

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED²

JAN 31 2006

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of)
)
United Steelworkers of America,)
Local No. 11-6, AFL-CIO,)
)
and)
)
Laclede Gas Company)

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW United Steelworkers of America, Local No. 11-6, AFL-CIO ("Local 11-6"), by counsel, and hereby files its Complaint against Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") pursuant to R.S.Mo. §§386.390, 393.130.1 and 4 CSR §240-2.070. In support of this Complaint, Local 11-6 states as follows:

1. Laclede Gas Company is a public utility operating under the jurisdiction and oversight of the Missouri Public Service Commission. Laclede's principal place of business is 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.
2. Local 11-6 is a labor organization that represents for purposes of collective bargaining approximately 1050 of Laclede's employees in physical plant classifications such as production, maintenance, operations, and distribution jobs.
3. The principal place of business for Local 11-6 is 7750 Olive Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63130. The telephone number for Local 11-6 is (314) 721-8448, and its fax number is (314) 721-8789. Local 11-6's electronic mail address is gasworkerslocal@sbcglobal.net.
4. Employees represented by Local 11-6 install, inspect, read, test and change meters at the residences of Laclede's customers.

5. On or about July 15, 2005, Laclede changed its means of changing meters at customers' residences. Prior to that date, when changing a meter, Laclede turned off the gas to the house, changed the meter, restarted the gas (which included verifying that the pilot was lit), checked the meter for leaks and tested the appliances for safe and effective operation.

6. Since on or about July 15, 2005, Laclede requires that, when changing a meter, an employee no longer turns off the gas to the house. Instead, Laclede requires that the employee place the residence on an auxiliary gas tank using a "Grunsky bag," then works inside the bag without visual inspection to remove and replace the gas meter, and then re-transfers the power supply from the auxiliary tank to Laclede's system through the new meter. In the process, the Laclede employee no longer verifies that the pilot is lit or tests appliances for safe and effective operation.

7. By no longer verifying the pilot is lit or testing appliances, Laclede is significantly reducing the likelihood that one of its gas workers will become aware of a potential hazard and prevent an explosion that could damage or destroy the residence and could injure or kill residents or the employee. In the past, verification of pilot status and testing appliances following a meter change has resulted in awareness and prevention of such hazards.

8. Local 11-6 has had conversations with Laclede regarding this matter, to no avail.

9. The Missouri Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over this case pursuant to R.S.Mo. §386.250(1) and (5), which establishes its jurisdiction over public utility commissions and all persons or entities engaged in the manufacture, sale or distribution of gas within the State, and to R.S.Mo. §386.390.1, which allows the Commission to hear complaints brought by any person based upon an action by a public utility.

10. The Missouri legislature has expressly found that gas service is an essential, but "potentially dangerous," commodity in today's society. R.S.Mo. §393.297.4.

11. Pursuant to R.S.Mo. §393.130, Laclede is required to provide "safe and adequate" service. The unilateral change in method for replacing meters significantly impairs Laclede's ability to provide safe and adequate service.

12. Pursuant to R.S.Mo. §393.140(2), the Commission is empowered to investigate the "methods employed . . . in . . . distributing and supplying gas. . . and to order such reasonable improvements as will best promote the public interest, preserve the public health and protect those using such gas, . . . and those employed in the distribution thereof."

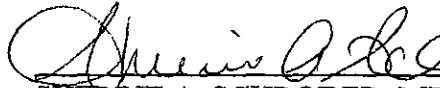
13. Pursuant to R.S.Mo. §386.310.1, the Commission may require Laclede to operate "in such manner as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, customers, and the public. . . and to require the performance of any . . . act which the health or safety of its employees, customers or the public may demand."

14. Local 11-6 hereby requests that the Commission order Laclede to cease use of the Grunsky bag in the manner described herein and to reinstitute a visual inspection of the pilot status and physical testing of appliances following a meter change in the interests of public health and protection and the health and protection of Laclede employees who are represented by Local 11-6.

15. As a labor organization, Local 11-6 is an unincorporated association. It is apparently not the type of association to which 4 CSR 240-2.070(5)(G) is directed. Since it does not appear to be the intent of that regulatory subsection for Local 11-6 to file a list of all of its members, Local 11-6 hereby respectfully requests a waiver of complying with said requirement.

Should the Commission determine that 4 CSR 240-2.070(5)(G) applies to Local 11-6,
Complainant will tender the required list immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



SHERRIE A. SCHRODER, MBN 40949
DIEKEMPER, HAMMOND, SHINNERS,
TURCOTTE AND LARREW, P.C.
7730 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 727-1015 (Telephone)
(314) 727-6804 (Fax)
saschroder@dhstl.com (E-mail)

Attorneys for United Steelworkers of America
Local No. 11-6, AFL-CIO

Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing was sent by U.S. Mail, this
January 27, 2006, postage pre-paid to:

Secretary of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Michael C. Pendergast
720 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

