

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. and Laclede Gas)
Company for an Order Authorizing the)
Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets of)
Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc., Located in)
Missouri to Laclede Gas Company and)
Either Authorizing the Transfer of)
Existing Certificates of Public)
Convenience and Necessity or Granting a)
New Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity to Laclede Gas Company in)
Conjunction with Same)

Case No. GM-2006-0183

JOINT PLEADING REGARDING STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COME NOW Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. (Fidelity), Laclede Gas Company (Laclede), and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and respectfully state as follows:

1. On October 21, 2005, Fidelity and Laclede filed a joint application (Application) seeking authority from the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) for the sale and transfer of certain assets from Fidelity to Laclede.
2. Fidelity and Laclede also filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment on October 21, 2005.
3. On November 1, 2005, Staff filed its Pleading Regarding Staff Recommendation. In this pleading, Staff emphasized that it could file a Staff Recommendation regarding the Application by December 9, 2005 if certain conditions were met. Staff is prepared to file Staff's Recommendation on December 9, 2005.

4. On December 7, 2005, Laclede provided supplemental answers to Staff's Data Requests. Staff is reviewing these supplemental answers and is reconsidering parts of its Staff Recommendation. In addition, the parties are negotiating a Stipulation and Agreement that may settle this matter.

5. In connection with the supplemental answers and negotiations, Laclede and Fidelity have offered to extend the date for a Staff Recommendation for one week, to December 16, 2006, with a corresponding extension, if necessary, to the January 1, 2006 date for relief that Laclede and Fidelity requested in their Motion for Expedited Treatment.

6. Staff agrees that continued discussions may be useful and has no objection to extending the date for a Staff Recommendation until December 16, 2005.

7. The Office of the Public Counsel has no objection to this Joint Pleading.

WHEREFORE, Fidelity, Laclede and Staff respectfully inform the Commission that a Staff Recommendation or a Stipulation and Agreement will be filed by December 16, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 9th day of December, 2005.

/s/ Robert V. Franson