

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas)
Company's Tariffs Regarding a)
Temporary Modification to its)
Low-Income Energy Affordability)
Program and Motion for Expedited)
Treatment.)

**Case No. GR-2010-0171
YG-2012-0252**

**STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL
OF THE LOW INCOME TARIFF ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and for its Recommendation Regarding *Laclede Gas Company's Temporary Modification to the Low-Income Energy Affordability Program and Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less Than Thirty Days' Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment*, Staff recommends the Commission approve the tariff on an expedited basis. In support thereof, Staff states:

1. On December 1, 2001, Laclede filed the tariff described above to make a temporary modification to its energy assistance program to assist customers in maintaining or restoring their utility service for this winter heating season.

2. For the reasons noted in Staff's attached Recommendation, Staff recommends the Commission approve the tariff on an expedited basis and permit the tariff to become effective on December 9, 2011.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the above described tariff on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell

Lera L. Shemwell
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 6th day of December, 2011.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File,
Case No. GR-2010-0171, File No. YG-2012-0252, Laclede Gas Company

FROM: Michael Stahlman, Energy – Tariffs / Rate Design

/s/ Thomas M Imhoff 12/06/11

Energy Unit/Date

/s/ Lera Shemwell 12/06/11

Staff Counsel's Department/Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation Regarding Laclede Gas Company's Temporary Modification to the Low-Income Energy Affordability Program and Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days' Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment

DATE: December 6, 2011

On December 1, 2011, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "the Company") filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("the Commission") one (1) tariff sheet proposing to make a temporary experimental modification to the Company's Low-Income Energy Affordability Program with an effective date of January 1, 2012, and a Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days' Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment requesting an effective date of December 9, 2011. Later on December 1, 2011, Laclede filed a substitute tariff sheet correcting an error in the heading of the revised tariff sheet.

The purpose of the revised tariff sheet is to renew a program that was effective from November 26, 2010 to March 1, 2011, regarding ways to better coordinate energy assistance programs and help customers maintain or restore their utility service in the winter heating season. The revision will allow a reallocation of up to \$150,000 of Laclede's Low-Income Program budget to go towards reducing thirty percent (30%) of the arrearages required to restore or maintain service of eligible low-income customers. Laclede's current Low-Income Program budget is \$600,000, as established in the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. GR-2007-0208 and continued in the Second Stipulation and Agreement for Case No. GR-2010-0171. The amount of credit would not exceed \$500 per customer or \$1000 for a registered elderly or disabled customer. The modification will be effective until March 31, 2012, per the language of the tariff revision. The Low-Income Program Review and Evaluation Team (PRET) has reviewed and does not object to the revision.

Staff Recommendation

The Commission's Energy Unit - Tariffs/Rate Design Staff (Staff) has reviewed the tariff sheet, as filed by Laclede and substituted on December 1, 2011, and is of the opinion that these sheets were filed in compliance with the Commission's Order and Rules and that good cause has been shown for expedited treatment. Therefore, Staff recommends that the following tariff sheet, filed on December 1, 2011, and as substituted on December 1, 2011, be approved with an effective date of December 9, 2011:

P.S.C. MO. No.5 Consolidated

Third Revised Sheet No. R-56, Cancelling Second Revised Sheet No. R-56

The Staff has verified that Laclede has filed its annual report and is not delinquent on any assessment. Staff is not aware of any other matter before the Commission that affects or is affected by this filing.

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's
Tariff to Increase Its Annual Revenues
for Natural Gas Service

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Case No. GR-2010-0171
File No. YG-2012-0252

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL STAHLMAN

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

Michael Stahlman, of lawful age, on oath states: that he participated in the preparation of the foregoing Staff Recommendation in memorandum form, to be presented in the above case; that the information in the Staff Recommendation was provided to him; that he has knowledge of the matters set forth in such Staff Recommendation; and that such matters are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Michael Stahlman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of December, 2011.



Notary Public