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4 STATE OF MISSOURI  
5 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
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8 IN THE MATTER OF LACLEDE GAS COMPANY'S TARIFF FILING TO  
9 ALLOW ESTIMATED BILLING WHENEVER AN AUTOMATIC METER READER  
10 FAILS TO SEND READINGS OF ACTUAL USAGE  
11

12 Case No. GT-2008-0374  
13

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15 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
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17 PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
18

19 VOLUME 1  
20

21 JUNE 30, 2008  
22  
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STATE OF MISSOURI

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Prehearing Conference

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June 30, 2008

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Jefferson City, Missouri

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Volume 1

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In the Matter of Laclede Gas           )  
Company's Tariff Filing to Allow    )  
Estimated Billing Whenever an        ) Case No. GT-2008-0374  
Automatic Meter Reader Fails to    )  
Send Readings of Actual Usage       )

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NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding,  
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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REPORTED BY:

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: This is Case No.  
3 GT-2008-0374 in the matter of Laclede Gas Company's tariff  
4 filing to allow estimated billing whenever an automatic  
5 meter reader fails to send readings of actual usage.

6 My name is Nancy Dippell, and I am the  
7 regulatory law judge assigned to this case. And we've  
8 come here today for a prehearing conference, kind of more,  
9 I hope, a settlement conference, a procedural conference  
10 if that doesn't work out.

11 I think you guys are probably more familiar  
12 with this case than I am just because it sounds like from  
13 the pleadings you guys have maybe talked about this a  
14 little bit before all this.

15 So I will go ahead and let you guys make  
16 entries of appearance, starting with Staff.

17 MR. BERLIN: Appearing on behalf of the  
18 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Robert S.  
19 Berlin, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri  
20 65102.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Laclede.

22 MR. ZUCKER: Michael C. Pendergast and Rick  
23 Zucker appearing on behalf of Laclede Gas Company,  
24 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Public Counsel.

1                   MR. POSTON: Marc Poston appearing on behalf  
2 of the Office of the Public Counsel and public, P. O.  
3 Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

4                   JUDGE DIPPELL: Great.

5                   I had previously ordered a status report to  
6 be filed by July 14th, and if there is any issues with  
7 that, just let me know, but mainly just let me know how  
8 your discussions went and where things are headed and if  
9 you need a procedural schedule or if you need more time to  
10 do a procedural schedule, at that point you can let me  
11 know.

12                  Is there anything that you guys wanted to  
13 put on the record?

14                  MR. PENDERGAST: Just very briefly, and it's  
15 not a matter of great consequence.

16                  But I think the caption heading in this case  
17 is one that Laclede does not completely agree with. I  
18 think it was something that Public Counsel had used to  
19 summarize what they believed the case was about.

20                  I won't belabor the record. I'll just note  
21 that we had filed a response to Public Counsel's motion to  
22 suspend a tariff, in which we gave what we thought was a  
23 more accurate depiction of what our tariff filing actually  
24 does. The tariff will speak for itself.

25                  But I just didn't want to go ahead and have

1 the record sort of reflect by acquiescence that we  
2 necessarily agreed with that particular characterization  
3 of our tariff. And we'll leave it at that.

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: We can. Okay. If such a  
5 motion is made, then we can actually change the caption,  
6 if, you know, you want to pursue that. If you just want  
7 it on the record --

8 MR. PENDERGAST: I just want it on the  
9 record. I think that's enough.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Anything you'd like to add,  
11 Mr. Poston?

12 MR. POSTON: No. I don't have any objection  
13 to changing it. I was just trying to accurately portray  
14 what I thought the case was about.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Anything else that  
16 needs to go on the record?

17 MR. BERLIN: Staff has no objection to  
18 Mr. Pendergast suggesting a change of the style of the  
19 case.

20 MR. ZUCKER: Would you like something filed  
21 requesting it?

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: If you-all would like to  
23 pursue that, then that would be good.

24 MR. ZUCKER: Okay.

25 MR. PENDERGAST: Okay. Great.

1                   MR. ZUCKER:   File a motion.

2                   JUDGE DIPPELL:   It can be done.   It isn't  
3   completely unchangeable.   We have in the past changed  
4   captions of cases.   So if you guys could get an agreement  
5   on that, then that would be more helpful.

6                   Anything else?

7                   All right.   Then I think that's really all I  
8   have.   So I will leave you-all to your discussions, and we  
9   can go off the record.

10                  WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of the  
11   Prehearing Conference is concluded.

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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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I, Patricia A. Stewart, RMR, RPR, CCR, a

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Certified Court Reporter in the State of Missouri, do

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hereby certify that the testimony that appears in the

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taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of

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any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto,

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nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of

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the action.

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Patricia A. Stewart

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CCR No. 401

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