

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

Craig A. Smith,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>File No. GC-2015-0147</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

**ORDER GIVING NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE, DIRECTING RESPONDENT
TO FILE A RESPONSE, AND DIRECTING STAFF INVESTIGATION**

Issue Date: December 15, 2014

Effective Date: December 15, 2014

On December 10, 2014, Craig Smith ("Complainant") filed a complaint with the Missouri Public Service Commission against Laclede Gas Company ("Respondent"). A copy of the complaint accompanies this notice. This is a contested case¹ pursuant to Section 386.390, RSMo 2000. Since the Complainant alleges an amount in dispute of less than \$3,000, this case will proceed under the small formal complaint process.²

The Commission will set a deadline for Respondent to file an answer. In the alternative, the Respondent may file a written request that the complaint be referred to a neutral third-party mediator for voluntary mediation of the complaint. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, the 30-day time period shall be tolled while the Commission ascertains whether or not the Complainant is also willing to submit to voluntary mediation. If Complainant agrees to mediation, the time period within which an answer is due shall be

¹ A "[c]ontested case' means a proceeding before an agency in which legal rights, duties or privileges of specific parties are required by law to be determined after hearing." Section 536.010.4, RSMo Cum.Supp. 2013.

² 4 CSR 240-2.070(15).

suspended pending the resolution of the mediation process. Additional information regarding the mediation process is enclosed. If Complainant declines the opportunity to seek mediation, Respondent will be notified in writing that the tolling has ceased and will also be notified of the date by which an answer or notice of satisfaction must be filed. That period will usually be the remainder of the original 30-day period.

As required by Section 536.067(2)(f), RSMo 2000, the Commission informs the parties that the Commission's provisions governing procedures before the Commission, including provisions relating to discovery, are found at Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.090. The Commission will also set a deadline for its Staff to complete an investigation and file a report.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Data Center shall send, by certified mail, a copy of this notice and order and a copy of the complaint to Laclede Gas Company at:

ATTN: Legal Department
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

2. Laclede Gas Company shall file an answer to this complaint or request for mediation no later than January 14, 2015, and serve a copy upon the counsel for Complainant. All pleadings shall be filed in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System.

3. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall investigate this complaint and file a report with the Commission no later than January 28, 2015.

4. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Kim S. Burton, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 15th day of December, 2014.