

**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)	Case No. GR-2010-0171
Natural Gas Service.)	

**PUBLIC COUNSEL'S MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO BE EXCUSED FROM HEARING**

COMES NOW the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel and for its Motion for Leave to be Excused from Hearing states:

1. On June 22, 2010, the Commission scheduled an oral argument for July 9, 2010 to hear argument on the Staff's Motion to Add Parties. On July 1, 2010, the Commission also scheduled an evidentiary hearing regarding the same Staff Motion.
2. OPC concurs with the Staff position that adding Laclede's parent company and affiliates as parties to this case is necessary to investigate the controversial relationship between the regulated company and its unregulated affiliates.
3. Unfortunately, Counsel for Public Counsel is unavailable on July 9, 2010 to attend the evidentiary hearing and oral argument due to a prior commitment.
4. For these reasons, Public Counsel requests leave to be excused from attending the July 9, 2010 evidentiary hearing and oral argument.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully moves for leave to be excused from participating in the July 9, 2010 evidentiary hearing and oral argument.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 2nd day of July 2010:

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