

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

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
Laclede Gas Company for an Accounting	)	
Authority Order Authorizing the Company	)	
to Defer for Future Recovery the Costs of	)	Case No. GU-2007-0138
Complying with the Permanent	)	
Amendment to the Commission's Cold	)	
Weather Rule.	)	

**PUBLIC COUNSEL'S OBJECTION TO THE  
NON-UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

**COMES NOW** the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel and for its Objection to the Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement states:

1. On February 28, 2008, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and Laclede Gas Company filed a Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement. Also on February 28, 2008, the Office of the Public Counsel filed its position in response to Laclede's request for a cost determination.

2. Public Counsel is disappointed with Staff's decision to enter into an agreement with Laclede. Staff should fully consider the positions of all parties, and reaching a side agreement with Laclede before understanding Public Counsel's position gives the appearance that the Staff has little regard for input from consumers in this matter.

3. Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.115(2)(B) states that any party has seven days from the filing of a non-unanimous stipulation and agreement to file an objection to the non-unanimous stipulation and agreement. Public Counsel objects to the Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement for the reasons identified in Public Counsel's

February 28, 2008 position filing. Public Counsel also objects on the grounds that the amounts stipulated to between Staff and Laclede are not supported by Laclede's cost data submitted with its filing.

4. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.115(2)(D) states that a non-unanimous stipulation and agreement to which a timely objection has been filed shall be considered to be merely a position of the signatory parties to the stipulated position, and no party shall be bound by it.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully objects to the Non-Uniform Stipulation and Agreement filed by Staff and Laclede.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008:

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**/s/ Marc Poston**

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