

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's  
Tariff to Increase Its Annual Revenues for  
Natural Gas Service

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**File No. GR-2010-0171**  
Tariff No. YG-2010-0376

## **ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DIRECTING NOTICE**

Issue Date: February 23, 2010

Effective Date: February 23, 2010

On December 4, 2009, Laclede Gas Company submitted a tariff designed to implement a general rate increase for natural gas service. In its December 10 order suspending that tariff, the Commission directed the parties to file recommendations regarding the times, dates, and locations for local public hearings. The parties were also ordered to file the proposed language to be included in the notice that will be given to inform the public of those local public hearings.

On January 21, 2010, Laclede, acting on behalf of all the parties, filed a recommendation asking the Commission to schedule seven local public hearings in various locations around Laclede's service territory. That pleading also included proposed language, agreed upon by the parties, to be included in the notice given to Laclede's customers regarding the local public hearings and the evidentiary hearing. Subsequently, on February 4, Public Counsel filed a motion asking the Commission to slightly modify the customer notice. On February 16, Laclede filed a notice indicating all parties have now agreed upon modified customer notice language that was attached to Laclede's pleading.

The Commission will schedule local public hearings at locations around Laclede's service area. The agreed upon notice language is acceptable and the Commission will order Laclede to provide notice of the hearings to its customers.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Monday, May 24, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Fox C-6 School District, Roy Wilde Conference Center, 849 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, Missouri 63010.

2. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at St. Charles R-6 School District, 400 North 6<sup>th</sup> St., St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

3. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Harris-Stowe State University, Emerson Performance Building – Bank of America Theater, 3026 Laclede, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

4. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Thursday, May 27, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Farmington High School, 1 Black Knight Dr., Farmington, Missouri 63640.

5. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, beginning at 12:00 Noon, at University of Missouri – St. Louis, Millennium Center, One University Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63121

6. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at St. Louis Community College – Meramec Campus, Business Administration Building, Room 105, 11333 Big Bend Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63122

7. The Commission shall hold a local public hearing on Wednesday, June 2, 2010, beginning at 12:00 Noon, at St. Louis County Library – Thornhill Branch Auditorium, 12863 Willowick Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63146.

8. No later than ten days before the local public hearings, Laclede Gas Company shall provide individual notice to each of its gas customers including the notice as set out below.

### **NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING PROPOSED RATE INCREASE**

In December 2009, Laclede Gas Company asked the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to approve an increase in its natural gas service rates of approximately \$60.7 million, of which approximately \$8.1 million is already being recovered in rates through Laclede's Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS), resulting in a net increase of \$52.6 million. For the average residential customer the proposed increase would be approximately \$5.59 per month. Laclede also proposes to implement a Customer Usage Adjustment (CUA) that would apply a credit or surcharge to residential and commercial customers' bills when customer usage is higher or lower than the usage levels used to establish rates. The impact of the CUA for residential customers is expected to be no more than ½ of 1% of a customer's total bill.

The PSC will conduct an investigation and hold hearings to determine if the proposed rates are just and reasonable. The PSC has the authority to approve rates that are lower than Laclede's request depending on the results of its investigation and hearing.

The PSC will hold public hearings in which customers will have an opportunity to present comments to the PSC commissioners about the rate increase request. Public comment hearings have been set before the PSC as follows:

- Monday, May 24, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Fox C-6 School District, Roy Wilde Conference Center, 849 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, Missouri 63010.
- Tuesday, May 25, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at St. Charles R-6 School District, 400 North 6<sup>th</sup> St., St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

- Wednesday, May 26, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Harris-Stowe State University, Emerson Performance Building – Bank of America Theater, 3026 Laclede, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.
- Thursday, May 27, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Farmington High School, 1 Black Knight Dr., Farmington, Missouri 63640.
- Tuesday, June 1, 2010, beginning at 12:00 Noon, at University of Missouri – St. Louis, Millennium Center, One University Blvd., St. Louis Missouri 63121
- Tuesday, June 1, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at St. Louis Community College – Meramec Campus, Business Administration Building, Room 105, 11333 Big Bend Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63122
- Wednesday, June 2, 2010, beginning at 12:00 Noon, at St. Louis County Library – Thornhill Branch Auditorium, 12863 Willowick Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63146.

**\*A question-and-answer session will be held one-half hour before the beginning of each hearing.**

If you are unable to attend a live public hearing and wish to make written comments or secure additional information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (573) 751-4857, email [opcservice@ded.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@ded.mo.gov) or the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 800-392-4211, email [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov).

Comments may also be registered in the case using the Commission's electronic filing system at <https://www.efis.psc.mo.gov/mpsc/Comments.html>. If submitting comments electronically, please reference Case Number GR-2010-0171.

The Commission will also conduct an evidentiary hearing at its offices in Jefferson City from August 2 through 6, and from August 9 through 13, 2010, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The hearings and local public hearings will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

9. The local public hearings shall be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional

accommodation to participate in the hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearings.

10. The Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county in Laclede Gas Company's service area, as well as upon the governing body for the City of St. Louis.

11. The Public Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall send a copy of this order to members of the General Assembly and to the media that serve Laclede Gas Company's service area.

12. Laclede Gas Company shall place advertisements in the newspapers serving its service territory. The advertisements shall contain the information from the customer notice relevant to the customers in the newspaper's circulation area.

13. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2010.