OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Norman Harrold,)
Complainant,)
V.) <u>Case No. GC-2007-0311</u>
Laclede Gas Company,)
Respondent.)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE ANSWER OUT-OF-TIME

Issue Date: March 29, 2007 Effective Date: March 29, 2007

Norman Harrold filed a formal complaint against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") on February 22, 2007. On February 22, 2007, the Commission notified Laclede of the complaint and allowed it thirty days in which to answer as provided by 4 CSR 240-2.070(7).

Although Laclede's answer to Mr. Harrold's complaint was due on March 26, 2007, Laclede did not file it until March 28, 2007. Filed along with this pleading was a motion requesting that the Commission grant Laclede leave to file its answer out-of-time. The motion explains that Laclede failed to file its answer on time due to the press of other business. The motion also avers that the answer is only two days late, that no party is prejudiced by the late filing, and that Laclede apologizes for any inconvenience caused by its late filing.

The Commission finds Laclede's request, as well as its explanation for minor twoday delay in filing, to be reasonable. Therefore, the Commission will grant Laclede's motion for leave to file its answer to Mr. Harrold's complaint out-of-time.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Laclede's motion for leave to file its answer to Mr. Harrold's complaint two days out-of-time is granted.
 - 2. This order shall become effective on March 29, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

Colleen M. Dale Secretary

(SEAL)

Benjamin H. Lane, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 29th day of March, 2007.