Page 1 1 STATE OF MISSOURI 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 4 Local Public Hearing 5 February 26, 2014 6 Kansas City, Missouri 7 Volume IX 8 9 In the Matter of the General Rate) Increase Tariffs for Missouri Gas) File No. Energy, A Division of Laclede Gas) GR-2014-0007 10 11 Company,) 12 13 14 KENNARD L. JONES, Presiding 15 SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE 16 WILLIAM P. KENNEY 17 STEPHEN M. STOLL 18 COMMISSIONERS 19 20 21 22 23 Reported by: 24 Janet H. Wimer, CCR 25

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1	APPEARANCES:	
2		
3	Marc D. Poston	
4	State of Missouri	
5	Department of Economic Development	
6	Office of the Public Counsel	
7	Governor Office Building, Suite 650	
8	200 Madison Street	
9	P.O. Box 2230	
10	Jefferson City, MO 65102	
11	(573)751-1304	
12		
13	Akayla Jones, Staff	
14	Whitney Hampton, Staff	
15	P.O. Box 360	
16	Jefferson City, MO 65109	
17	(573)751-8700	
18		
19	Todd Jacobs	
20	Missouri Gas Energy	
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(Starting time of the Hearing: 2:09	
3	p.m.)	
4	JUDGE JONES: My name is Kennard Jones,	
5	I'm the Regulatory Law Judge who will be presiding	
6	over this rate case. This is Case Number GR-2014-	
7	0007. To my right is the Chairman of the Public	
8	Service Commission, William Kenney, and to my left	
9	is Commissioner Stoll.	
10	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Good afternoon	
11	everybody for being here on an afternoon, taking	
12	time out of your day to be here. That indicates to	
13	us that this is something that's very important to	
14	you and so I want to let you know this is very	
15	important for us to know. Your testimony, your	
16	comments today are a critical part of the rate case	
17	process and we very much appreciate you being here.	
18	As the Judge indicated, your testimony	
19	will be transcribed by - you'll be sworn in and	
20	then your testimony, your comments will become a	
21	part of the case.	
22	There are four Commissioners currently	
23	sitting, only two of use were able to be here	
24	today. You shouldn't read into that they don't	
25	view this as important, as well. They will have	

1	the opportunity to take note of the transcript of
2	this hearing and they too will be able to take into
3	account your testimony and your comments as we
4	deliberate and as we reach a decision. So thank
5	you again, for being here and we look forward to
6	hearing your testimony.
7	(Multiple voices.)
8	COMMISSIONER STOLL: Okay, I'm going to
9	use the Judge's microphone here. Again, my name is
10	Commissioner Steve Stoll and I'd like to welcome
11	you here today. We really do appreciate you coming
12	out.
13	We've been in the Kansas City area for
14	the last three days. This is the fifth local
15	public hearing that we've held and we really do
16	appreciate good turnouts and we're anxious to hear
17	from you and I'm going to leave it at that so you
18	can begin to tell us about your concerns and a
19	little bit about your feelings regarding this case.
20	So thanks for coming.
21	JUDGE JONES: Okay, hopefully you all
22	have got any questions you have answered at this
23	point because now is the time for asking questions
24	stops with us and you'll make statements, those of
25	you who have signed up in particular, will come up

Page 5 to the microphone. I will swear you in as a 1 2 witness, you'll make your statement and then if we 3 have questions, we'll ask and then you can be 4 seated. 5 If you still have questions or if other 6 questions develop during this process, feel free to 7 ask any member of our staff, the Office of Public 8 Counsel or anyone with Missouri Gas Energy. Before 9 I get started with testimony, let's take entry of 10 appearances from the parties. Missouri Gas Energy? MR. JACOBS: Todd Jacobs on behalf of 11 12 Missouri Gas Energy. JUDGE JONES: The Office of the Public 13 14 Counsel? 15 MR. POSTON: Thank you. Marc Poston for 16 Public Counsel. JUDGE JONES: And for the Staff of the 17 18 Commission? MS. JONES: On behalf of the Staff of the 19 20 Missouri Public Service Commission, Akayla Jones 21 and Whitney Hampton. 22 JUDGE JONES: I take it all of you know 23 the roles that you play in this rate case. Has that been explained to you? 24 25 PUBLIC: No.

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1	JUDGE JONES: I heard a no. Missouri	
2	Gas, of course, represents their interests to raise	
3	rates and to secure recovery of costs that they	
4	incur. Our Staff is neutral. The Office of Public	
5	Counsel it here to represent the interest of the	
6	public, that's all. As simple as that sounds,	
7	that's the way it is. Let's get started with the	
8	first person on the list. Belinda Thierey.	
9	BELINDA THIEREY, duly affirmed by Judge	
10	Jones, testified as follows:	
11	MS. THIEREY: My interest is okay like,	
12	well, I just found out about this meeting just as	
13	of yesterday and didn't know if - because I need to	
14	be here. And I'm glad to be here. And my concern	
15	is, like my bills are high already. I mean, I just	
16	got a bill just yesterday from them and this is the	
17	highest bill I've had since I've been in my home.	
18	And this time, they want a rate increase? I'm on a	
19	fixed income, it's all I make, I live alone and	
20	already it's getting ready to knock me out. I'm	
21	like, you know, I'm just kind of concerned about	
22	all of that. That's my say right now.	
23	JUDGE JONES: Laverne Collins. Is there	
24	a Laverne Collins?	
25	LAVERNE COLLINS, duly affirmed by Judge	

Jones, testified as follows: 1 2 MS. COLLINS: I'm just like, I'm disabled 3 and as some of the other people's already stated, with all the utilities going up, you can only live, 4 5 you know, and you try to take the 30 cent on the set rate and the bill was constantly going up, so I 6 7 - you know, how are we supposed to make it? That's 8 my concern and basically seems to be mostly 9 everyone's here. 10 JUDGE JONES: Paul Butler. PAUL BUTTER, duly affirmed by Judge 11 12 Jones, testified as follows: 13 MR. BUTTER: So far today, I've listened 14 to all the comments. You see that probably a 15 number of people lose their service as they won't 16 be able to pay their bills. And two things need to 17 be considered and one is that the fact not only all these individuals, the fee, but the cost to the 18 19 community at large, the extra services that will be 20 needed for these people who will as much as 21 possible try to leave their home and go other places. And some of them may lose their homes and 22 23 have to be supported by society. 2.4 From the Gas Service Company's standpoint, it might be considered - it might be 25

1	good to consider that it might be better for them
2	to receive the \$27 a month, what they're receiving
3	now from these people and the money they're getting
4	for the gas is being compared to losing complete
5	that they're, you know, because the people loses
6	their service, they also lose out on the money they
7	would be receiving from these people.
8	Now as far as another comment that I'd
9	like to make that has to do with - and you know,
10	we've heard a lot about the people who can update
11	their equipment to accommodate things, but I'm one
12	of those people who can do that and have done that.
13	I installed a heat pump, an electric heat pump that
14	allows me to, in the winter, heat my home down to 0
15	degrees. And I use a small amount of gas. It
16	amounts to - my bill most of the year is like \$27
17	and it's more like \$67 now with the heat pumps for
18	gas because mostly it's on electricity. And that
19	way, my electric bill only goes up \$20 to \$30 so
20	I'll heat my house for about \$80 a month.
21	This can be done. The question is now,
22	if my rate goes up every month, not based on what
23	I'm using, but just based on something I have to
24	pay regardless, it becomes less feasible for me to
25	use the gas as my backup and more reasonable for me

1	change everything over to electricity, and just get
2	rid of the gas. So this is another thing that as
3	far as those people who are knowledgeable and has
4	whereas economic situations whether they have their
5	backup on the gas or not, they can lose that
6	business.
7	It's just a suggestion that both
8	electric and gas companies have a problem,
9	otherwise the electric company charges double rate
10	in the summer because they know everybody runs
11	their air conditioning and it will increase the
12	level on their system. The gas company has the
13	opposite problem, in the wintertime with their
14	quote higher.
15	I would suggest that the gas company
16	with the development of heat pumps that are both
17	electric and gas combination so that you can switch
18	from one to the other. Then during the wintertime,
19	I could use my heat pump as I am now off of
20	electricity when I'm actually helping the gas
21	company not have such a high load. During the
22	summertime, I could use gas on my air conditioning,
23	which drop some of the load on the electric
24	utilities and so the opportunity of together, to
25	provide service and more economical rates for

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1	everybody. Thank you.
2	JUDGE JONES: Marquita Henry
3	MARQUITA HENRY, duly affirmed by Judge
4	Jones, testified as follows:
5	MS. HENRY: My name is Marquita Henry and
6	my concern is I didn't see us getting any lower
7	bills on our - I know that the gas company made
8	some changes. We no longer have meter readers, so
9	that they save money there. We no longer have all
10	these people sitting in the offices to talk with
11	these people when they have problems they have,
12	they have to go online or they have to call on the
13	phone, which they have to wait a long time in order
14	to talk to someone and then they don't always get
15	the answer that they want to get. The gas company
16	is saving money there. I didn't see any changes
17	made.
18	Another thing is the people that make
19	the - the low income people that make minimum wage,
20	they go to United Services, they've got to pay
21	these gas bills. These gas bills get outrageously
22	high, United Services, I don't know why they get so
23	high, but they do. But that might come back on us
24	too.
25	People like most of us in here that's on

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1	fixed income, we're not able to go to United	
2	Services to get help with our bills. We pay our	
3	bills out of our money that we get. So a rate	
4	increase is not possible for us. We are barely	
5	making it as it is.	
6	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Ms. Henry, thank	
7	you for being here. Here's a quick question for	
8	you, I appreciate your testimony. You made mention	
9	of calling the utility and maybe not getting a	
10	person right away. Is that representative of the	
11	experience that you've had when you've had customer	
12	service interaction with MGE?	
13	MS. HENRY: Yes.	
14	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.	
15	JUDGE JONES: Preston Jenkins.	
16	PRESTON JENKINS, duly affirmed by Judge	
17	Jones, testified as follows:	
18	MR. JENKINS: I like to sit here and	
19	listen to people's testimony that they give you and	
20	that's good that they give you testimonies. But I	
21	do want to say to the Staff if the Missouri Public	
22	Service Commission, I had the opportunity to go to	
23	Jefferson City and I met with William Raddick(ph)	
24	with Missouri Vice(ph) Association.	
25	A lot of our community is in the urban	

1	core presently in the Third District. They are
2	going to be hit the hardest as far as what these
3	bonds that to city, ourself, these banks. We are
4	actually paying interest personally on these bonds
5	and so I understand the gas company is trying to
6	get a rate hike, but they also said here also that
7	they're not going to make this a class issue.
8	But they got to understand, a lot of
9	money that's being taken out of the urban core and
10	being transferred to more important areas. Now,
11	Mr I can't think of his name, he mentions about
12	the schools and how it affects the tax base of the
13	schools. Well, what I'm saying that, man, we have
14	a person that represents the kids in the Kansas
15	City Missouri School District.
16	We really are being hit hard in the
17	Third District, and this is affecting us. We have
18	a lot of people in the inner city basically that
19	are predominantly poor, so what I'm saying is you
20	all as the Staff of the Missouri Public Service
21	Commission, you all going to remain neutral, you
22	all also need to address these concerns into
23	downtown, with the Civic Council, which I've
24	addressed this at the school board meeting and
25	everything else.

1	In this District, with minor different
2	things and the rate hikes and just different
3	things, and we are being affected by this,
4	sincerely. Now, what I'm saying is that we going
5	to talk to you, we going to - because I've seen the
6	media there, because I started talking about
7	something on here.
8	I'm just saying, when I mentioned this
9	to the school board, I addressed these concerns and
10	I opted for downtown mode because at the Kansas
11	City Civic Counsel all know this. We cannot
12	continue to tolerate this. And that's a challenge
13	now, we're not going to sit here in this seat this
14	Friday.
15	Now, I understand they trying to get
16	their rate hikes and different things and I
17	understand that. But they got to be saying also
18	the Third District or something. We are stuck with
19	bonds just decimated our tax base because we trying
20	to pay interest and principle to these banks for
21	what they want. And every time they want more
22	money, they come to the urban core to borrow this
23	money. They don't go to accountant, they come to
24	the city on these municipal bonds.
25	So what I'm saying, that this needs to

stop. Now, if they going to get rate hikes, they 1 2 need to go north of the river, the reason why it's 3 growing there, back and forth. And that's the stuff that my heart was 4 5 saying because I took a train up to Jefferson City 6 and sit down and talk to this, a Mr. William 7 Bradley of the Missouri Transit Association on how 8 we are stuck with all these bonds we trying to pay. 9 He said what you saying is true, but he say the 10 bottom line is that they are in the business to make money, they are bankers. 11 12 So I'm not going to stay and sugar coat this, but you all at the Staff of the Missouri 13 14 Public Service, you all need to go downtown and talk with the Civic Council, we cannot afford this. 15 16 JUDGE JONES: Reed Heitt. 17 REED HIETT, duly affirmed by Judge 18 Jones, testified as follows: 19 JUDGE JONES: Did I pronounce your name 20 correctly? 21 MR. HIETT: Yes. Obviously no relation. I would just like you to consider from a different 22 23 perspective. 2.4 PUBLIC: We can't hear you back here. 25 Step up to the microphone.

1	MR. HIETT: I would just like for the
2	Commission to consider a different perspective. I
3	own a Laundromat here in Kansas City in the south
4	part of town. Anybody want a high water bill or
5	gas bill, it's bad. We use a lot of water and a
6	lot of gas, so in the last few years, the rate
7	increases have come and I've most of the time chose
8	to eat them and my other option is to raise my
9	prices.
10	And a lot of my customers come there to
11	do laundry because they don't have facilities at
12	their homes to do it. So if I raise rates, then I
13	lose customers, I close the doors and people have
14	to go elsewhere. And I'm not saying that to feel
15	bad for me, but they're going to have to drive
16	further or go somewhere that they don't want to go,
17	other things like that.
18	So it's not just people trying to keep
19	their homes, it's a lot of other things that will
20	be affected as well. My business is one of the
21	many to rely on both of those utilities, so that's
22	my perspective.
23	JUDGE JONES: Allen Norman.
24	ALLEN NORMAN, duly affirmed by Judge
25	Jones, testified as follows:

1	MR. NORMAN: This gentleman brought up a
2	point that he's got a peculiar situation right
3	here. This is the Missouri Public Service
4	Commission. In Missouri, there is an economic
5	development problem with raising these gas rates as
6	I have mentioned before. The problem is it hurts
7	individual people who can't afford it. It hurts
8	small businesses and it discourages people from
9	starting businesses because of the cost of doing
10	business.
11	Now, Missouri Gas Energy and their
12	parent company, Laclede Gas, are in the business to
13	make money. They are not a charity, they are not
14	the United Way. The money they do donate to United
15	Way, they take off as a tax deduction, it's all
16	figured into their rate structure and we're paying
17	it. They are giving some of it back to people who
18	need it through the charity and that's good that
19	they give something back. But, you know, it's not
20	charity, we are paying for it.
21	The gas company, Missouri Gas did find
22	when they want a guaranteed return of 8 percent,
23	why should they get an 8 percent guaranteed rate on
24	their investments? Why? United States Treasury
25	Bills today, third year bills are 3.67, I think and

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1	ten year Treasury Bills are 2.7 percent. That's
2	guaranteed money. Why do they need to have 8
3	percent guaranteed in these tough times?
4	I'm not against them making money, none
5	of us are, but they need to be more reasonable in
6	these tough times. They've been watching too much
7	television. They think things are a lot better
8	than they are. Things are kind of tough around
9	this country. The working man is being squeezed.
10	The income equity, the income equity is bad.
11	People who are working for minimum wage
12	or near there compared to the people who work for
13	Missouri Gas Energy, there's not much equity there.
14	They do the same work, they put in the same hours,
15	you know, it costs them just as much to heat their
16	house and go to work and everything but they don't
17	make as much money. There's not an income equity
18	there and it's time that all of us - all of us,
19	that includes state officials, commissioners, look
20	at this. We have to balance this out somehow so
21	that we can all get out of this together because
22	we're not going to get out of this unless we do do
23	it together. And I don't think Laclede Energy
24	gives a damn, they're just having what they can
25	make.

1	They didn't have to have this increase
2	to buy the company, they'd already bought the
3	company back in September, then they immediately
4	asked for a rate increase. They want a rate
5	increase and they want it guaranteed. I'm telling
6	you, gentlemen, that's not fair. It's just not
7	fair.
8	They've had a lot of people talk today
9	and you will hear some more talk between now and
10	your decision about how difficult it is for them.
11	The problem is, and I go to lots of meetings
12	because I'm a community activist and a neighborhood
13	leader and I'm involved in lots of things around
14	the city. The problem is, the people that should
15	be at the table generally aren't here. The people
16	you really need to be hearing generally are not at
17	the table and we're fortunate today we have some of
18	the people here who at least be observing, but lots
19	of times, they are not here.
20	One reason they're not here is because
21	they can't take off work and come. I think that's
22	a bit insensitive and I know that you recognize
23	that and maybe it will be different in the future,
24	but I'm kind of passionate about this. I've had a
25	lot of gas bills, thousands of dollars worth of gas

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1	bills. Now, my personal gas bill at home was 900	
2	and some dollars. It's just my wife and me and the	
3	cat and the cat gets unhappy when the house gets	
4	below 65 degrees. But – I'm just kidding, making a	
5	joke there.	
6	But economic developments are very	
7	important to Missouri. It's very important to us	
8	when we neighbor a state like Kansas and a rate	
9	increase will hurt us in Kansas City specifically.	
10	We want a rate decrease and we want these rates	
11	lowered.	
12	The "rate structure" of have a big	
13	guaranteed monthly customer charge, plus a	
14	surcharge on the gas cost - let me tell you,	
15	natural gas just went down to the market price,	
16	natural gas just went down 20 percent in the last	
17	week, 20 percent it went down.	
18	So as you read all this and I know	
19	you'll come to a just decision at the end,	
20	shouldn't you look at the facts, not what you're	
21	told by the corporations because their job is to	
22	get their increase. Our job, my job is to prevent	
23	them from getting the increase. I thank you very	
24	much for coming.	
25	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thanks for being	

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1	high utility bills and insurance. You know, they	-
2	want to blame it all on the mortgage industry,	
3	while I think they were a bunch of thieves, but if	
4	you figure you drilled down into those	
5	transactions, you'll find out that people got great	
6	big increases in their taxes and insurance and	
7	utility bills that were high and that caused the	
8	foreclosures. It's still at - it's not over.	
9	People are still losing their houses because they	
10	cannot afford to live in them and keep them up.	
11	In Kansas City, we have thousands of	
12	people here, living here, who cannot afford to.	
13	You've heard some of them today that are	
14	testifying. They really cannot afford to live	
15	here, but they are here and we have fixed forced	
16	expenses, living expenses. You've heard	
17	conversation about our sewer and water problem, we	
18	don't have any choice, we're under federal mandate.	
19	We don't want to do that, we have to do it and we	
20	will do it.	
21	But I don't think we have to do this gas	
22	increase. I think there's a way around this thing.	
23	I think that the gas company and their owner,	
24	Laclede, need to realize that they need to work	
25	with the people in their customer base through this	

difficult time and they will all be much better off
because they're not going to profit if they
bankrupt all their customers.
COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you for
taking your time to be here. We appreciate you
coming up.
JUDGE JONES: Lanier? Anyone last name
Lanier? Joseph Jackson.
JOSEPH JACKSON, duly affirmed by Judge
Jones, testified as follows:
MR. JACKSON: First, I'd like to thank
you folks for directing today's meeting. All of
them I believe is about to attend the meetings and
the meetings about speaking to inform the residents
of this matter. You know, before Kansas City and
to support the opposition of the rate increase.
My name is Joseph Jackson, I'd like to
testify to the opposition of this rate increase as
being requested by MGE and Laclede. Laclede is a
multi-billion dollar trade corporation and the
information I will speak from comes directly from
the handbook - change date, annual report, pending
9-20-2013 reported earnings release. Utilities
have monopoly characteristics in that it's the only
distributor of natural gas in our service area.

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1	The premise of competition is for every company.	
2	The utilities for residential and commercial and	
3	small industry markets represent 85 percent of the	
4	utilities operating revenue. Increasing dividends	
5	every year since 2009 which had paid \$1.24; 2010,	
6	\$1.58; 2011, \$1.62; 2012, \$1.66; 2013, \$1.70.	
7	For the fiscal year, and that's	
8	September 30th, the total revenue was 1 billion 17	
9	million 19 thousand. Cost of revenue was 613	
10	million, 784 - gross profit over 3 million dollars.	
11	On February 4th, third quarter revenue,	
12	net earnings, not withcoming from schools, 29	
13	percent to 36.3 million dollars or \$1 per share,	
14	net income of 35.6 billion dollars. The - Missouri	
15	Gas contains its own plan which was safer. Since	
16	then, the CEO stated that we achieve to seek	
17	positive results from my integration and	
18	initiatives as we are bringing our two-eaches(ph)	
19	together and we can double in size.	
20	Work equipment for random tracks(ph)	
21	will be available for 2014. This \$8.1 million	
22	earnings increase is driven by higher gas utility	
23	operating results. It also reflected Missouri Gas	
24	Energy's best seasonal earnings pattern resulting	
25	from its great design that provides a more even	

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1	distribution throughout the year. This helps our	
2	residents' budget to afford utility service, but if	
3	this rate increase of the plan proposed by the	
4	Public Service Commission which Missouri Gas Energy	
5	moved away from in 2007 for residential costs	
6	because the - you see a charge has the effect of	
7	doubling bills in the winter, making heat costs	
8	difficult for residents to afford.	
9	Then the commercial costs has moved away	
10	from this in 2010, seems like they're charging	
11	people for profits for MGE, but Laclede is profits	
12	for heating. The alternative plan that is	
13	suggested by the PSC had stopped it, MGE and	
14	Laclede would be the best of all worlds. A flat	
15	fee for each month, I personally see a charge that	
16	would increase as demand increases, in some cases	
17	double our current fee of 26.88.	
18	Changes in the price of gas or the price	
19	sold on to customers as given to MGE, allows to	
20	adjust the cost of gas components as their rates up	
21	to four times each year. And that makes the	
22	mandatory gas costs adjusted at the beginning of	
23	the winter months, November and going for the next	
24	twelve months, as it can make three additional	
25	adjustments, as long as they are separated by two	

1 months. 2 We also pay for the pipeline and 3 (inaudible). Laclede is a holding company with no 4 significant assets other than a - dividends and 5 cash investments. Laclede moving as a parent 6 company had a chance to pay dividends since 1946. 7 Income tax expense decreased \$8.7 million due to 8 pre taxpayers on the Davenport(ph) 13 and \$2.9 9 million in 2012 due to pre taxing. 10 The full acquisition of MGE has not been completed and costs in the reductions have not even 11 12 been seen. And elimination from duplicate services have not even been ruled out. How can the Public 13 14 Service Commission recommend any rate increase for 15 a company with \$400 million in profits last year 16 and a record of what it's worth. And you need 17 accountable proposals that MGE's settlement rate's 18 wrong because it placed undue burden on customers 19 in the wintertime when the heating costs are the 20 highest. 21 The proposed rate increase will endanger 22 many people in our neighborhoods. To increase the 23 price when we need heat the most and can be 24 supported will cause people to seek other ways to 25 stay warm, resulting in more neighborhood fires,

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1	injuries and worse. Many homes in our neighborhood
2	have not include wire(ph) and if gas rates go up,
3	people will go to other sources of energy. And in
4	that case, here means those nice space heaters.
5	But the homes cannot afford any drop of the
6	poles(ph) which will result in more fires.
7	I serve as treasurer for our local
8	school board and if this - for commercial accounts,
9	it will cost the school boards more money at a time
10	when education budgets are being reduced. Missouri
11	General Assembly recently announced a \$44.1 million
12	cut to education funding costs across the State of
13	Missouri. And if you take the 525 school districts
14	in the State of Missouri are going to allow you to
15	double dip into taxpayers pockets and then to go
16	back into taxpayers' pockets again to be in the
17	school districts, you've got another thing coming
18	and the MSDS will fight you tooth and nail.
19	Let me show you what current CCR charges
20	back, and here are two bids. And I had to thank a
21	resident of our community who unfortunately his
22	home has not been winterized, and during public
23	testimony, the half million dollars that
24	MGE/Laclede so generously donates out of their \$400
25	million in profits and their record profits this

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1	year, don't go far enough. 127 CCF with the 0.1694
2	which would put a \$212151358, so \$21 and I want
3	to say 2 cents. Add the 16.50 charge to it, \$38.
4	One of our senior citizens, Mr.
5	Holloway, he used 305 CCF's last winter to try to
6	heat his home. With a 0.1649, which goes up about
7	\$50 and 29.456 customer charge in addition to the
8	16.50 charge you're going to tack on to of that,
9	which would give them, you know, a customer charge
10	of \$66.79. But Laclede was only asked for \$40 and
11	that was said from the beginning which would only
12	increase our bills about \$72 over the summer
13	months, but you hit them when you have to hit them,
14	they're going to get it all from him in one month.
15	And his gas bill stayed that entire way at least
16	five months, let's see, let's take another \$60.
17	\$300 increase over the rate of the winter.
18	Would you like to see your father or one
19	of your parents paying \$300 for additional gas
20	services? And I don't know exactly how many of you
21	have met, talked to the city or anybody else, but
22	we are under EPA mandate to repair the water lines
23	in this city. Our water bills have doubled in the
24	last five years, but they went up 11.5 percent last
25	year. They are 500 million dollars worth of water

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1	bonds - water lines have to be paid for by the	
2	revenue from the company which means another 15	
3	percent plus increase on our water bills. This is	
4	going to be the norm for the next five plus years.	
5	Our city has over 7,000 plus vacant	
6	homes. This impacts the school district	
7	tremendously because vacant homes do not pay	
8	property taxes. How are we to educate children if	
9	we do not have the income coming in from the homes?	
10	If this property tax - if this rate	
11	increase is approved, you will decimate this city.	
12	It will result - when I came, when I showed up,	
13	well, they said, they figured 8 percent increase, 8	
14	percent increase was good. So you tack 8 percent	
15	on top of 15 percent water bills, that's rounded	
16	up, 25 percent. We'll say everybody who's in a tax	
17	bracket, 15 percent. What are people supposed to	
18	live on? Where is the money supposed to come from?	
19	Our school districts supplies coats, we	
20	send home food with children on Friday so they can	
21	have something to eat over the weekend. We go out	
22	to the communities so we can get school supplies.	
23	We give out uniforms. 90 percent of our children	
24	come from single parent homes, they are in a home	
25	with their mother, they have no father. They are	

1	struggling to survive. And you're going to tack on
2	a charge that will put these families in more dire
3	straights because you want to get better profits
4	when you broke a record first quarter? \$400 million
5	worth of profits last year?
6	I have a list of questions, but since I
7	couldn't get them asked then, I guess I can get
8	them asked after and I'll make time because I'm
9	here on behalf of 400 people. We do continue MGE's
10	policy of connecting at the door, but we've had
11	disconnects of service without giving the customer
12	a chance to make a payment. Laclede cuts people
13	off and MGE does allow people to at least try to
14	make a payment at the door.
15	With a key to - since you have a St.
16	Louis call center and you have plans to double the
17	space inside, to move the equipment in that
18	building downtown. You need a clean copy of that
19	report change dated 9-30-13 from the Missouri
20	Public Service Commission as soon as they filed for
21	a rate increase. The Missouri Public Service
22	Commission probably won't change any - or any
23	company that's seeking a rate increase.
24	Have you talked with any person from the
25	City of Kansas City about the EPA mandate to

1	request our waterlines. And the water rates have
2	doubled in the last five years, increased over 11
3	percent last year, will increase again this year
4	due to the profit margin.
5	Do you see any company – do you see any
6	other companies who are involved in the production
7	of gas in the State of Missouri? And what other
8	choices do residents have who want natural gas?
9	How much is your plan or proposal to customers and
10	we'll be safe while the programs out of our reach.
11	And if you - if \$550,000 is what you're donating
12	out of record profits, that's sadly not enough.
13	Can you tell us how many jobs have
14	through the programming due to the merger or when
15	the national number rejected reductions will be or
16	will be estimated? Can you explain how to get
17	enough for a rate increase when maybe people are
18	unemployed, retired and on a fixed income and you
19	have third quarter record profits up 29 percent to
20	32.3 million, net of 35.6 million and that the
21	integration of energy you can choose for your own
22	plan and a 8.1 million was driven by higher gas
23	operating results.
24	Do you think any presence in Kansas City
25	when this merger was fully completed or we can

1	layoff more people because of it. Jobs, you will
2	get tax base. Tax base, people, the better city
3	and right now, we are struggling.
4	Growing businesses to which they can
5	apply this operating model. MGE has less season
6	already in its rate design that provides equal
7	distribution throughout the year. But the model
8	initially requested for an increase to impose on
9	us, which increased approximately during the time
10	that people need heat the most, and can least
11	afford to pay it.
12	The initial increase would have added
13	14.07 each month to each monthly bill or 70.25 over
14	one month when people can least afford it. Can you
15	explain why you want to describe this as spreading
16	it out over a full year so people can afford to
17	budget MGE. This practice means - the other
18	alternative means to stay warm, and that's true,
19	but you say that in your intent you have, with your
20	own competition. This was not in the budget.
21	Using spacing is not an invisible
22	problem. Many homes in our neighborhood are not -
23	and cannot take an increased extra demand. This is
24	also a varied insulation which you said we should
25	try to do, but you cannot insulate houses that have

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not been too, because of the paper which is a fire 1 2 hazard. 3 You see this in this business practices 4 with its owners. Are you aware that the United 5 Services are running behind in assisting people for utility assistance and \$240 is the max you can get 6 7 as a low income heating assistance. But the funds 8 the bill that states the thing this year, increased 9 it for two years brought before this. 10 MGE went to a fixed rate to make it 11 cheaper for the customers and they should charge by 12 the CCF. When they chart, they went to a fixed rate but that's almost doubled due to the winter 13 14 months because of the fixed rates used to charge, 15 because our homes was not weatherized, not insulated, residential in 2007, commercial in 2010. 16 17 Another on fixed rate. What does it 18 mean when people don't use gas for heat? I have 19 total electric, electric stove, water heater. I 20 haven't used the gas this summer. Why can I not 21 have a lower fee? It's cheaper for me to have my 22 gas disconnected and re-connected. And like I 23 said, almost \$100 over the summer and then apply it 24 to my light bill when it's very hot. Will there be a connection fee? 25

1	Unfortunately, my father has Alzheimer's
2	and the place where he and mother stay just
3	recently wanted to charge us to \$500 a month for a
4	one bedroom apartment. And it's almost cheaper for
5	me and my siblings to purchase a small home and put
6	them in it than is to try and keep them there. But
7	if we pay the bills a little bit in one of our
8	other names, since it's another property, you can't
9	have two properties in the same name because MGE
10	charges that as a commercial property.
11	So there should be a reason for that
12	because it should be an exception because of
13	children trying to help their parents in certain
14	situation, you should have an exception for that,
15	it shouldn't be classified as commercial property
16	and they shouldn't have to pay commercial property
17	rates.
18	I was there on Monday and you asked
19	people one question. How's the services? Let me
20	tell you this. I'm one of the fortunate ones. I
21	live in a neighborhood, in a historic neighborhood
22	east of Troost. And it was grandmother's house,
23	she left it to me. I've gotten - I'm giving back
24	to Kansas City by going to college and I did a lot
25	of renovation and repairs on it, \$4000 in windows,

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1 \$5000 in insulation and a high efficiency furnace 2 before anybody knew what a high efficiency furnace 3 was. Heating bills in my neighborhood run 4 5 traditionally anywhere from 3 to \$600 a month 6 during the cold winter months. One of my 7 neighbors, her level payment was \$187 per month. 8 Then, I got a call from Missouri Gas Energy. Ended 9 up they called me and I didn't call them because 10 when I call them, I'm on hold for 20 or 30 minutes. 11 When they call me, they get right through. And 12 they had a question for me. They wanted to know 13 why my heating bills were so inexpensive as 14 compared to my neighbors. And I said to them, I 15 said, "Well, I live in my grandmother's house. I 16 remember the time when I was a kid and if you came 17 to grandmother's house in the winter, grandmother 18 had it closed everywhere because she could only 19 afford to heat one room at a time." And I said, 20 "Well, if you put \$5000 of insulation in the walls, 21 you put a pump in and there's no insulation to 22 them, you put a high efficiency furnace before 23 anybody knows what one is and you put a double pane, double pane windows in and you caulk that and 24 you have them fix in, and you put up \$12,000 of 25

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1	renovations into it, then your bills will go down."	
2	But there's not many people in my neighborhood or	
3	community that can afford to do that. But	
4	unfortunately, the houses in my neighborhood were	
5	built in 1901 and when you open up the walls,	
6	there's nothing in there but empty space and they	
7	suck out a lot of gas. So that's how customer	
8	service has been with Missouri Gas. Do you have	
9	any questions for me, sir?	
10	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Jackson, thank	
11	you for being here. Did you testify earlier?	
12	MR. JACKSON: No, sir, I came to watch	
13	the show.	
14	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Alright, well, I	
15	appreciate you taking the time to be here and I	
16	want to ask you about customer service, but I also	
17	want to say we do appreciate the questions that you	
18	asked and they are now committed to the transcript	
19	so we will all have an opportunity to review those	
20	questions later. You probably know that we can't	
21	answer your questions?	
22	MR. JACKSON: Yes, I do.	
23	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: But then you should	
24	know that Mr. Jacobs from the company is here, Mr.	
25	Poston from the Office of Public Counsel is here	

		Page 36
1	and most of our staff. I would encourage you to	
2	take some time to get some of your questions	
3	answered while you're here today, while you can	
4	have a face-to-face conversation if you're inclined	
5	to take some additional time to do that.	
6	You had some papers there that	
7	represented	
8	MR. JACKSON: Of 400 people who do not	
9	want their gas bills raised. Some of their	
10	comments were, "I cannot afford it, we pay too much	
11	already, I'm on Social Security, I'm on a fixed	
12	income, and do not raise my bill." A copy of that	
13	shows	
14	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Can you give that	
15	to the Public Counsel?	
16	MR. JACKSON: Sure.	
17	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: And you said you	
18	were the treasurer for your neighborhood, for the	
19	school board?	
20	MR. JACKSON: Yes, I am. And I can tell	
21	you it's 0.11649, that if it goes through will cost	
22	us an additional \$35,000.	
23	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I don't have any	
24	other questions, but I do appreciate the fact that	
25	you took the time to ask your questions on the	

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1	record. It's helpful to us to do our job. We	
2	appreciate you being here, thank you.	
3	MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much.	
4	JUDGE JONES: Henry Tolliver.	
5	HENRY TOLLIVER, duly affirmed by Judge	
6	Jones, testified as follows:	
7	MR. TOLLIVER: A lot of people saying	
8	here, I paid the day of the month, but this month	
9	for some reason it's double what it was last. I	
10	got a \$500 bill and I ain't getting no pay. Some,	
11	I been paid just last month, I didn't pay all those	
12	but I paid them close enough. I just wonder why it	
13	went so high? I know the weather been awful cold	
14	too, but my bill shouldn't be where it is now, to	
15	that amount. Thank you.	
16	JUDGE JONES: Francine Nelson.	
17	FRANCINE NELSON, duly affirmed by Judge	
18	Jones, testified as follows:	
19	MS. NELSON: I'm really shy, don't like	
20	to speak in front of people so I have problems, but	
21	I need to express this. I've been a citizen of	
22	this area and know what it's like to go and work	
23	everyday and work hard and not make enough money to	
24	survive. And then, comes in a critical illness,	
25	cancer, and it got that hold and doing - with less	

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MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES Phone: 1.800.280.3376 1 than a third yourself.

2	You borrow from Peter to pay Paul, which
3	means every bill does not to get the full amount.
4	You stand in line to try to get bills paid when
5	they become totally out of control, usually in
6	December, the gas bill in the wintertime. You
7	stand in the line in the wintertime no matter what
8	that temperature is and there's so many people and
9	there's so many conditions and no matter how cold
10	it is, they shut the door after ten people and no
11	matter how many people are out there. So they try
12	to come the next time and no matter how long the
13	line is or how close you are to the front, maybe
14	this time, they're stopping at five. They have
15	people that had to come back from last time.
16	And then you go and you stand in the
17	line in the end and most of the time when you get
18	there, they say, "Well, how far behind are you?
19	Well, how much have you been able to pay? Well, we
20	can only allow you to have a set amount," but the
21	demand is going up. And then you're penalized or
22	worse, each time you're late with a late charge.
23	And one time, I was at home and I was
24	trying to make it to the door because I saw that it
25	was the gas company, so I make it to the door and I

1	open the door and a man, which they usually will
2	allow you to go ahead and give them the money, the
3	amount. He said, "I already cut it off, it's too
4	late." So try and get enough money to pay that
5	bill to Missouri Gas Energy. What started out as
6	less than 300 ended up over \$700.
7	That's what it's like to be poor. I
8	explained it because many people are poor, but many
9	people have the opportunity to make enough money
10	that they don't truly know need. They even think
11	their desire is for need. I need a new car, but
12	the other car, you know, just needs a little fixing
13	up and it'll be fine. I need to update, I need to
14	put more insurance on them, so I need to raise - I
15	need to cut back. I need to cut back how much
16	money I have going to my 401K plan because I don't
17	have enough money to meet this debt right now.
18	See, if you have money going to a 401K
19	plan, you are sincerely blessed. And if you had to
20	cut it a little while so you could pay some odds
21	and ends and you can do that, that's a wonderful
22	deal. Many of us don't have it that way. Many of
23	us are lucky if we get \$1000 a month. \$1000 a
24	month that gets the raise when they decide to,
25	usually 1 percent, maybe 1.5 percent, maybe not for

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1	the next two or three years and then another 1
2	percent. So see, it's hard to understand that when
3	you used to have it and really don't know the
4	difference between need and the desires.
5	I'm here because I'm representing many
6	people who don't have enough, who have to choose
7	between medications and food, between which utility
8	stays on, between how much to pay which one. I'm
9	here to represent those people who don't know how
10	to make it and who see the United States as a great
11	wonderful place when they're in the grocery store
12	with many selections and choices, but they can't
13	afford it, so they go to one of those begging
14	places and they stand in line and they get
15	sometimes donut holes and miscellaneous, and the
16	meat that they give them, oh sometimes it's deer
17	meat and sometimes it's lamb's liver. And so how
18	do you cook lamb's liver? You go to the center and
19	look it up on the internet. So you're looking on
20	the internet, and what does it say? Cancer. I
21	says, well maybe I hit the wrong thing, let's type
22	it in again. How do you cook lamb's liver? Let me
23	see if I can get that. And you type it in again
24	and what does it say? Cancer. You don't eat
25	lamb's liver, but this is what it's like to be

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1 poor, not have any choices. 2 I would like you to understand that our 3 bills here are much too high already. I would like you to understand that if you're difficult to pay a 4 5 house note or rent which is usually over \$500, I 6 would like you to understand that if you were a 7 person that was searching enough to have these 8 subsidized rent things like Section 8, that you are 9 a very fortunate person. There are not enough of 10 those for all that are in need. I would like you to understand that 11 12 people that are underpaid, people that are 13 overtaxed, people that everybody gets a raise but 14 them, are looking at a country that's bound to become like a third world. And I'm asking you for 15 16 help. 17 I'm asking you not to grant yourself 18 that wonderful raise so you can be more privileged 19 and to think about those that have no choice. 20 Thank you. 21 JUDGE JONES: Berda Sewell. BERDA SEWELL, duly affirmed by Judge 22 23 Jones, testified as follows: 2.4 MS. SEWELL: I believe the testimony has 25 already been given. I just don't understand this.

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1	Why don't you think about others, the way we want	
2	to be treated. We do, some of us, what we do here	
3	is listen to others and it hurts me to hear these	
4	stories. I'm not rich, but I'm blessed that I can	
5	pay my bills, so I'm concerned that everybody else	
6	would not have some compassion and that people so I	
7	don't want the raise this time or any other	
8	subsidiary or any other because it's not fair.	
9	JUDGE JONES: Bill Drummond.	
10	BILL DRUMMOND, duly affirmed by Judge	
11	Jones, testified as follows:	
12	MR. DRUMMOND: I'm Bill Drummond, I'm a	
13	resident of the inner city here. I own a house off	
14	Troost and I'm part of a young entrepreneurial and	
15	creative people acting for the city. So what I'm	
16	going to testify about is something that does have,	
17	I believe, some validity here. Both social justice	
18	concerns, social equity concerns and also	
19	environmental concerns, all of which have to do	
20	with quality of life.	
21	If the purpose of the gas company is to	
22	return investment to its shareholders and they want	
23	to maximize that, perhaps if they want to grow	
24	their customer base and get more customers and make	
25	more money, I would suggest they practice a pre-	

1	emptive, on purpose, intentional plan of making
2	their gas products and services affordable.
3	If you make a service affordable, you
4	will grow your market. If you make it
5	unaffordable, the market will diminish and
6	eventually you continue raping the market, which is
7	a technical term, if you continue raping the
8	market, the market will no longer be able to afford
9	your service. Gas Energy, for MGE, for its own
10	intention of making more money, will do better for
11	making the service affordable.
12	And I would also like to say that if
13	they wanted to increase their social justice
14	component, perhaps they could do what KC Power $\&$
15	Light also has done, which has unrolled an energy
16	efficiency program where they will help you fix up
17	your house.
18	Just like Mr. Jackson said here, most
19	people in this room cannot afford to bring their
20	house up to an energy efficient condition. And if
21	they've lived in this house for often multiple
22	generations, they can't even afford to do their own
23	energy upgrades to then allow them to afford their
24	higher energy costs.
25	No one is saying that energy costs

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if we put the time in and the energy into improving 1 2 our homes and our businesses and the way we conduct 3 our own lifestyles. If we work economically, we shouldn't have to be having rate hearings. 4 We 5 should be talking about rate savings and that's 6 what I'd like you to consider. Thank you. 7 JUDGE JONES: We have exhausted the list 8 of those who signed up to make a statement. Is 9 there anyone here who has not signed this list who 10 would now like to make a statement? Can I have a 11 show of hands? 12 IVORY GRAHAM, duly affirmed by Judge 13 Jones, testified as follows: MR. GRAHAM: Ivory Graham. My question, 14 how much is enough? I mean, you heard, stated by the people here, all the payments that they make, 15 all the record profits and still they want a raise. If all the people in here is against it, can you 16 stand up, please? (People standing. Applause.) 17 JUDGE JONES: Is there anyone else who would like to make a statement? ANITA RUSSELL, duly affirmed by Judge 18 Jones, testified as follows: MS. RUSSELL: Anita L. Russell. After 19 hearing everyone today, and I know you have 20 listened, and I encourage you to consider the conditions of the persons who have spoke today. 21 I'm also a representative of the Kansas City Missouri NAACP and we cannot support a - this 22 proposed rate increase at this time. The economy, the condition of the economy, the number of persons who are unemployed, our seniors. 23 Everyday, you go to the grocery store 24 and the items have gone up. I went to get milk last week and it's up 10 cents - no, it's up 14 25 cents and then I heard on the news, it's going up again this week. I'm scared to look. And so

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1	therefore, it is the wrong time, the economy is too	
	bad and we cannot support the proposed rate	
2	increase and we certainly hope that you will take	
3	that under consideration. Thank you.	
4	JUDGE JONES: Is there anyone else who	
5	would like to make a statement? Seeing no one, we	
6	will go off the record. Thank you all for	
7	participating.	
8	(WHEREIN, the Hearing is concluded at	
9	3:17 p.m.)	
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 STATE OF MISSOURI) SS COUNTY OF CLAY 4) 5 6 I, JANET H. WIMER, Certified Court 7 Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing hearing was taken, do hereby certify that the 8 testimony in said hearing was taken by me to the 9 10 best of my ability and thereafter reduced to 11 typewriting under my direction; that I am neither 12 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was 13 14 taken, and further, that I am not a relative or 15 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the 16 parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action. 17 18 19 20 21 22 Notary Public in and for 23 the State of Missouri 2.4 25

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