

BEFORE THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company)
Missouri Gas Energy's Purchased Gas)
Adjustment Tariff Filing)
)

Case No. GR-2014-0324

FILED²

MAR 21 2017

Missouri Public
Service Commission

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION
RESPONSE

Comes Now the Missouri School Boards' Association (hereinafter "MSBA"), by and through counsel, RSBIII, LLC, Richard S. Brownlee, III, and in response to Commission Staff's response of March 17, 2017 to the Commission's Order of March 13, 2017 states:

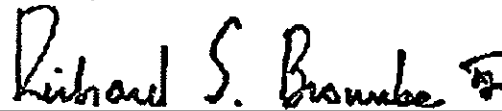
1. Prior to the filing of the Partial Stipulation on February 22, 2017, MSBA, nor any member school, nor any other interested customer class, had any reason to intervene in any ACA case because an ACA case's purpose is not to increase tariff rates to Transportation Customers, including MSBA member schools. ACA cases are the annual mechanism to reconcile gas corporations' PGA gas costs for Sales Customers to gas collections.
2. Staff is correct that on May 17, 2016, MGE, Staff, and MSBA representatives met at the offices of the Commission to discuss the STP balancing issue. No vital agreement was reached at this meeting, and there was specifically no agreement to any tariff rate increase.
3. Nearly ten months later, the subject Partial Stipulation with a tariff rate increase of two hundred percent (200%) to the Balancing Charge was filed with the Commission without supporting signature of MSBA or notice of the automatic tariff rate increase to MSBA or to its bill-paying member schools. When it received actual notice of the terms of the partial stipulation, MSBA then promptly attempted to intervene in the ACA case. Staff's response is oddly deficient in its reliance on technical intervention standards, yet makes no response to the two hundred percent (200%) rate increase placed on Missouri schools.
4. With one exception, MSBA supports the Stipulation. The Stipulation provides for issues related to a 2014 ACA proceeding be resolved in MGE's next full rate case, which is scheduled to be filed with the Commission within the next three weeks. However, the Stipulation provides for an automatic increase in charges to MSBA school program participants without notice to or due process for school customers of MGE, without any cost support, and without an opportunity for affected patricides to challenge the proposed increase.
5. The proposed stipulation creates a significant due process violation and further is an unlawful attempt at ratemaking contrary to Missouri statutory procedures.

6. MSBA submits that MGE's general rate case, to be filed within three (3) weeks, is the proper case to hear issues regarding increases in tariff rates, including to Transportation Customers.

WHEREFORE, the Missouri School Boards' Association requests that the Commission either: (a) approve the Stipulation without a rate increase until such may be justified in MGE's next rate case; or (b) issue an order on the Commission's own volition which includes the same requirements as the proposed Stipulation, except without an automatic increase and with a provision that these matters be addressed in MGE's next rate case; and (c) issue an order approving the intervention request of the Missouri School Boards' Association; and (d) any other order consistent with the relief set forth in this pleading;.

Respectfully submitted,

RSBIII, LLC



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all parties on the official service list for this case on this 21st day of March, 2017.

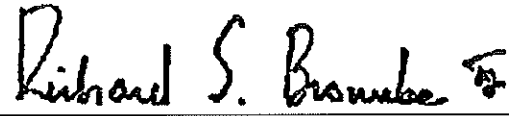
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Handwritten signature of Richard S. Brownlee III in black ink, featuring a stylized 'R' and 'B' and a small flourish at the end.

Richard S. Brownlee III, Attorney