural gas service on October 6, 2006, shortly before he sold his property at 930 Elias in St. Louis in late 2006 or early 2007. He claimed that he is entitled to the refund, plus interest, because he did not use the gas for which he was billed and thinks Laclede is trying to punish him for cancelling his gas service. On April 11, 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). The same day, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(10), the Commission ordered its Staff to commence an investigation and file a report concerning the results of that investigation by May 18.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all dates refer to the year 2007.

On May 10, Laclede filed its answer to Mr. Bradford's complaint, in which Laclede stated that although it was not accusing him of stealing gas, its internal investigation revealed that any unauthorized usage that may have occurred between October 2001 and January 2003 was attributable to Mr. Bradford, and that he was not entitled to a refund of any amount. After completing its investigation, on May 16, Staff filed a verified report recommending that the Commission dismiss the complaint, as its inquiry revealed no evidence that Laclede had acted improperly or illegally in billing and collecting the disputed sum from Mr. Bradford. Among other things, Staff noted that Mr. Bradford assumed responsibility for what he now claims is alleged unauthorized usage when he paid the \$1,266.73 bill in full without protest in October 2006, and that Mr. Bradford had also admitted, in his complaint and to representatives of Laclede, that he owned and resided at 930 Elias throughout the period during which the alleged unauthorized usage took place.

By order dated June 1, the Commission set the case for a prehearing conference, which was held on June 19. In the same order, the parties were directed to jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule by no later than July 9. On July 9, Staff filed a motion requesting a second prehearing conference, explaining that although the parties had determined during the first conference that they needed more information, they hadn't had sufficient time to review certain additional information regarding Mr. Bradford's billing records that had been collected since then. The motion also indicates that Staff, Mr. Bradford, and Laclede are all in agreement that conducting a second prehearing conference is worthwhile since it would provide the parties another "opportunity to determine settlement possibilities, or in the alternative, to develop a procedural schedule."

After carefully reviewing Staff's motion, the Commission finds that it is meritorious and should be granted.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The parties shall appear at a second prehearing conference to be held on Monday, July 30, 2007, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will be held in Room 305 at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person needing additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing conference should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 or dial Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the conference.

2. Any party wishing to appear by telephone shall notify the Regulatory Law Judge by calling 573-751-7485 no later than July 23, 2007.

3. The parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than August 6, 2007.

4. This order shall become effective on July 12, 2007.

( S E A L )

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 12th day of July, 2007.