

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 12th day of
January, 2011.

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Application for a Variance from the)
Provisions of Commission Rules Regarding)
The Timing of CAM Annual Reports)

File No. GE-2011-0171

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

Issue Date: January 12, 2011

Effective Date: January 22, 2011

On December 15, 2010, Laclede Gas Company filed an application requesting a variance from the Commission's affiliate transaction rules to allow the company to maintain and submit affiliate transaction information based on its fiscal year rather than the calendar year required by the rule. The Commission ordered that any party wishing to respond to Laclede's application do so no later than January 3, 2011.

The Commission's Staff filed a response on January 4. Staff indicates it does not oppose Laclede's application and emphasizes that it has urged Laclede to seek the variance it has now requested. Laclede replied to Staff's response on January 7.

Laclede's verified application explains that it keeps its financial records on a fiscal year basis, with its fiscal year ending on September 30. To report its affiliate information on a calendar year basis as required by the rule, Laclede would have to divide its financial databases and assemble the data from two different fiscal years. Doing so would increase costs for the company and would increase the likelihood that an error may occur.

For several years, based on an understanding reached with Staff and Public Counsel, Laclede has been filing its affiliate transaction information on a fiscal year basis. Laclede has been filing that information on December 15, which is 2½ months after the end

of its fiscal year. That filing date corresponds to the rule's March 15 deadline, which is 2½ months after the end of the calendar year. In a partial stipulation and agreement the Commission approved in Laclede's most recent rate case, file number GR-2010-0171, the parties agreed that Laclede would bring the informal understanding to the Commission for approval and that Staff and Public Counsel would support Laclede's request.

Based on Laclede's unopposed Verified Application for Variance and the approved partial stipulation and agreement, the Commission will grant the requested variance.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Laclede Gas Company is granted a variance from Commission Rules 4 CSR 240-40.015(4)(B) and (C), and 4 CSR 240-40.016(5)(B) and (C), so that Laclede may maintain affiliate transaction information based on its fiscal year ended September 30, rather than on a calendar year basis, and provide such information by December 15 of the succeeding fiscal year rather than on March 15 of the succeeding calendar year.
2. This order shall become effective on January 22, 2011.
3. This case shall be closed on January 23, 2011.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

Clayton, Chm., Davis, Jarrett, Gunn,
and Kenney, concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge