

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

David Apted,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b><u>File No. GC-2017-0348</u></b>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	

**STAFF RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Response to Order Directing Filing* in this matter hereby states as follows:

1. On June 23, 2017, David Apted (“Complainant”) filed a formal *Complaint* against Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”).
2. Staff filed its *Investigation Report* on August 15, 2017, in which it concluded that Laclede did not violate its tariff or any law or rule of the Commission in this matter.
3. On August 25, 2017, Mr. Apted stated other grounds on which he believes the Commission should grant him relief.
4. On November 15, 2017, Laclede filed an amended answer.
5. On December 5, 2017, the Commission issued an *Order* directing parties to file a pleading or pleadings no later than December 31, 2017, stating how they wish to proceed.

6. Staff reached out to the parties via email on December 5, 2017, and again on December 14, 2017, in an attempt to coordinate a joint filing regarding how the parties wish to proceed. Staff did not receive any responses from any parties.

7. On December 20, 2017, Staff emailed Mr. Apted separately to provide information on alternative dispute resolution and to ask how he would like to proceed in this case. Staff has not received a response.

8. Staff counsel spoke with counsel for the Company concerning this matter when Laclede was in Jefferson City for Laclede's recent rate case hearing, and at that time counsel for Laclede indicated that from a procedural standpoint they would be agreeable to proceeding as desired by Complainant. Staff counsel also spoke with Mr. Apted prior to the Commission issuing its *Order* on December 5.

9. Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(15)(D) states, "Staff shall not advocate a position beyond reporting the results of its investigation."

10. Staff is of the opinion that \*\*

\*\*. If

the parties choose to mediate or negotiate a settlement of their issues, Staff will participate to the extent necessary in order to help facilitate settlement. If the parties cannot agree to mediation or otherwise come to a resolution of the issues in this case, the Commission should set a procedural schedule.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff submits its *Response to Order Directing Filing*.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil**

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing were served electronically to all counsel of record this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

**/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil**