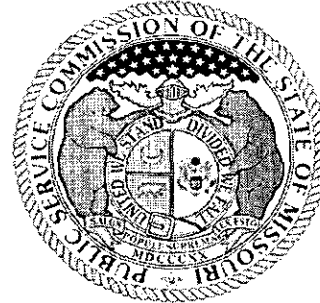


## Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Data Center  
All Parties to Case Nos. GC-2006-0313  
GC-2006-0060  
GC-2006-0390

FROM: Nancy Dippell   
Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DATE: May 24, 2006



On May 22, 2006, I received the attached Resolution from the Fire Board of the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District. The Commission is currently considering the issues discussed in the Resolution in Case Nos. GC-2006-0313, GC-2006-0060, and GC-2006-0390, which are contested cases. In contested cases, the Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law; that is, to avoid off-the-record discussions going to the merits of the contested case.

Although communications from members of the public are always welcome, those communications must be made known to all parties to a contested case so that those parties have an opportunity to respond. According to the Commission's rules (4 CSR 240-4.020(8)), when a communication (either oral or written) concerning a contested case occurs outside the hearing process, any member of the Commission or Law Judge who received the communication must prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to each member of the Commission and to the parties to the case. The report shall identify the person or persons who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, I submit this report pursuant to the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to these cases will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

### Attachment

cc: Commissioners  
Executive Director  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
General Counsel

RESOLUTION THAT THE FIRE BOARD OF THE SPANISH LAKE FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT OPPOSES THE CHANGES THAT LACLEDE GAS HAS SOUGHT BEFORE  
THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS Laclede Gas Company is the provider of natural gas for both residential and commercial consumers in the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District, and

WHEREAS Laclede Gas Company has a monopoly on providing said natural gas service to consumers in the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District, and

WHEREAS Laclede Gas Company has, in the past, been highly focused on customer service, as demonstrated by its safety inspections, use of leak detectors during monthly and annual meter reads, installation of meter reading devices with trained personnel, etc. and

WHEREAS Laclede Gas Company has recently requested that the Missouri Public Service Commission relieve Laclede Gas Company of some of its obligations to conduct safety inspections, perform meter sampling, perform annual meter reads, perform inspections after meter changes, and install meter reading devices with trained personnel, and

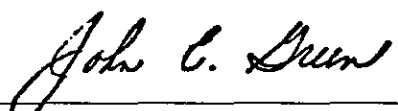
WHEREAS these proposed changes may harm consumers by reducing safety inspections, reducing the frequency of the use of leak detection devices at consumers' residences or facilities, and reducing opportunities for early detection of hazards and preventive maintenance, and

WHEREAS these proposed changes will mean a loss of jobs to Laclede Gas Company employees who are residents of the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Fire Board of the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District opposes the regulatory changes that Laclede Gas has sought before the Missouri Public Service Commission and urges the Missouri Public Service Commission Laclede Gas Company's requests for relief from obligations to consumers. Accordingly, the Fire Board directs that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Missouri Public Service Commission care of:

Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge Nancy Dippell  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street  
PO Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Read and adopted this 16th day of May, 2006.

  
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John E. Green, Chairman of the Board

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