

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office in  
Jefferson City on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
December 2011.

|  |   |                         |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| In the Matter of                       | ) |                         |
| Laclede Gas Company's                  | ) | File No. GR-2010-0171   |
| Tariff to Increase Its Annual Revenues | ) | Tariff No. YG-2012-0252 |
| for Natural Gas Service                | ) |                         |

**ORDER APPROVING TARIFF WITH EXPEDITED EFFECTIVE DATE**

Issue Date: December 7, 2011

Effective Date: December 9, 2011

The Missouri Public Service Commission is granting the *Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days' Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment* ("motion").

**1. Procedure**

Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") filed a tariff sheet with the motion<sup>1</sup> on behalf of Laclede, Staff, and the Office of Public Counsel. Laclede states that each party to the stipulations and agreements in this file does not object to the tariff sheet, and that stakeholders are in agreement. No hearing is necessary before approving the tariff sheet,<sup>2</sup> so this action is not a contested case, and the Commission need not separately state its findings of fact.

**2. Tariff**

The tariff targets customers whose household income is less than or equal to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level ("eligible customers"). The tariff will better coordinate energy assistance programs and reallocate up to \$150,000 of Laclede's existing Low-Income

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<sup>1</sup> On December 1, 2011, with a substitute filed later that day.

<sup>2</sup> Section 393.150.1, RSMo 2000.

Energy Affordability Program (Low-Income Program). The tariff will help eligible customers this winter heating season to maintain or restore their utility service.

To restore or maintain service, an eligible customer currently must pay 80% of such customer's arrearage. Under the tariff, if a participating Community Action Agency pays or pledges 50% of the arrearages, that eligible customer will receive 30% of the arrearages as a bill credit. The credit will not exceed \$500 per customer or \$1,000 for a registered elderly or disabled customer. Customers participating in the program will remain eligible for the Bill Payment Assistance component of the Low Income Program; and will remain subject to the rights and obligations under the Commission's Cold Weather Rule. Any expenditure made by Laclede for the reallocated funds will be treated identically to funds expended on the Low Income Program for recovery purposes.

Therefore, the Commission independently finds and concludes that the tariff sheet supports safe and adequate service at just and reasonable rates, and the Commission will approve the tariff sheet.

### **3. Expedited Treatment and Effective Date**

Laclede also seeks an effective date that is less than 30 days after the Commission gave notice of the tariff; namely, December 9, 2011. The December 9, 2011 will be timely to maintain or restore service to eligible utility customers as the winter heating season progresses, and Laclede filed the tariff sheet as soon as possible after the stakeholders reached agreement. Therefore, the Commission finds good cause for an expedited effective date,<sup>3</sup> and has granted expedited treatment.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Section 393.140(11), RSMo 2000; 4 CSR 240-2.065(2).

<sup>4</sup> 4 CSR 240-2.080(16).

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The tariff sheet assigned Tracking No. YG-2012-0252 is approved. The specific tariff sheet approved is:

**P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated**

Third Revised Sheet No. R-56, cancelling Second Revised Sheet No. R-56.

2. This order shall become effective on December 9, 2011.

3. This file shall close on December 12, 2011.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Gunn, Chm., Davis, Jarrett and  
Kenney, CC., concur.

Jordan, Senior Regulatory Law Judge