

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

Issue Date: December 10, 2009

Effective Date: December 10, 2009

Procedural History

On December 4, 2009, Laclede Gas Company submitted a tariff designed to implement a general rate increase for natural gas service. Laclede indicates the new natural gas service rates are designed to provide a net increase of \$52.6 million in its base distribution rates. The submitted tariff carries a January 4, 2010 effective date.

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 on the matter. So that it will have sufficient time to study the effect of Laclede's general rate increase tariff and to determine if it is just, reasonable, and in the public interest, the Commission will suspend that tariff for a period of 120 days beyond the requested effective date. Furthermore, because a hearing on the tariff cannot be concluded within 120 days, the tariff will be suspended for an additional six months.

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

Laclede used a historical test year ending September 30, 2009, to be updated for known and measurable changes through March 31, 2010, or, in certain instances, July 31, 2010, for purposes of its rate case filing. To quickly resolve test year and true-up questions, the Commission will require the other parties to promptly state their positions regarding Laclede's test year proposal, as well as the need for a true-up.

In addition to test year and true-up 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, Customer 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 Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commissions of the counties in Laclede's service area, as well as upon the governing body for the City of St. Louis. In addition, 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 that area. The Commission will establish a date by which proper persons may file an application to intervene.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The tariff submitted under Tariff File No. YG-2010-0376, on December 4, 2009, by Laclede Gas Company, for the purpose of increasing rates for natural gas service, is suspended for 120 days, from January 4, 2010, to May 4, 2010.
2. The tariff suspended for 120 days in ordered paragraph 1, is suspended an additional six months beyond May 4, 2010, to November 4, 2010.
3. The specific tariff sheets suspended are:

**Laclede Gas Company
P.S.C. MO No. 5, Consolidated**

Ninth Revised Sheet No. 1-a, Cancelling Eighth Revised Sheet No. 1-a
Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 2, Canceling Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 2
Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 3, Canceling Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 3
Third Revised Sheet No. 3-a, Canceling Second Revised Sheet No. 3-a
Third Revised Sheet No. 3-b, Canceling Second Revised Sheet No. 3-b
Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 4, Canceling Fifteenth Revised Sheet No. 4
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 4-a, Canceling Fourth Revised Sheet No. 4-a
Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 5, Canceling Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 5
Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 7, Canceling Fifteenth Revised Sheet No. 7
Eighteenth Revised Sheet No. 8, Canceling Seventeenth Revised Sheet No. 8
Sixteenth Revised Sheet No. 9, Canceling Fifteenth Revised Sheet No. 9
Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 11, Canceling Tenth Revised Sheet No. 11
Fourteenth Revised Sheet No. 12, Canceling Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 12
Fifth Revised Sheet No. 18-a, Canceling Fourth Revised Sheet No. 18-a
Third Revised Sheet No. 28-d, Canceling Second Revised Sheet No. 28-d
First Revised Sheet No. 28-h, Canceling Original Sheet No. 28-h
Two Hundred and Fifteenth Revised Sheet No. 29, Canceling Two Hundred and
Fourteenth Revised Sheet No. 29
Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 34, Canceling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 34
Seventh Revised Sheet No. 35, Canceling Sixth Revised Sheet No. 35
Original Sheet No. 46, Canceling All Previous Schedules
Original Sheet No. 47, Canceling All Previous Schedules
Original Sheet No. R-2-a, Canceling All Previous Schedules
Third Revised Sheet No. R-5-c, Canceling Second Revised Sheet No. R-5-c

Fourth Revised Sheet No. R-13, Canceling Third Revised Sheet No. R-13

4. Any proper person or entity wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than December 30, 2009, with:

Steven C. Reed, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

5. Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, and any persons or entities requesting intervention shall file, on or before January 11, 2010, a pleading either indicating concurrence in Laclede's recommended test year or recommending alternatives to that test year.

6. Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, Laclede, and any intervenors shall file, on or before January 11, 2010, a recommendation concerning a true-up.

7. An early prehearing conference shall be held on January 14, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. The early prehearing conference will be held in Room 305 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

8. The parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule on or before January 21, 2010. Staff shall have the primary responsibility for preparing and filing the proposed procedural schedule.

9. The parties shall file recommendations as to the times, dates and locations for local public hearings regarding the proposed rate increase on or before January 21, 2010.

10. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for July 26 through 30, and August 2 through 6, 2010, beginning each day at 8:30 a.m. August 26 and 27, 2010, 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.

11. Laclede Gas Company shall notify each affected customer of the scheduled hearings. 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 January 21, 2010.

12. The Commission's Data Center shall serve a copy of this order upon the county commission of each county within Laclede's service area, and upon the corresponding governing body for the City of St. Louis.

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

14. 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 800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

15. 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
under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 10th day of December, 2009.