

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

Joseph Schneider,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b><u>Case No. GC-2008-0159</u></b>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER GRANTING THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL AN**  
**EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE ITS RESPONSE**

Issue Date: January 4, 2008

Effective Date: January 4, 2008

On November 13, 2007, Joseph Schneider, filed a complaint with the Commission against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede"). On November 14, 2007, the Commission issued notice and set various response deadlines for the parties.

Laclede timely filed its answer to the complaint on December 14, 2007. The Commission's Staff timely filed the report of its investigation into this matter on December 26, 2007. The original deadline set for any party to respond to Staff's report was January 4, 2008; however, the deadline for Complainant to file his response was subsequently amended and set for January 14, 2008.

On January 4, 2008, the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") filed a request for an extension of time to file its response. In its request, OPC states:

1. The Office of the Public Counsel does not typically file pleadings in *pro se* complaint cases since Public Counsel does not represent individual complainants before the Commission. However, when a complaint raises issues that potentially harm all ratepayers, Public Counsel is compelled by §386.710(2) RSMo 2000 to represent the public's interest in the proceeding.

2. Public Counsel has concerns with Laclede's method of estimating usage in this case. Public Counsel sent a series of Data Request questions to Laclede Gas Company on December 28, 2007. Public Counsel requests that the Commission grant Public Counsel additional time to file a follow-up response to the Staff's Recommendation once Laclede has answered the questions included in Data Request 1. Laclede's twenty-day response to Data Request 1 is due January 17, 2007 [sic]. Assuming Laclede will submit its answers timely, Public Counsel requests that the Commission give Public Counsel until January 25, 2007 [sic] to file its follow-up response.

The Commission finds OPC's request for an extension of time is not for any improper purpose, nor does it cause any unnecessary delay in this proceeding. No party will be prejudiced by the extension of time for OPC to complete its investigation and file a follow-up response to Staff's report and recommendation. The Commission finds OPC's request to be reasonable and shall grant it.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Office of the Public Counsel's Request for an Extension of Time to File a Response is granted.

2. No later than January 25, 2008, the Office of the Public Counsel shall file its response in this matter.

3. This order shall become effective on January 4, 2008.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', with a stylized, cursive script.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Harold Stearley, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 4th day of January, 2008.