

# St. Louis County Council

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S. J. PRATL  
Administrative Director

615-5432  
615-7890

FILED<sup>2</sup>

JUN 05 2006

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

December 13, 2005

Mr. Jeff Davis  
Chairman  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison St.  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Exhibit No. 23  
Case No(s). LC-2006-0066  
Date 5-23-06 Rptr KF

RE: St. Louis County Council Resolution 4869

Dear Chairman Davis:

We, the undersigned members of the St. Louis County Council, are writing to you regarding a resolution passed by the County Council on October 4, 2005. Resolution No. 4869 was passed by the County Council as a result of concerns expressed regarding the alleged failure of Laclede Gas to perform safety inspections of the interior of residences after performing repairs to outdoor meters. During the weekly caucus held by the County Council on October 4, concern was expressed by the sponsor of the resolution that inspections of the pilot lights inside homes were not performed in certain situations. The discussion at the Council caucus centered on the continued need for safety inspections of the pilot lights at the time repairs or replacements are made to outdoor gas meters. There was consensus reached at our caucus that inspections should

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be performed by Laclede Gas, and that Laclede Gas should continue to reignite the pilot light after any such repair or replacement. This was the basis for our vote in support of Resolution No. 4869. It was our desire to let the Public Service Commission know of our belief that indoor safety inspections should be performed any time a repair or replacement is made to a gas meter.

In the October 13, 2005 issue of the *St. Louis/Southern Illinois Labor Tribune*, an article appeared which suggests that the County Council Resolution passed on October 4, 2005 was intended to urge the Public Service Commission to reject an attempt by Laclede Gas to replace manual meter readings with an automated meter reading program. The *Labor Tribune* article casts our vote and the passage of Resolution 4869 in a much different light than was presented at the County Council caucus. In fact, there was no discussion at the County Council caucus regarding any attempts by Laclede Gas to implement an automated meter reading program


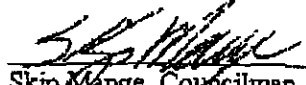
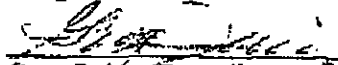
Following the publication of the *Labor Tribune* article, we undertook to become more fully informed of the issues presently pending before the Public Service Commission in relation to Laclede Gas. We have learned that Laclede Gas has filed a "Verified Application for Variance" in connection with its efforts to propose to implement an automated meter reading program. It is important for the members of the Public Service Commission to understand our votes on Resolution 4869 had absolutely nothing to do with Laclede Gas' proposed automated meter reading program, or its Verified Application for Variance. Each of us unequivocally refutes any such characterization of the Resolution passed by the County Council on October 4, 2005.

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The County Council has seven members. Without our votes, Resolution 4869 would not have passed. We feel that it is imperative to inform the Public Service Commission of the circumstances behind the passage of Resolution 4869, and to correct any misconceptions that may have resulted from the passage of said Resolution. While we agreed with the sponsor of the Resolution that safety inspections should be performed in households, it is inappropriate and inaccurate to characterize those concerns as opposition to Laclede Gas' proposal to implement an automated meter reading program.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Very truly yours,

  
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John Campisi, Chairman, St. Louis County Council  
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Kurt S. Odenwald, Vice-Chairman, St. Louis County Council  
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Skip Lange, Councilman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
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Greg Quinn, Councilman, 7<sup>th</sup> District