

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Filing)	
of Revised Tariffs to Increase its Annual)	<u>File No. GR-2013-0171</u>
Revenues for Natural Gas)	Tariff No. YG-2013-0292

**ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SUSPENDING TARIFF,
SETTING HEARINGS, AND DIRECTING FILINGS**

Issue Date: December 27, 2012

Effective Date: December 27, 2012

On December 21, 2012, Laclede Gas Company submitted a tariff designed to implement a general rate increase for gas service. Laclede states that the proposed service rates are designed to increase its gross annual gas revenues by approximately \$58.4 million. With the exception of two tariff pages that have an effective date of July 8, 2013, the proposed tariff has an effective date of January 21, 2013.

The Commission's Authority to Suspend Proposed Tariffs:

Section 393.150 RSMo 2000, authorizes the Commission to suspend the effective date of a proposed tariff for 120 days, plus an additional six months to allow for a hearing. Accordingly, in order to determine if Laclede's proposed tariff is just, reasonable, and in the public interest, the Commission will suspend the tariff for 120 days beyond its proposed effective date. Further, because a hearing cannot be concluded within 120 days, the Commission will suspend the tariff for an additional six months.

Test Year, True-up and Local Public Hearing Recommendations:

In support of its proposed rates, Laclede used a historical test year ending September 30, 2012, to be updated for known and measurable changes through July 31, 2012. To quickly resolve test year and update questions, the Commission will require the

other parties to state their positions regarding Laclede's proposed test year and update period.

In addition to test year and update period recommendations, the Commission will direct the parties to file recommendations regarding the scheduling of local public hearings. Any party recommending local public hearings shall also offer recommendations regarding the number, date, time and location of those hearings.

Hearing Dates, Customers Notice, and Prehearing Conference:

The Commission will schedule an evidentiary hearing in this order and will reserve dates for a true-up hearing. By establishing the hearing dates now, the Commission will ensure that this matter is heard as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, the early establishment of the hearing dates will allow ample time for notice to be sent to customers. The Commission will also set an early prehearing conference and require the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule. Staff will have primary responsibility for preparing the proposed procedural schedule, but should coordinate the proposed schedule with the other parties as much as possible.

Notice and Intervention:

The Commission's Date Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of the counties in Laclede's service area, as well as upon the governing bodies of cities not within a county. Additionally, the Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the media serving Laclede's service area and to the members of the General Assembly representing those areas. The Commission will require that applications to intervene be filed within 18 days from the date of this order.

This is a contested case and the ethical restrictions regarding ex parte and extra-record communications imposed by Commission rule 4 CSR 240-4.020 apply.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. With the exception of two tariff pages discussed in ordered paragraph 4, the tariff submitted under Tariff File No. YG-2013-0292, on December 21, 2012, by Laclede Gas Company for the purpose of increasing rates for gas service is suspended for 120 days from January 21, 2013 to May 21, 2013.

2. The tariff pages suspended for 120 days in ordered paragraph 1, is suspended an additional six month beyond May 21, 2013 to November 21, 2013.

3. The specific tariff sheets suspended are:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5

- Consolidated Ninth Revised Sheet No. 1-a, Cancelling Consolidated Eighth Revised Sheet No. 1-a
- Consolidated Eighteenth Revised Sheet No. 2, Cancelling Consolidated Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 2
- Consolidated Fourteenth Revised Sheet No. 3, Cancelling Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 3
- Consolidated Fourth Revised Sheet No. 3-b, Cancelling Consolidated Third Revised Sheet No. 3-b
- Consolidated Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 4, Cancelling Consolidated Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 4
- Consolidated Sixth Revised Sheet No. 4-a, Cancelling Consolidated Fifth Revised Sheet No. 4-a
- Consolidated Eighteenth Revised Sheet No. 5, Cancelling Consolidated Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 5
- Consolidated Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 7, Cancelling Consolidated Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 7
- Consolidated Nineteenth Revised Sheet No. 8, Cancelling Consolidated Eighteenth Revised Sheet No. 8
- Consolidated Second Revised Sheet No. 8-a, Cancelling Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. 8-a
- Consolidated Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 9, Cancelling Consolidated Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 9
- Consolidated Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 11, Cancelling Consolidated Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 11
- Consolidated Original Sheet No. 11-a, Cancelling All Previous Schedules

Consolidated Original Sheet No. 11-b, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Original Sheet No. 11-c, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Twentieth Revised Sheet No. 12, Cancelling Consolidated
Nineteenth Revised Sheet No. 12
Consolidated Sixth Revised Sheet No. 18-a, Cancelling Consolidated Fifth
Revised Sheet No. 18-a
Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. 28-i, Cancelling Consolidated Original
Sheet No. 28-i
Consolidated Two Hundred and Nineteenth Revised Sheet No. 29, Cancelling
Consolidated Two Hundred and Eighteenth Revised Sheet No. 29
Consolidated Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 34, Cancelling Consolidated Twelfth
Revised Sheet No. 34
Consolidated Eighth Revised Sheet No. 35, Cancelling Consolidated Seventh
Revised Sheet No. 35
Consolidated Original Sheet No. 46, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Original Sheet No. 46-a, Cancelling All previous Schedules
Consolidated Original Sheet No. 47, Cancelling All previous Schedules
Consolidated Eleventh Revised Sheet No. R-2, Cancelling Consolidated Tenth
Revised Sheet No. R-2
Consolidated Sixth Revised Sheet No. R-5-a, Cancelling Consolidated Fifth
Revised Sheet No. R-5-a
Consolidated Original Sheet No. R-11-a, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Original Sheet No. R-11-b, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Second Revised Sheet No. R-27, Cancelling Consolidated First
Revised Sheet No. R-27
Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. R-28, Cancelling Consolidated Original
Sheet No. R-28
Consolidated Fourth Revised Sheet No. R-37, Cancelling Consolidated Third
Revised Sheet No. R-37
Consolidated Original Sheet No. R-37-a, Cancelling All Previous Schedules
Consolidated Second Revised Sheet No. R-38, Cancelling Consolidated First
Revised Sheet No. R-38
Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. R-44-a, Cancelling Consolidated Original
Revised Sheet No. R-44-a

4. Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. R-39, Cancelling Consolidated Original
Sheet No. R-39 and Consolidated First Revised Sheet No. R-40, Cancelling Original Sheet
No. R-40, are suspended from July 8, 2013 to November 21, 2013.

5. An early prehearing conference shall be held on January 28, 2013 at
10:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street,
Jefferson City, Missouri.

6. The parties shall file a proposed procedure schedule on or before February 4, 2013. Staff shall have the primary responsibility for preparing and filing the proposed procedural schedule. At the same time, the parties shall file a pleading either indicating concurrence with Laclede's recommended test year and update period, or recommending alternatives to that test year and update period.

7. The parties shall file recommendations as to the times, date and locations for local public hearing on or before February 4, 2013.

8. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for August 1-16, 2013, beginning each weekday at 8:30 a.m. August 29 -30, 2013, are reserved for a true-up hearing, if such a hearing is ordered. The evidentiary hearing will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

9. Laclede Gas Company shall notify each affected customer of the scheduled hearing. The form and time of the notice shall be agreed upon by the parties and shall be filed for the Commission's approval no later than February 4, 2013.

10. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county within Laclede Gas Company's service areas, and upon the corresponding governing body for cities not within a county.

11. The Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing Laclede Gas Company's service area and to the news media serving therein.

12. All hearings in this case will be held in a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in any hearing, please call the Missouri Public Service

Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

13. Any applications to intervene shall be filed no later than January 14, 2013, with:

Shelley Brueggemann, Acting Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

14. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Shelley Brueggemann
Acting Secretary

(S E A L)

Kennard L. Jones, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 27th day of December, 2012.