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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
7	Discovery Conference
8	April 19, 2013
9	Jefferson City, Missouri
	Volume 3
10	
11	
12	In the Matter of Laclede Gas )
	Company's Filing of Revised )
13	Tariffs to Increase its Annual ) File No.
	Revenues for Natural Gas ) GR-2013-0171
14	
15	
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17	KENNARD L. JONES, Presiding,
	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
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22	REPORTED BY:
23	KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838
	MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES
24	
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1	APPEARANCES:	
2		
3	RICK ZUCKER, Attorney at Law	
	Laclede Gas Company	
4	720 Olive Street	
	St. Louis, MO 63101	
5	(314)342-0532	
6	FOR: Laclede Gas Company.	
7		
8	MARC D. POSTON, Senior Public Counsel	
	P.O. Box 2230	
9	200 Madison Street, Suite 650	
	Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230	
10	(573)751-4857	
11	FOR: Office of the Public Counsel	
	and the Public.	
12		
	ROBERT S. BERLIN, Senior Counsel	
13	JEFFREY A. KEEVIL, Senior Counsel	
	Missouri Public Service Commission	
14	P.O. Box 360	
	200 Madison Street	
15	Jefferson City, MO 65102	
	(573)751-3234	
16		
	FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public	
17	Service Commission.	
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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(WHEREUPON, the discovery conference	
3	began at 10:02 a.m.)	
4	JUDGE JONES: We're on the record in	
5	Case No. GR-2013-0171, Laclede's request for a rate	
6	increase. This is a discovery conference. It's	
7	about five after ten. Let's take entries of	
8	appearances beginning with Laclede.	
9	MR. ZUCKER: Rick Zucker,	
10	Z-u-c-k-e-r, 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri	
11	63101, here on behalf of Laclede Gas Company.	
12	JUDGE JONES: And Staff.	
13	MR. KEEVIL: Jeff Keevil and Bob	
14	Berlin representing the Staff of the Missouri	
15	Public Service Commission. Our address is	
16	200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.	
17	JUDGE JONES: And for the Office of	
18	Public Counsel.	
19	MR. POSTON: Thank you. Marc Poston	
20	appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel and	
21	the public.	
22	JUDGE JONES: Are there any other	
23	parties present? I don't see anyone.	
24	All right. Let's go ahead and get	
25	started. Well, first let me ask, how did things	

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- work out with the last -- how we resolved things
- 2 from the last discovery conference?
- 3 MR. KEEVIL: Fairly well. You may
- 4 recall, there was a couple of things that were
- 5 further out in the future that Laclede was going to
- 6 provide, one of which was that updated NYTEX study,
- 7 which I think is still out, but I think they said
- 8 the end of this month that was supposed to be made
- 9 available. So we're still waiting for that.
- 10 But I think -- Mr. Sommerer could
- 11 correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe overall, I
- 12 think -- I think everything was received pretty
- 13 much as promised.
- 14 JUDGE JONES: Good. That's
- 15 refreshing.
- MR. ZUCKER: I gave you the inputs
- for the study, and we gave you updated or a new
- 18 study on the field itself, along with everything
- 19 else that we discussed.
- JUDGE JONES: I'm assuming you agree?
- 21 MR. KEEVIL: Yeah. That was the
- 22 agreed, I think. That was the cost/benefit thing
- 23 they agreed to give by a date certain at that
- 24 discovery conference, and they did, I believe,
- 25 yeah. But it's not the NYTEX. It's a separate

Page 97 study from that NYTEX study. 2 JUDGE JONES: And today, from what I 3 understand, it looks like you have a problem with timing? 4 5 MR. KEEVIL: Well, we have two problems. Timing's probably the one that -- the 6 7 problem that applies to most of the data requests. 8 We also have a smaller problem regarding objections to a few of the first group of data reguests where there was some confusion apparently regarding what 10 Laclede was going to provide regard to -- I believe 11 12 their objection was to 200 through 204 and then also to 221 and 223. 13 14 JUDGE JONES: Mr. Zucker, is that 15 correct? 16 MR. ZUCKER: Those are the correct 17 numbers. 18 JUDGE JONES: And just as a precautionary matter, if we start to go into 19 something that's HC, let me know so she can mark it 20 21 right now. 22 MR. ZUCKER: Let me ask my people to if I -- if I start -- if I start saying something 23 that should be HC, raise your hand. 24 25 JUDGE JONES: Well, let's start with

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- 1 the 200 to 204. Is there any reason to deal with
- 2 them individually or can we just deal with that
- 3 group of discovery requests?
- 4 MR. KEEVIL: They're very similar,
- 5 Judge, except for the fact that 200 deals primarily
- 6 with the storage, 201 propane, 202 oil, and 203 and
- 7 204 different types of gas wells, I believe. But
- 8 as far as the information sought, it's very similar
- 9 but just each is regarding those different aspects.
- 10 JUDGE JONES: Okay. And, Mr. Zucker,
- 11 why do you object to giving information about
- 12 those?
- 13 MR. ZUCKER: We objected on the
- 14 grounds of burden, and let me read to you just a
- 15 little sample of one of the DRs. Mr. Keevil did
- 16 attach them for the record. So, for example, DR
- 17 200 asks about underground storage, which is again,
- 18 as I said last month, not really an issue in the
- 19 rate case.
- 20 They want to know the exact -- the
- 21 exact location of all acreage owned or leased for
- 22 purposes of storing natural gas, and with regard to
- 23 all acreage, for each purchase of land identify the
- 24 date when each tract of land was acquired, quantify
- 25 the amount paid for each tract of land and provide

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- 1 the journal entries used to record the purchase of
- 2 the land with amounts and with associated FERC
- 3 account number.
- 4 Now, this land was purchased or
- 5 leased back in the '50s for purposes of underground
- 6 storage, and we didn't see why it was necessary for
- 7 us to try to go back into the 1950s and find out
- 8 all of this information on buying the land and who
- 9 we bought it from and how much we paid for it.
- 10 And so what we did was, we -- you
- 11 know, you had told us last month that we need to
- 12 find a way to get along and work together and get
- 13 the job done, and so we took that to heart, and
- 14 when we saw these questions we said, you know, this
- is a lot of information that doesn't seem to be
- 16 germane. What are they really looking for here?
- 17 And so we contacted the person who
- 18 sent us the DRs, and that person said that they --
- 19 that she really -- they weren't really her DRs and
- 20 she referred us to another Staff person, and we
- 21 then had a conference call with that Staff person,
- 22 which was somewhat productive, but in the end he
- 23 couldn't make decisions regarding compromising
- 24 those DRs, so we were referred to a third party.
- 25 And so then we had another conference

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- 1 call, and on that conference call I thought that we
- 2 made good process, and I thought we got to the
- 3 point where we agreed to give them information that
- 4 would satisfy their needs.
- 5 JUDGE JONES: Information about these
- 6 storage facilities?
- 7 MR. ZUCKER: Right. Well, some
- 8 information about this, and then really what they
- 9 were looking for was they wanted to establish some
- 10 background facts.
- 11 So what we said to them was, we will
- 12 -- why don't we just admit to these background
- 13 facts? We'll give you a statement, an affidavit
- 14 laying out these background facts so that we all
- 15 agree what the -- so that we don't have to go
- 16 through this process of searching for old
- 17 information when really what you're looking for is
- 18 just to establish what the -- what the facts are.
- 19 And so we did that. We gave them
- 20 that, and we've given them other information. And
- 21 so I'm not sure why we're here on this particular
- 22 issue.
- JUDGE JONES: And, Mr. Keevil, do you
- 24 disagree with anything that was just said?
- MR. KEEVIL: I don't know about the

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- 1 number of conference calls, but the -- what was
- 2 provided, I agree they provided an affidavit in
- 3 response to 202.
- 4 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Wait. Stop
- 5 right there. So when you proposed a statement of
- facts, someone agreed to that, which is why you
- 7 provided the statement?
- 8 MR. ZUCKER: Right.
- 9 MR. KEEVIL: Like I said initially,
- 10 Judge, apparently there was some confusion
- 11 regarding what they were going to provide and what
- 12 it contained. What we were -- there was a
- 13 conference call -- I believe I mentioned in my
- 14 thing I filed Tuesday, there was a conference call
- 15 last Wednesday where Laclede indicated they'd
- 16 provide certain information, one of which was this
- 17 affidavit Mr. Zucker referred to.
- 18 And when we received the affidavit,
- 19 the affidavit only addresses the oil wells in 202.
- 20 The other stuff that was provided in regard to 202
- 21 was not -- did not contain the detail that we had
- 22 expected it to contain regarding the location of
- 23 the various wells and the acreage and all this
- 24 other stuff.
- 25 And I think there may have initially

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- 1 been some misunderstanding even from the get-go
- 2 after looking back on what happened as to -- we
- 3 agreed to receive certain information in regard to
- 4 some of these subparts, but I think there was a
- 5 misunderstanding, Mr. Cassidy can correct me here
- 6 if I'm wrong, but as to what subparts of the DRs
- 7 that he understood Laclede was proposing to submit
- 8 this affidavit in lieu of providing the specific
- 9 information requested.
- I know during the conference call
- 11 Mr. Cassidy indicated he did not -- although the DR
- 12 may have initially requested, he did not need
- 13 certain journal entries, for example, that were
- 14 requested in the DR.
- JUDGE JONES: He didn't need them?
- MR. KEEVIL: No. Go ahead. This
- 17 is -- for the record, this is John Cassidy, Staff
- 18 witness.
- MR. CASSIDY: Right. I think during
- 20 the conference call we agreed that, you know, in
- 21 return for the affidavit giving us the general
- 22 overview of the operations there, that we could
- 23 relieve Laclede of the responsibility giving us all
- 24 those dated historic journal entries and all of the
- 25 FERC accounts.

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- 1 But Staff still was expecting to
- 2 receive a listing of the oil wells, which we have
- 3 received a response. However, that listing is only
- 4 through 1996. It does not provide a listing all
- 5 the way through 2013, and --
- 6 MR. KEEVIL: It's limited to oil.
- 7 MR. CASSIDY: Right. It's limited to
- 8 oil. Staff is aware that there's an oil well
- 9 that's been put into service and is currently
- 10 reflected in rates in 2010 that's not on that list.
- 11 So, you know, I think this is all
- 12 information -- in DRs 200 through 204, all of these
- 13 aspects of Laclede's operations are interrelated
- 14 and they affect one another. So we are expecting
- 15 responses to all of the other data requests that
- 16 have been objected to as well.
- 17 MR. KEEVIL: Like I said, that
- 18 affidavit only addresses the oil. We've got some
- 19 DRs in here that address gas. We've got some DRs
- 20 in here that -- well, various types of gas. My
- 21 understanding --
- MR. CASSIDY: Yes.
- 23 MR. KEEVIL: -- is different types of
- 24 gas wells. There's one in here that addresses the
- 25 propane, but that affidavit was only -- only

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- 1 addressed to the oil.
- JUDGE JONES: Okay. Mr. Zucker?
- 3 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. So this is the
- 4 first I've heard that what we have done since last
- 5 Wednesday's phone call is short of what you were
- 6 expecting. We provided not only the affidavit but
- 7 a lot of other information. And I know we came to
- 8 an agreement on the journal entries and what we
- 9 were going to give you there. I don't know if we
- 10 provided them yet, but, you know, I'm -- I know
- 11 that we have agreed on that.
- So if there are things that you want
- 13 that -- or you are unclear on an agreement, unclear
- on what was being committed to, you know, I think
- 15 you need to let us know.
- JUDGE JONES: Are you-all just having
- 17 a problem communicating?
- 18 MR. ZUCKER: Well, we communicated a
- 19 number of times. We had at least two good
- 20 conference calls.
- MR. KEEVIL: Judge, these matters
- 22 that he's referring to were providing us most --
- 23 according to EFIS -- I went in there this morning
- 24 and looked this up. According to EFIS, the
- 25 responses to 202, which is the one that we've

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- 1 received as far as the responses to, were submitted
- 2 on the 16th and 17th, which would have been the day
- 3 before yesterday and the day that I filed this
- 4 thing.
- 5 So, you know, I think there was an
- 6 e-mail from Mr. Buck to Mr. Cassidy last week that
- 7 had something which may or may not be in EFIS,
- 8 apparently is not in EFIS, but that did not contain
- 9 the detail that originally we had expected.
- 10 But as far as the additional
- 11 information Mr. Zucker's talking about, like I
- 12 said, we only got that a couple days ago. So the
- 13 opportunity -- I don't think it's a matter of
- 14 communication. Part of that's a timing thing, I
- 15 think.
- But again, I keep going back to the
- 17 one that we have received responses to, which is
- 18 202, did not contain the detail other than the
- 19 affidavit thing that Mr. Cassidy was expecting.
- 20 And the other DRs, the 200, 201, 203
- 21 and 204, address matters, while related to the oil
- 22 wells, they're not just oil well stuff. Like I
- 23 say, one of them's propane. One of them's gas
- 24 wells. One of them's extraction gas, I think,
- 25 wells. So there's more in there than just oil, and

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- 1 so far everything we've gotten is just oil related.
- JUDGE JONES: Mr. Zucker, do you have
- 3 the information regarding propane and gas wells?
- 4 MR. ZUCKER: Well, let me address the
- 5 oil first. The Tuesday date that Mr. Keevil's
- 6 referring to is the date we said we would give them
- 7 that information. It's only about the 19th or 20th
- 8 day from the time we received the DRs.
- 9 And let me show you the information
- 10 we gave them on that day. These are all the
- 11 attachments, and they go on on the next page, of
- 12 what we provided. And there's the affidavit, I
- 13 think, right there that we provided. So if --
- JUDGE JONES: Well, I mean, me
- 15 looking at a list of things, I don't know what this
- is. I mean, they're documents that have links.
- 17 Are you showing this to me to show me the volume of
- 18 information that you provided?
- 19 MR. ZUCKER: Right, to show you the
- 20 volume. I don't expect you to know what all that
- 21 information is, but that's our good faith attempt
- 22 to answer the question and to provide all the
- 23 information.
- 24 Regarding the propane, again, it's
- 25 the same issue. You know, they've asked the same

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- 1 type of question that I read earlier about
- 2 underground storage, and I think we've given them a
- 3 lot of information, and what we're trying to do is
- 4 find what they need and give that to them without
- 5 having to do an exhaustive information searching.
- 6 JUDGE JONES: Are you trying to find
- 7 what they need or why they need it?
- 8 MR. ZUCKER: Well, why they need it
- 9 helps us work with them on what they need. But,
- 10 you know, our view was they don't really need all
- 11 this ancient information. What are they trying to
- 12 establish with it? And maybe we can just help them
- 13 either get that or admit to it.
- 14 JUDGE JONES: What are you trying to
- 15 get information back from the 1950s for? It seems
- 16 like -- I mean, Laclede's been coming here for rate
- 17 cases for a while, so there have been rate cases
- 18 before this one, and if that information is
- 19 relevant now, it had to have been relevant then,
- 20 like the last rate case, the one before, the one
- 21 before that.
- 22 MR. KEEVIL: Well, I'll let
- 23 Mr. Cassidy answer the why part of that. Talking
- 24 about the rate cases since the '50s, you have to
- 25 understand what Laclede is -- oops, I'm probably

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1	getting ready to go HC here.	
2	JUDGE JONES: Okay.	
3	(REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an	
4	in-camera session was held, which is contained in	
5	volume 4, pages 110 through 198 of the transcript.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE					
2	STATE OF MISSOURI )					
3	) ss.					
4	COUNTY OF COLE )					
5	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified					
6	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest					
7	Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was					
8	personally present at the proceedings had in the					
9	above-entitled cause at the time and place set					
10	forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and					
11	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had;					
12	and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct					
13	transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such					
14	time and place.					
15	Given at my office in the City of					
16	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.					
17						
18						
19	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR					
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