

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) **Case No. GU-2007-0138**
Recovery the Costs of Complying with the)
Permanent Amendment to the Commission's)
Cold Weather Rule)

ORDER ESTABLISHING TIME TO RESPOND TO LACLEDE'S
REQUEST TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR
DETERMINATION OF THE COST OF COMPLIANCE

Issue Date: October 31, 2007

Effective Date: October 31, 2007

On December 7, 2006, the Commission granted Laclede Gas Company an accounting authority order (AAO) authorizing deferred accounting treatment for its costs of complying with the Commission's permanent amendment of its Cold Weather Rule. On October 31, 2007, Laclede filed a Request for Determination of the Cost of Compliance with the Permanent Amendment to the Cold Weather Rule.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-13.055(14)(G)2 establishes a specific timeline for the processing of a request for determination of the cost of compliance with the Cold Weather Rule. In particular, the rule allows other parties no more than 120 days to submit their position regarding the company's request. The rule also states: "If the commission fails to establish the amount of costs within one hundred eighty (180) days, then the amount requested by the utility shall be deemed reasonably incurred." Laclede, however, asks the

Commission to defer processing its request for determination of its cost of compliance until it can be taken up along with the company's next general rate case.

Laclede's suggestion would save the parties and the Commission the burden of having to separately evaluate Laclede's cost of compliance; instead allowing that review to take place as part of the more general evaluation that would occur during a rate case. However, given the firm time strictures established in the Commission's rule, the Commission needs to be aware of the position of all parties before considering Laclede's suggestion. In this case, the only parties, other than Laclede, are the Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel. Therefore, Staff and Public Counsel will be ordered to respond.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. No later than November 9, 2007, the Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel shall file pleadings indicating whether they agree that the Commission may defer consideration of Laclede Gas Company's Request for Determination of the Cost of Compliance with the Permanent Amendment to the Cold Weather Rule until Laclede's next general rate case.

2. This order shall become effective on October 31, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written in a cursive style.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, Deputy Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 31st day of October, 2007.