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August 19, 2003

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED³

AUG 19 2003

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Re: Case No. GF-2004-0025

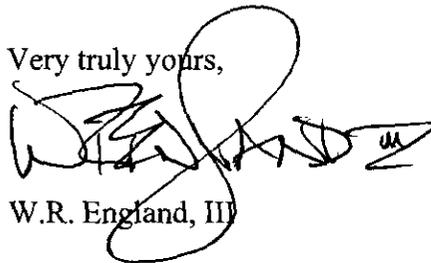
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Laclede Gas Company, please find an original and eight (8) copies of Laclede Gas Company's Reply to Staff's Filing in Compliance with the Commission's August 7, 2003 Order.

Would you please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



W.R. England, III

WRE/lar
Enclosure

cc: Dan Joyce
John Coffman

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³

AUG 19 2003

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Verified)
Application for Extension, with Modifications,)
of its Authority to Issue and Sell First Mortgage)
Bonds, Unsecured Debt and Authorized but) Case No. GF-2004-0025
Unissued Common Stock in a Total Amount Not to)
Exceed \$270 Million, Pursuant to a Universal)
Shelf Registration Statement)

**LACLEDE GAS COMPANY'S REPLY
TO STAFF'S FILING IN COMPLIANCE WITH
THE COMMISSION'S AUGUST 7, 2003 ORDER**

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), and files its Reply to the Staff's August 12, 2003 filing in connection with Laclede's Motion to Expedite, and in support thereof, states as follows:

1. In its August 12, 2003 filing, Staff recommends that the Commission extend Laclede's current authorization to sell \$270 million in securities for two months, to October 31, 2003, conditioned upon a restriction that any proceeds from security sales during the extension period be used only for the regulated operations of Laclede Gas Company.

2. Laclede has no objection to Staff's recommended two month extension. Laclede reserves the right to request additional extensions, if necessary, and the right to make any argument it deems advisable regarding the conditions that should ultimately be imposed on future financings following the extension(s).

WHEREFORE, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission grant a two month extension, to October 31, 2003, of Laclede's current authorization to sell \$270 million in securities.

Respectfully submitted,

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Reply was served on the General Counsel of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel on this 19th day of August 2003 by hand-delivery, email, fax, or by placing a copy of such document, postage prepaid, in the United States mail.

