



budget billing amounts that anticipated higher natural gas costs than have actually been experienced. As a result, those budget billing amounts are higher than Laclede needs to recover the reduced gas costs. By allowing the company to reduce the budget billing amounts now, rather than waiting until January, Laclede's requested variance would lower customer bills at the beginning of the winter heating season, benefiting those customers.

Laclede's application for variance is reasonable and the Commission will grant the requested variance.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Laclede Gas Company is granted a one-time variance from its budget billing plan tariff provision (P.S.C. Mo No. 5 Consolidated, Original Sheet No. R-39) to allow it to make appropriate adjustments to customer budget billing amounts to be effective for the company's first November billing cycle, beginning on November 4, 2008.

2. This order shall become effective on October 28, 2008.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Davis, Chm., Murray, Clayton, Jarrett,  
and Gunn, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge