BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of	
USW Local 11-6,	Complainant
and	Complainant
Laclede Gas Company,	
	Respondent

GC-2006-0390

FILED

JAN 0 5 2007

Missouri Public Service Commission

AFFIDAVIT OF MARY HALL

STATE OF MISSOURI)) 55 **COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**)

Mary Hall, of lawful age, on her oath states: that she has participated in the preparation of the following Direct Testimony in question and answer form, consisting of 4 pages of Direct Testimony to be presented in the above case, that the answers in the following Direct Testimony were given by her; that she has knowledge of the matters set forth in such answers; and that such matters are true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Mary Hall

,yh day of // 1/ ., 2006. Subscribed and sworn to before me this

NOTARY SEAL Patricia J. Bozada , Notary Public St. Louis City, State of Missouri My Commission Expires 3/20/2009 Commission Number 05519482

My commission expires

xhibit No.___ Case No(s). AC-20010 Date_12

DIRECT TESTIMONY

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OF

MARY HALL

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF USW 11-6

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

CASE NO. GC-2006-0390

My name is Mary Hall and my address is **. What is your experience with AMR devices?
What is your experience with AMR devices?
In June of 2005, installers arrived at my residence. The installers did not come to
my door, but I was alerted to their presence because my dogs noticed them. I
asked them what they were doing and they said they were going to install a new
meter. I told them I had not had any problems with the meter. However, they
said that everyone was getting a new meter, so I let them commence with the
installation. The installers consisted of a team of four or five men wearing
plainclothes. I personally observed them install the device. The installers seemed
very disorganized. After watching Leisa Zigman's report on AMR devices in the
summer of 2006, I learned that what the installers had actually done was install an
AMR device.
Did the installation of the AMR device affect your gas service?
The gas bills were not remarkable until December of 2005. For this month, I was
billed \$231.59. A true and accurate copy of the December 2005 bill is attached

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and incorporated here as Exhibit 1. This was the highest gas bill I had ever received. The bill was especially excessive given that I live alone and keep my thermostat at 62.

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Q. What did you do with this information?

I called Laclede and complained about the bill. The customer service 5 A. representative said that the \$231.59 bill was in line with my previous usage and 6 that she would send me a printout of my previous gas bills. After the printout did 7 not arrive for several weeks, I called Laclede and spoke with another 8 representative. He informed me not to pay the bill, and he enrolled me in the 9 Budget Billing program. In that program, Laclede estimates your gas usage and 10 divides it by twelve. He told me to pay \$130 and the remainder will be budgeted 11 over the next months in three month cycles. 12

13 Q. Did you speak with anyone else about your billing issue?

A. In January or February of 2006, I contacted the Missouri Public Service
Commission about my billing problem. I found their address online. I received a
response on April 13, 2006. A true and accurate copy of the PSC letter is attached
and incorporated here as Exhibit 2. The response said that they had contacted
Laclede, which informed them that nothing was wrong with my billing. Because
the PSC only seemed to ask Laclede if my billing was correct, which I had
already done numerous times, I did not find their response to be satisfactory.

21 Q. Did enrolling in the Budget Billing Program resolve your billing complaints?

A. No. For the next three months, I was billed \$105.50 as the representative had
explained. True and accurate copies of the January, February, and March 2006

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1		bills are attached and incorporated here as Exhibits 3, 4, and 5, respectively.
2		However, after this period the bills remained much higher than in years past. I
3		received \$80.00 bills for April, May, June, and July of 2006. True and accurate
4		copies of the April, May, June, and July 2006 bills are attached and incorporated
5		here as Exhibits 6, 7, 8, and 9 respectively. I found that these \$80.00 bills were
6		excessive for the summer months. My usage for these summer months was
7		significantly less in 2005. A true and accurate copy of the Laclede Gas Company
8		Statement of Bills & Payments from December of 2004 to January of 2006 is
9		attached and incorporated here as Exhibit 10.
10	Q.	Did you continue with the Budget Billing program?
11	A.	No. In August of 2006, I cancelled my enrollment in Budget Billing and
12		requested that Laclede recalibrate my meter. I was dissatisfied with the high
13		summer bills and the fact that the Budget Billing bills did not show the actual gas
14		usage. While I was given a \$50 credit upon cancelling Budget Billing, I was
15		informed that Laclede does not recalibrate meters. Instead, they offered to send a
16		meter reader out to confirm my bill.
17	Q.	Why did you request that your meter be recalibrated?

- 18 A. I had spoken with Leisa Zigman of Channel 5 News. I saw her report in June or
 19 July and eventually called her about my billing issue. She suggested that I have
- 20 my meter recalibrated.
- 21 Q. Was your meter manually read as scheduled?
- 22 A. Yes. A Laclede employee named Kevin Stuart arrived and read my meter.
- 23 Q. Has your billing issue been resolved?

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No. 1 Α. 2 Q. Are you an employee or member of USW Local 11-6, or to your knowledge 3 are you related by blood or marriage to any USW Local 11-6 officer or 4 business representative? 5 Α. No. 6 Does this conclude your direct testimony? Q. 7 Α. Yes.

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Commissioners JEFF DAVIS Chairman CONNIE MURRAY

STEVE GAW ROBERT M. CLAYTON III LINWARD "LIN" APPLING POST OFFICE BOX 360 JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI 65102 573-751-3234 573-751-1847 (Fax Number) http://www.psc.mo.gov

Missouri Public Service Commission

WESS A. HENDERSON Executive Director

DANA K. JOYCE Director, Administration and Regulatory Policy

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG Director, Utility Services

WARREN WOOD Director, Utility Operations

COLLEEN M. DALE Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

> KEVIN A. THOMPSON General Counsel

April 13, 2006

Ms. Mary Hall

Dear Ms. Hall:

This letter is in response to the informal complaint you filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) regarding account number 539270-002-8 with Laclede Gas Company (Laclede). I contacted Laclede regarding this account and received the following information.

According to Laclede's records, the bill in question was based on an estimated meter reading for service from November 30, 2005 to January 3, 2006, for 151 CCFs, \$231.59. On January 9, 2006, you contacted Laclede regarding the bill and the account was set up on the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) Plan with an initial payment of \$130.00. The budget has been calculated at \$105.50 per month. On January 13, 2006, Laclede obtained a special meter reading of x3369. On February 6, 2006, Laclede issued a bill for service from January 3, 2006 to February 1, 2006, 98 CCFs, \$147.31. On February 25, 2006, Laclede obtained a special meter reading of x3523. On March 8, 2006, Laclede issued a bill for service from February 1, 2006 to March 3, 2006, 108 CCfs, \$157.93.

According to the historical usage at this location, it appears that the average usage is inline; however, the increase in the cost appears to be due to the high cost of wholesale natural gas prices. The Missouri Public Service Commission does not have jurisdiction over the producers of natural gas nor the interstate pipeline companies that transport the gas to the Local Distribution Companies (LDC), such as Laclede. Congress deregulated natural gas over a decade a go. Now prices are determined in a n open, competition-based market.



Ms. Mary Hall April 13, 2006 Page 2 of 2

The wholesale cost of purchasing the natural gas from a supplier or marketer is unregulated and is passed on to the customer at the same price the LDC pays for the commodity. Natural gas is a traded commodity like gold or silver. Therefore, the price is determined by market conditions such as supply and demand.

Why are natural gas prices so high and volatile?

- Tight balance between supply and demand,
- Abnormally hot weather and increased natural gas usage for electric generation for air conditioning load,
- Impacts of increased summer demand on national storage levels,
- High dependence on domestic natural gas supplies that are proving difficult to increase and very limited ability to import natural gas from overseas,
- Higher crude oil prices,
- Geopolitical tension, and
- Recent hurricanes in oil producing regions, and closure of some refineries.

I hope you find the aforementioned information helpful. Based on the information received and reviewed regarding this account, it does not appear that Laclede has billed you incorrectly. Thank you for contacting our office regarding this matter. If we can assist you further in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Sincerely,

klage

Michelle Bocklage **Consumer Services Specialist**

Bill Comparison Enclosure:

Name: Mary Hall Address:

Revenue Month Bill Amount # of Days CCf Read Type

Heating Degree Days Average Usage

Cost per Therm

Dec-05		Dec-04	
231.59	\$	159.88	\$
34		34	
151	•	133	
Estimate		Reading	
1071		906	
0.1410		0.1468	
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52	. 98
ing	O = Extended Rdg
951	. 658
598	0.1489
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Revenue Month	Feb-05		Feb-06
Bill Amount	\$ 128.56	\$	157.93
# of Days	30		30
CCf	 118		98
Read Type	Reading	0	= Extended Rdg.
Heating Degree Days	744		855
Average Usage	0.1586		0.1146
Cost per Therm	\$ 0.67972	\$	0.97860

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CWR PLAN AMT AMC TPAYMENT DUE BY: 05-18-06

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Laclede Gas Company DRAWER 2 ST. LOUIS, MO 5317 FIRST-CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID POST CARD RATE FERMIT NO. 735 à À PRESORTED ACCT ND 539270-002-8 可許 0 . 0 0 BATE DEPOSIT ₹G AVERAGE DAS COST REPUTHERMANN . B2108 DEGREE DAYS 114 BILL DETAIL AMOUNT PREVIOUS PRIOR GAS BALANCE PAYHENT THANK YDD CHARGE FOR GAS SVC 04-03-06 TO 05-03-06 CRESTHOOD TAX 312.34 THERMS 105.50-3616 (dec 34.91 .:18 1.025 18.5 小市 2.23 ark. ACCOUNT BALANCE 243.98 AMOUNT 21 \mathbb{R}^{2} ST. Grand and DUE TO PERIODIC REVIEW, YOUR PLAN AMOUNT 常业情况目 80.00 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO :80 ·00 *MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE* BY DELINQUENCY DATE 80.00 AMOUNT DUE \$80.00 PAYMENT DUE BY 105-18-06 DELINDUENT AFTER 05-30-06



EGAL®	EXHIBIT	
ALL-STATE LEGAL®	7	
VIL	<u>8</u>	

Laclede Gas Company ST. LOUIS, MO 6317	FIRST-CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAD POST CARD RATE
SERVICE AT:	PRESORTED PERMIT NO. 735
ACCT NO. 539270 MINTO SR DEPOSIT O NO BATE RO	
AVERAGE GAS COST REBITHERM REPAIRS 185049 DEGREE DAYS 75;	BILL DETAIL AMOUNT
PRESENT PREVIOUS HEADING READING READING READING READING READING	PRIOR BAS BALANCE 196.66 PAVMENT THANK YOU BO DO
3609 3539 70 1.027 71.9	BILL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE FOR GAS SVC 03-03-06 TO 07-03-06 137.03 CINCLUDES & MONTHLY ISRS CHARGE OF \$.22)
AMOUNT	CRESTWOOD TAX 8.75
CWR PLAN AMT BD.00	ACCOUNT BALANCE 76.11
	HINIKUN PAYMENT XDUE By Delinquency Date #80.00
AMOUNT DUE SB0.00	CORRECTED BILL
PAYMENT DUE BY BOB-07-06 DELEINDUENT AFTER 08-16-06	

SERVICE AT: ACDTINO. 5.31 AVERAGE GAS PRESENT READING 3612 CWR PLA CWR PLA	2270-0007 COST REPAYME PREVIOUS READING 3609 3609 3609 3609 3609 3609 3609 3609		D 0 DEGREE DA FACTOR= 1.023	THERMS 3.1 AMOUNT 80.00 80.00 80.00	(POST CARD RATE	
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LACLEDE GAS COMPANY STATEMENT OF BILLS & PAYMENTS JANUARY 10, 2006

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HALL, MARY

PAGE 0001

SERVICE ADDRESS: ACCT. NO: 539270-002

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DATE	TRANSACTION		SERVICE DATES FROM - TO	METER		BILLS/		·
~~			rkun - 10	READING	THERMS	PAYMENTS	BALANCE	
BALANCE AS	OF 12-02-04		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
12-02-04	BILL		10/28-11/30	25000	45.1	59.56	0.00	
12-09-04	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE	10/20 11/00	2000	42.1	59.56-		
01-05-05	BILL		11/30-01/03	2732R	137.1	159.88	0.00 159.88	
01-11-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE		LYOLK	107.1	159.88-	0.00	
02-03-05	BILL		01/03-02/01	2884R	156.9	167.69	167.69	
02-10-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE				167.69-		
03-07-05			02/01-03/03	3002R	121.8	128.56		
03-21-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE				128.56-		
04-06-05	BILL BANKERUT BAD	A MALLACIN	03/03-04/04	3083R	83.4	96.80	96 80	
04-11-05 05-05-05	PAYHENT-GAS	SERVICE			•	96.80-	0.00	
05-05-05	BILL PAYMENT-GAS	CEDUTOR .	04/04-05/03	3109R	26.7	40.99	40.99	
06-06-05	BILL	SERVICE				40.99-	0.00	
06-21-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SEBVICE	05/03-06/02	3112R	3.1	16.52	16.52	
07-06-05	BILL	SERVICE	06/02-07/01	71170		16.52-		
07-11-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE	08/02-01/01	3113R	1.0	14.43	14.43	
08-04-05	BILL	GERTICE	07/01-08/02	3114R	1.0	14.43-	0.00	
08-16-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE	57761 08702	3114K	1.0	14.60	14.60	
09-01-05	BILL		08/02-08/30	3117E	3.1	14.60- 16.72	0.00	
09-08-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE	56, 52 56, 55	5117E	3.1	16.72-	16.72	
10-03-05	BILL		08/30-09/29	3117R	0.0	13.59	0.00	
10-17-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE .	00,00 0,,2,	OIIIR	0.0	13.59-	13.59 0.00	
11-01-05	BILL		09/29-10/28	3131R	14.3	27.74		
11-04-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE		oroth	19.0	27.74-	27.74	
12-02-05	BILL		10/28-11/30	3182R	52.5	78.17	78.17	
12-20-05	PAYMENT-GAS	SERVICE			2213	78.17-	0.00	
01-06-06	BILL		11/30-01/03	3333E	156.4	231.59	231.59	

TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE \$231.59

THE ABOVE ACCOUNT BALANCE DOES NOT REFLECT ANY BUDGET OR PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS YOU MAY HAVE MADE. REFER TO YOUR LAST BILL FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR AMOUNT DUE.

EXPLANATION OF METER READING CODES

- **R** REGULAR READING
- S CUSTOMER READING
- E ESTIMATE

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