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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
Local Public Hearing  
June 17, 2013  
St. Louis, Missouri  
VOLUME 10

IN THE MATTER OF LACLEDE GAS )  
COMPANY'S FILING OF REVISED )  
TARIFFS TO INCREASE IT'S ANNUAL )File No. GR-2013-0171  
REVENUE FOR NATURAL GAS )

Kennard Jones, Presiding Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Stephen Stoll, Commissioner

REPORTED BY:  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S :

2 JUDGE JONES: Case No. GR-20130171. My name is Kennard  
3 Jones. I'm a regulatory law judge over this Laclede rate case.  
4 To my left is commissioner Steve Stoll. Commissioner Stoll, do  
5 you have any comments?

6 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I'd just like to tell you we  
7 appreciate you coming out this evening. There are currently  
8 four commissioners on the Missouri public service commission,  
9 I'm here tonight to represent the commission. If you decide to  
10 testify, the other commissioners will be reading the transcript.  
11 We have a court reporter here to take that transcript, and so  
12 that will all take place.

13 If you would decide to -- you didn't want to make  
14 verbal comments here and you wanted to fill out the form and  
15 send it in, you can do that, and all this will be included in  
16 the record, and again, thanks for coming out on this raining  
17 evening.

18 JUDGE JONES: Okay. No one has signed up to testify.  
19 If you decide to, and you don't have long to make your mind up,  
20 I just want to let you all know that, you'll come over here to  
21 this table I presume. I will swear you in, and after witch  
22 you'll make a statement. After doing so, there may be questions  
23 from myself or Commissioner Stoll to remain at the table, and  
24 then you can go ahead and take your seat. I know there are some  
25 people here from the public, and can I get a show of hands of

1 those who are in the public, two, three, four, five. So we have  
2 five people here. Do any of you all want to make a statement on  
3 the record?

4 MR. WEBBER: I will if I'm the only one.

5 JUDGE JONES: Sure, please come up and have a asset.

6 (Witness sworn)

7 JUDGE JONES: Could you please state and spell your  
8 name for the record court reporter?

9 MR. WEBBER: Charles Webber W-E-B-B-E-R.

10 JUDGE JONES: And Mr. Weber, you may proceed with your  
11 statement.

12 MR. WEBBER: Before I came to this meeting, I did not  
13 know that you had a rate case settlement possibly, and rate  
14 increase that I saw that we received in the mail were pretty  
15 significant in amounts. I was concerned that the amounts were  
16 going to be four, five bucks a month which is way beyond the  
17 cost of living, or CPI. These percentages what we proposed to  
18 be paying were quite high. My thinking is a lot of folks with  
19 the wage stagnation or you know, not their wages aren't going  
20 up, this is a very heavy burden. If the rate increase would say  
21 one percent or two percent, maybe that's okay, but when you  
22 start getting four or five percent at least the numbers were so  
23 large I was concerned that's a big bill increase, how am I going  
24 to pay for that. In today's economy that's difficult.

25 I'm glad they reached a possible conclusion to keep

1 it flat, that's always a very positive thing, but I think also  
2 we need to say as commissioner, your job can also be to look at,  
3 well that's a big increase, can the general public afford that.  
4 What is a route that makes Laclede Gas profitable and pays their  
5 employees a fair wage, but not such that it's so expensive that  
6 a lot of the little guys, we'll say, can't afford the increase.  
7 And sometimes when you're in a commission or a high level, you  
8 know, maybe to you it's more affordable, but for the average  
9 person not so much.

10 So hopefully when you're sitting and deliberating on  
11 those decisions, you count not only the company has that all  
12 their representatives here like the big Wal-Mart's also what the  
13 little guy can be as well, the mass consumer, people who are on  
14 welfare or maybe making minimum wage. Actually I'm a  
15 stockholder so some of those people theoretically work for me, I  
16 own utilities, and I'm willing to take less dividend or flat  
17 dividend, and I'm willing to see the executives of these  
18 companies make the lower salary but not at the expense of the  
19 bottom line workers. I think they should make a fair wage, so I  
20 am understand if you said to Laclede Gas for example, as an  
21 example we're not going to give you as much, I'd be okay with  
22 that personally as a shareholder of the company to receive a  
23 little less money in my pocket so that everyone else, the  
24 average person would pay a less.

25 I also think that our public advocate he needs to be

1 able to get out to the people in a way that demonstrates what  
2 his job is and what his role is and how the people can contact  
3 him as our representative to, you know, say stand up against all  
4 the big businesses. There's nothing wrong with these guys but  
5 they got several representatives, he's just one guy. You need a  
6 fair chance. David and Goliath. So I think he needs to have  
7 that opportunity and the people need to know people can contact  
8 him so that he can make a case in front of you that represents  
9 us, so that the injustice, the scales are balanced. And no one  
10 side is beyond the other.

11 So if you have any questions or additional comments,  
12 we can take care of it.

13 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I will mention he does have a  
14 little help in Jefferson City, I'm sure he would like more.

15 MR. WEBBER: I never knew, this is the first time I've  
16 ever been to a meeting like this. I've seen the little green  
17 sheets we get, the very small print that at Thornhill, we're  
18 going to have a public meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: That's why we have them, it  
20 really is for public will come out and offer their opinions and  
21 say things like you just said. We had a local public hearing in  
22 St. Charles and one person spoke there. We've had other public  
23 hearing where there have been many people speak, not necessarily  
24 in this case, but the Office of Public Counsel and everyone  
25 wants to give the public an opportunity to have their say and

1 for us to hear it and for that to be a part of the record. So  
2 thanks for coming out and expressing that.

3 MR. WEBBER: That's what I have to say, so I hope you  
4 consider that. I don't know if that's something when you're in  
5 your deliberation, do you actually at least balance out the  
6 scale, I don't know?

7 COMMISSIONER STOLL: We're charged with doing that,  
8 yes. We have to, I mean, it's just part of the process.

9 MR. WEBBER: Because we're dependent on you to do  
10 hopefully the right thing.

11 JUDGE JONES: Thank you Mr. Weber. Is there anyone  
12 else here who would like to make a statement on the record? I  
13 don't see a show of hands. With that then, we can go off the  
14 record. This public hearing is concluded. Thank you all for  
15 coming out.

16 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 6:41 p.m.)  
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I N D E X

Witness Name	Page
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E X H I B I T S

Exhibit	Description	Marked	Rec'd
None	Marked		



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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, ANGIE R. KELLY, an Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter (IL CSR# 084-004498) and Missouri Certified Court Reporter (MO CCR# 1010) do hereby certify that the witness Whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition Transcript was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said Witness was taken by me to the best of my ability, and Thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any Of the parties to the action in which this deposition was Taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of Any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto; nor Financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this Action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 20th day of June, 2013.

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Notary Public

<b>A</b>	9:1 <b>Certified</b> 9:2,3 <b>certify</b> 9:4 <b>chance</b> 6:6 <b>charged</b> 7:7 <b>Charles</b> 4:9 6:22 8:4 <b>Chief</b> 1:14 <b>City</b> 2:13,21 6:14 <b>come</b> 3:20 4:5 6:20 <b>coming</b> 3:7,16 7:2,15 <b>comments</b> 3:5 3:14 6:11 <b>commission</b> 1:2 2:17 3:8,9 5:7 <b>commissioner</b> 1:15 3:4,4,6 3:23 5:2 6:13 6:19 7:7 <b>commissioners</b> 3:8,10 <b>companies</b> 5:18 <b>company</b> 2:2 5:11,22 <b>COMPANY'S</b> 1:10 <b>concerned</b> 4:15 4:23 <b>concluded</b> 7:14 7:16 <b>conclusion</b> 4:25 <b>consider</b> 7:4 <b>consumer</b> 5:13 <b>contact</b> 6:2,7 <b>cost</b> 4:17 <b>counsel</b> 2:9 6:24 9:9,12 <b>count</b> 5:11 <b>court</b> 3:11 4:8 9:3 <b>CPI</b> 4:17 <b>CSR</b> 1:20 9:3 <b>currently</b> 3:7	<b>D</b>	9:13 <b>first</b> 6:15 <b>five</b> 4:1,2,16,22 <b>flat</b> 5:1,16 <b>folks</b> 4:18 <b>foregoing</b> 9:5 <b>form</b> 3:14 <b>four</b> 3:8 4:1,16 4:22 <b>front</b> 6:8 <b>further</b> 9:11	<b>I</b>	<b>hereunto</b> 9:15 <b>high</b> 4:18 5:7 <b>hope</b> 7:3 <b>hopefully</b> 5:10 7:10
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