

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Tariff     )  
to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules.         )     **Case No. GR-2005-0284**

**ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**AND SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: August 3, 2005

Effective Date: August 3, 2005

On July 25, 2005, Laclede Gas Company, with the consent of the other parties, filed its recommendation for local public hearings and the notice of those hearings. The Commission will set local public hearings in this matter and will direct Laclede to publicize the hearings in the manner described in its pleading. The Commission will also direct its Data Center and Public Information Officer to provide notice of the hearings as set out below.

On August 1, 2005, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, on behalf of all the parties, filed a motion to suspend a portion of the procedural schedule pending the filing of a settlement agreement. The parties stated that they intend for the Commission to conduct the local public hearings previously requested. The parties further state that they expect to file a unanimous settlement agreement on or before August 26, 2005. The Commission will grant the parties' request to suspend the portion of the procedural schedule requiring the filing of Direct Testimony. Because it is not practical to expect that Rebuttal Testimony can be filed under the current procedural schedule, the Commission will also suspend that portion of the procedural schedule.

## **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That a Local Public Hearing shall be had in this matter on August 24, 2005, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., or until all persons present have had an opportunity to voice their concerns, whichever is sooner, at the Joseph P. Cosand Center, 5th Floor Boardroom, 300 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102.

2. That a second Local Public Hearing shall be had in this matter on August 24, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., or until all persons present have had an opportunity to voice their concerns, whichever is sooner, at the Cooperating School Districts, Large Conference Room, 1460 Craig Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63146.

3. That Laclede Gas Company shall publicize the hearings by placing: (a) an advertisement of not less than one-eighth of a page to run in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper twice during the three weeks prior to the public hearings; (b) an advertisement of not less than one-eighth of a page to run in the St. Louis American newspaper twice during the three weeks prior to the public hearings; (c) an advertisement of not less than one-eighth of a page to run twice in at least three suburban weekly newspapers in Laclede's service territory during the three weeks prior to the public hearings; and (d) a public service announcement on KMOX radio and on one other local radio station three to seven days before the local public hearings.

4. That no later than August 23, 2005, Laclede Gas Company shall file a pleading outlining how it has complied with the ordered notice.

5. That the advertisements shall include the following information:

### **NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Laclede Gas Company has filed revised tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) which would increase the

Company's Missouri jurisdictional annual gross revenues. The proposal would increase rates for the average residential customer.

A local public hearing will be held on August 24, 2005, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. or until all persons present have had an opportunity to speak, whichever is sooner. The hearing will be held at the Joseph P. Cosand Center, 5th Floor Boardroom, 300 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102. There will be an informal question and answer session from 11:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., at which time formal testimony will be taken.

A second local public hearing will be held on August 24, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. or until all persons present have had an opportunity to speak, whichever is sooner. The hearing will be held at the Cooperating School Districts, Large Conference Room, 1460 Craig Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63146. There will be an informal question and answer session from 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at which time formal testimony will be taken.

Additionally, if you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone number (573) 751-4857.

6. That the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen and upon the county commission of each county in Laclede Gas Company's service area.

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

8. That the Joint Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule filed on August 1, 2005, is granted.

9. That the Direct Testimony and Rebuttal Testimony filing dates are suspended until further order of the Commission.

10. That this order shall become effective on August 3, 2005.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law  
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant  
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 3rd day of August, 2005.