

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)	
Verified Application for Authority to Issue and)	
Sell First Mortgage Bonds, Unsecured Debt and)	
Preferred Stock, in Connection with a Universal)	
Shelf Registration Statement, to Issue Common)	Case No. GF-2009-0450
Stock and Receive Capital Contributions, to Issue)	
and Accept Private Placement Securities, and to)	
Enter Into Capital Leases, all in a Total Amount)	
Not to Exceed \$600 Million.)	

**MOTION TO BE EXCUSED FROM
A PORTION OF THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) and states:

1. OPC requests that OPC Counsel be excused from attending the beginning of the Evidentiary Hearing scheduled for April 20, 2010.
2. Counsel for OPC is scheduled to appear before the Circuit Court of Cole County for an oral argument that is also scheduled for the morning of April 20, 2010.
3. Immediately following the circuit court oral argument, Counsel for OPC will attend the Commission's evidentiary hearing.
4. No other OPC counsel is available to attend the evidentiary hearing.
5. No other party will be prejudiced by excusing OPC from participating in the beginning of the evidentiary hearing.

WHEREFORE, OPC respectfully requests that the Commission excuse Counsel for OPC from appearing as stated above.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 19th day of April 2010:

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