

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Southern)
Union Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy,)
The Laclede Group, Inc., and Laclede Gas)
Company for an Order Authorizing the Sale,) **File No. GM-2013-0254**
Transfer, and Assignment of Certain Assets and)
Liabilities from Southern Union Company to)
Laclede Gas Company and, in Connection)
Therewith, Certain other Related Transactions)

**ORDER GRANTING THE APPLICATION TO INTERVENE OUT OF TIME
OF THE MISSOURI INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSUMERS**

Issue Date: May 22, 2013

Effective Date: May 22, 2013

On January 14, 2013, Southern Union Company, d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy, The Laclede Group, Inc., and Laclede Gas Company (Joint Applicants), filed an application asking the Commission to approve a sale in which Laclede Gas Company would acquire the entire franchise, works, and system of Southern Union’s Missouri Gas Energy operating division. The Commission provided notice of that filing and established February 13 as the deadline for interested parties to apply to intervene.

On May 21, the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers (MIEC) applied to intervene. MIEC is a Missouri corporation whose members are large industrial customers of Laclede Gas Company. As the representative of large industrial customers, MIEC contends it has an interest in this case different from the interest of the general public. MIEC did not apply to intervene within the time allowed but asks leave to intervene out of time. MIEC explains that as a party to Laclede Gas Company’s current rate case it planned to address certain issues related to the proposed merger. Since the parties to the rate case may propose a

settlement that would eliminate the need for a hearing, Laclede asks leave to intervene in this case so those issues may be addressed without blocking a potential settlement of the rate case. MIEC asks the Commission to expedite its approval of its application to intervene and represents that Laclede does not oppose the application to intervene.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4) allows the Commission to grant an application to intervene if the proposed intervenor has an interest that is different from that of the general public, and that may be adversely affected by a final order arising from this case. The Commission finds that MIEC's interest warrants intervention. Nevertheless, since MIEC filed its application to intervene after the established intervention deadline, MIEC's intervention is only proper if the Commission finds good cause for that late intervention under Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(10).

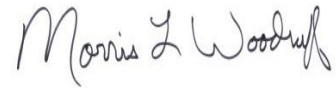
Although several months have passed since the intervention deadline, no procedural schedule has yet been established as the parties have been struggling with the interplay between this case and Laclede Gas Company's rate case. As a result, MIEC's late intervention will not disrupt these proceedings. Furthermore, allowing MIEC to intervene in this case may encourage a settlement of the rate case. Therefore, the Commission finds good cause for MIEC to late-file its application to intervene, and will grant that application.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Application of the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers to Intervene Out of Time is granted.

2. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'L'.

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 22nd day of May, 2013.