

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

C. K. Lacks, L.L.C.,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2008-0010</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

**ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, PROVIDING NOTICE
ON HOW TO APPEAR BY PHONE AND DIRECTING THE FILING OF A
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: September 4, 2007

Effective Date: September 4, 2007

On July 10, 2007, C. K. Lacks, L.L.C., filed a complaint with the Commission against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede"). On August 13, Laclede filed its answer to the complaint and on August 23, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") filed the report of its investigation into this matter. No responses were filed to Laclede's answer or to Staff's report.

This matter is now at issue and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are appropriate to ensure its prompt resolution. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions. The parties shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule one week after the prehearing conference.

The Commission informs the parties that this prehearing conference is *not an evidentiary hearing*. Sworn testimony will not be taken and no final decision will result from this prehearing conference. However, all parties are required to be present for the prehearing conference. **Parties must arrive in person, or appear by phone, for the prehearing conference on or before the scheduled starting time of 10:00 a.m. in order to participate.** A court reporter will be present to make a record of the parties that appear. Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090, "Failure to appear at a prehearing conference without previously having secured a continuance shall constitute grounds for dismissal of the party or the party's complaint, application or other action unless good cause for the failure to appear is shown."¹ As set out below, any party who wishes to attend by telephone will be permitted to do so.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The parties shall appear at a prehearing conference to be held on September 12, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will be held in Room 305 at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person needing additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing conference should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 or dial Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the conference.

¹ Arriving late to a prehearing conference is the equivalent of failing to appear. Parties are expected to appear at scheduled hearings on time, or to advise the Commission of their need to appear late or to timely request a continuance. Once a hearing is adjourned, the parties who did enter an appearance and the court reporter are released. It is extremely difficult to have parties who were timely in their appearance, and court reporters that keep very busy schedules, return to the Public Service Commission for unscheduled hearing times. This is why the Commission issues advance notice of all hearings and extends various opportunities prior to any scheduled hearing for the parties to appear by phone or request a continuance.

2. Any party that wishes to participate in the conference by telephone may do so by calling (573) 522-6044 at the time set for the conference. If any party believes they will require the phone bridge for a period longer than two hours, they should notify the Regulatory Law Judge by calling 573-522-8459 no later than September 6, 2007.

3. Any party wishing to request a continuance shall file a pleading with the Commission stating why they are unable to attend the scheduled prehearing conference on September 12, 2007, and shall provide the Commission with a list of dates when that party is available to appear. This pleading shall be filed no later than September 10, 2007.

4. Any party requesting a continuance shall serve a copy of the request on every party to this complaint.

5. The parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than September 19, 2007.

6. This order shall become effective on September 4, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Harold Stearley, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 4th day of September 2007.