STATE OF MISSOURI 1 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 4 5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 6 7 Oral Argument March 26, 2009 8 Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 2 9 10 In the Matter of Laclede Gas ) 11 Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment ) Case No. GR-2005-0203 For 2004-2005 12 ) In the Matter of the PGA Filing of ) 13 Laclede Gas Company for 2005-2006 ) Case No. GR-2006-0288 14 15 KENNARD L. JONES, Presiding, 16 SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE. 17 18 ROBERT M. CLAYTON III, Chairman, CONNIE MURRAY, 19 JEFF DAVIS, TERRY JARRETT, 20 COMMISSIONERS. 21 22 REPORTED BY: 23 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES 24 25

1 **APPEARANCES:** MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST, Attorney at Law 2 RICK ZUCKER, Attorney at Law 3 Laclede Gas Company 720 Olive Street 4 St. Louis, MO 63101 (314)342 - 05325 FOR: Laclede Gas Company. 6 MARC D. POSTON, Senior Public Counsel 7 P.O. Box 2230 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 8 Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230 (573)751 - 48579 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel 10 and the Public. STEVE REED, Chief Litigation Attorney 11 LERA L. SHEMWELL, Deputy General Counsel 12 P.O. Box 360 200 Madison Street 13 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573)751-3234 14 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

PROCEEDINGS 1 JUDGE JONES: Okay. We are on the record 2 3 in Case No. GR-2005-0203 and GR-2006-0288. Although these 4 cases have not been consolidated, they are being 5 treated -- considered together because of the similarity б in issues. 7 At this time let's take entries of 8 appearances, beginning with Staff of the Commission. 9 MR. REED: Steve Reed and Lera Shemwell for Staff, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 10 JUDGE JONES: And Laclede? 11 12 MR. PENDERGAST: Michael C. Pendergast and Rick Zucker appearing for Laclede Gas Company. Our 13 14 business address is 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. 15 16 JUDGE JONES: Office of the Public Counsel? 17 MR. POSTON: Thank you. Marc Poston 18 appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel and the public, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 19 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Just prior to going on 20 21 record, we were discussing the procedure by which we would 22 proceed, and at this time we'll start with questions from 23 Commissioner Murray towards the Staff. 24 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Which counsel 25 should I direct this to?

1 MR. REED: Should be me. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Mr. Reed, is the 2 3 Staff bound by 4 CSR 240-2.090 subsection 8, which is the 4 discovery -- discovery and prehearing rule? 5 MR. REED: Yes, I think so. Yes, 6 Commissioner. 7 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Would you -- do you 8 have a way right now to take a look at that discovery 9 rule? 10 MR. REED: I can get the rule or I can have Ms. Shemwell get the rule for me so we can discuss it, 11 12 sure. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. I would like 13 14 to discuss it. 15 MR. REED: Can you hear me? JUDGE JONES: I'm not sure your 16 17 microphone's on. 18 MR. REED: It is on, but I'm not sure you 19 can hear me. JUDGE JONES: I can hear you. While we're 20 21 waiting, I just remind everyone to turn your cell phones 22 off. MR. REED: Okay. Commissioner, I have 23 24 the -- I have the rule in front of me. I'm ready. 25 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Thank you,

1 Mr. Reed. And I'm looking at 4 CSR 240-2.090,

2 subsection 8.

3 MR. REED: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That rule, correct me 5 if I'm wrong, says that the Commission shall not entertain 6 any discovery motions until the following requirements 7 have been satisfied.

8 MR. REED: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And then if you read 10 subsection A, it tells that the counsel for the moving party has to have in good faith conferred or attempted to 11 12 confer by telephone or in person with opposing counsel 13 concerning the matter prior to the filing of the motion. 14 MR. REED: Yes. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Merely writing a 15 demand letter is not sufficient. 16

17 MR. REED: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And then the last 19 sentence says, counsel for the moving party shall certify 20 compliance with this rule in any discovery motion.

21 MR. REED: Yes, I see.

22 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And when Staff filed 23 a Motion to Produce, was that complied with? 24 MR. REED: I think it was, Commissioner,

25 and here's why. I started with a bit of an unusual

1 procedure in that I filed a list that we had discussed at 2 some -- I think a prehearing conference, a list of items, 3 items that Staff needed to complete its ACC review, and 4 with that I included a request for an order that Laclede 5 produce those items. Well, what resulted was Judge Jones 6 called a discovery conference. 7 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I'm sorry. We're 8 going to back up just a minute. You said you filed a 9 request for an order to produce? MR. REED: Yes, I did, something to that 10 effect. 11 12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And at that time had you attempted to confer by telephone or in person 13 14 regarding your request? MR. REED: I don't recall, frankly. 15 16 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And did you certify 17 that you had so done? MR. REED: I don't believe that I did in 18 19 that particular pleading. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So there was a flaw 20 21 in that pleading? 22 MR. REED: I believe there may -- yes. I 23 withdrew that pleading. 24 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Go on. 25 MR. REED: And after we met and had a

1 discovery conference with Judge Jones with Laclede, and 2 near the end of the discovery conference Judge Jones 3 determined that, okay, this will be considered compliance 4 with 2.090 subparagraph 8 in that the parties have 5 conferred, you've had your discussions with the judge, б were unable to resolve the issue, and so if a Motion to Compel, if you elect to file one, then you're clear to 7 8 file it, so to speak. 9 So that was the next step. We withdrew the 10 previous motion or list of items that I had filed and 11 filed a separate and new Motion to Compel. 12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And then -- and you said the judge determined in that conference that the rule 13 14 had been complied with by the in-person prehearing 15 conference; is that correct? MR. REED: I believe that was the -- yes, 16 17 that was. 18 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Did you agree with 19 that determination? 20 MR. REED: I believe I did agree, yes. 21 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Did you read 22 subsection 8 of -- I mean subsection B of section 8 and specifically the very last sentence that says, no written 23 discovery motion shall be filed until this telephone 24 25 conference has been held?

1 MR. REED: Well, we met in person rather 2 than have the telephone conference. That was my 3 understanding of what the result of the discovery 4 conference was, is that there was no disagreement that the 5 discovery conference had satisfied this rule so that a б Motion to Compel was allowed. 7 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. And then did 8 you meet the requirements in your written Motion to Compel 9 that said you certified compliance with this rule and 10 discovery motion? MR. REED: I don't recall. I'd have to 11 look at the motion. I'd have to look at the motion. 12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I would like to see 13 14 whether you did comply. MR. REED: What I did was in paragraph 3 of 15 that motion, I recited that at the time of the -- of the 16 17 discovery conference, the judge indicated that the conference fulfilled the requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.090 18 subparagraph 8. So that if -- if additional certification 19 20 by counsel was required, the judge had indicated that, in 21 fact, that had been satisfied. There was no objection to 22 the -- to this motion on that basis in any event. 23 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Well, I wanted to get past that threshold issue because, in my opinion, if that 24 25 had not been complied with, then we shouldn't even be

1 here.

2 But in light of what the judge ruled at the 3 prehearing conference, I assume that everybody took that 4 to have been a threshold that was met, and there was no 5 objection filed or stated at that time. б MR. REED: That was my understanding, 7 Commissioner. There were no additional requirements that needed to be met before the Motion to Compel could be 8 9 filed. 10 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: All right. Thank you, Judge. I wanted to get that addressed before we went 11 ahead with the arguments. 12 JUDGE JONES: Okay. With that, Staff, you 13 14 may proceed. MR. REED: Well, thank you for the 15 16 opportunity to appear and discuss this discovery issue 17 that we have with Laclede. This, of course, arises from two cases that are prudence reviews that we're talking 18 19 about, and the question in those prudence reviews is did 20 the ratepayers pay higher costs for gas because of 21 Laclede's imprudence or whether decisions made by Laclede 22 that resulted in higher gas prices for the ratepayers. 23 What we've been seeking, as you'll see in the motions and of course the most recent filing that we 24 25 made, are LER supply documents. LER, the affiliates,

1 we're looking for the --

JUDGE JONES: Let me interrupt you quickly. You-all realize we are streaming, so if -- if you're going to go into information that's highly confidential, let me know.

б MR. REED: I will. I certainly will, and 7 if I don't, I hope not to misstep. I think I know what 8 highly confidential is, so Mr. Pendergast will catch me. 9 All right. Sources of gas that LER used to 10 satisfy a contract with Laclede, that's one of the things 11 we're looking for. Also, LER, the affiliate's use of Laclede's pipeline capacity, that's another set of 12 13 documents we've asked for.

Now, it's also important to understand that where we are in this particular case, because on January 21, 2009, the Commission entered an Order that said Laclede shall produce no later than February 4th to the Staff the information set out in the Commission's Order of October 20th, 2008, produce it by February 4th.

February 4th came and went. Nothing responsive to that Motion to Compel or to the Commission's Order was produced by Laclede. It came and went. Laclede produced some information that was not responsive to what we'd asked for or what the Commission had ordered and did nothing else. Silence. No filing. 1 So two weeks passed, and I notified the 2 Commission that Laclede had failed to comply. I filed a 3 notice indicating Laclede had failed to comply with the 4 January 21 Order, and Laclede responded with a Motion for 5 Mediation, and here we are, here to relitigate five months 6 and hundreds of pages and many man hours of a discovery 7 issue.

8 So during the course of this case, just so 9 we know where we all are, there have been three Orders 10 from the Commission directing Laclede to produce this information, October 20th, 2008, December 17th, 2008, 11 January 21st, 2009. I have copies of these Orders as well 12 as some additional information that I'd like to 13 14 distribute. I have them in binders. I'd like for each Commissioner to have a copy. I also have copies for the 15 other attorneys if I could distribute those now. 16 17 JUDGE JONES: Mr. Pendergast, have you had 18 an opportunity to look at the information Mr. Reed has? 19 MR. PENDERGAST: No, not yet, your Honor. JUDGE JONES: Before we look at it, why 20 21 don't you let him take a look at it. You can go ahead and 22 continue talking while he's looking. Do you need us to be 23 looking at that while you're proceeding? MR. REED: I will in a moment. 24

25 JUDGE JONES: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Mr. Reed, I want to 2 interrupt and ask a question. 3 MR. REED: Yes. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: If the Commission 4 5 were to issue an order for production of documents, and 6 then it was later proven that the production request went 7 beyond what was reasonably required for the issue trying 8 to be proven, could, should the Commission rethink its 9 orders? 10 MR. REED: The Commission certainly can. The Commission certainly could, yes. 11 12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you. 13 MR. REED: Okay. 14 JUDGE JONES: Mr. Pendergast, have you had an opportunity to look at that? 15 16 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes, your Honor. It's 17 fine. 18 MR. REED: I'll pass out these three. The Commission could reconsider its Order. In fact, after the 19 October 20th, 2008 Order, the Commission did reconsider. 20 21 There were several pleadings filed, and ultimately on 22 December 17th, the Commission denied the Motion for 23 Reconsideration and ordered Laclede to produce the documents. Then there was a request for clarification. 24 25 Now, the request for clarification dealt

1 with whether an investigatory docket into the relationship 2 between LER and Laclede should be opened or not. Laclede 3 wanted clarification. Is the Commission really ordering 4 an investigation into this relationship? The Commission 5 issued its Order clarifying and said no, and by the way, 6 Laclede, produce the documents by February 4th. So that's 7 how we got here. 8 Now --9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So Mr. Reed, the 10 production of documents, then, is purely in relation to 11 the ACA case --12 MR. REED: It is. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: -- that is before us; 13 14 is that correct? 15 MR. REED: It is. 16 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So everything that 17 Staff is requesting must be reasonably related to -- I'm trying to get the wording correct here. 18 19 MR. REED: Everything that we're requesting, Commissioner, must be reasonably calculated to 20 21 lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. 22 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And for an ACA case, 23 the Staff is going to be looking at whether Laclede complied with its tariff, including the Cost Allocation 24 25 Manual that is included in its tariff; is that correct?

1 MR. REED: As part of the ACA case, we'll review that information as well, but the primary purpose 2 3 for this information is to determine whether Laclede paid 4 too much to LER for gas and determine what LER did with 5 Laclede's capacity that was released to LER. б COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And too much would be 7 defined by the rule, would it not? 8 MR. REED: Not necessarily. Because if 9 entering into the contract and taking action under the 10 contract was not prudent in that it led to higher gas 11 costs for the ratepayers, then that impacts the ACA. 12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So they could fully comply with their Cost Allocation Manual and still be 13 14 imprudent, is that what you're saying? 15 MR. REED: Yes. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Go ahead. 16 17 MR. REED: Now, I know -- I know that Laclede is here to argue this whole case again, and I'm 18 19 ready to do the same thing. We'll argue relevance. We'll argue the affiliate rules. We'll do the whole thing 20 21 again. Five months of litigation, we'll do it all again. 22 But the real issue here is why didn't 23 Laclede produce the documents on February 4th? There's been no filing explaining why that wasn't done. There has 24 25 been nothing filed in EFIS to explain why they didn't do

that. Motions for Reconsideration were denied. Motions for Clarification were granted. Here we are, we're at the end. The documents needed to be produced and they weren't. If the issue here is that the Commission got it wrong, then we have three Orders that weren't complied with, especially the final Order, produce it by February 4th.

8 Because the Commission, like any court, is 9 entitled to be wrong. This is a discovery issue. This is 10 not the resolution of the case. This is do we get the 11 documents or not? The Commission said produce the 12 documents and Laclede just said -- what did they say? No. 13 No. No. February 4th, no, you don't get them.

Here's what Laclede is really claiming, and IS I'll bet you'll hear it at some point today. Laclede does not have possession of these documents. We don't have possession, so we can't produce them.

18 Now, let's turn to the binder that's in 19 front of you. If you look at the, I think it's the fourth 20 document, Unanimous Stipulation & Agreement. All right. 21 Now, this is the Stipulation & Agreement that I've been 22 accused of misquoting or selectively quoting from, so I 23 thought it important to bring it here today to let you Commissioners look at it, read it, tell me what you think, 24 25 because I've been wrong before, but I have never

intentionally misled a court anywhere, and I will not do
 that with this Stipulation & Agreement.

3 So let's turn -- by the way, this has to do 4 with the restructuring, right, the restructuring of 5 Laclede, where LER goes from being a subsidiary of Laclede 6 Gas Company on page 2 to the change where the Laclede 7 Group is the parent company for Laclede Gas and over here 8 is LER, Laclede Energy Resources.

9 Now, as a condition of the Commission's 10 approval of this restructuring, turn to page 7. Here's a 11 section, access to information conditions. It's at the bottom of the page. Peruse paragraph 1. It has to do 12 with financial information. We turn to paragraph 2, we 13 14 can see condition relating to information to verify 15 compliance with the CAM, the Cost Allocation Manual. Read a little further. 16

17 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Mr. Reed, excuse me.
18 That is as may be reasonably required to verify compliance
19 with the Cost Allocation Manual; is that correct?
20 MR. REED: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So if there is -- and 22 at this point, I'd like to know, there is a specific way 23 that the Cost Allocation Manual provides for dealings with 24 an affiliate, correct?

25 MR. REED: Yes. That's right.

1 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And it says the 2 higher -- depending on whether it's a sale or a purchase, 3 the higher of the fair market value or fully distributed 4 costs. 5 MR. REED: Right. Yes. б COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Or the lower of those 7 two things, right? So how does the information that Staff 8 has sought reasonably relate to whether that CAM has been 9 complied with? 10 MR. REED: The investigation isn't into compliance with the CAM. The investigation is whether 11 12 Laclede paid too much to LER for the gas they bought. 13 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: But you're citing 14 something in the Stip & Agreement that indicates what 15 Laclede has agreed to provide, and what you're reciting 16 says they have agreed to provide this as may reasonably be 17 required to verify compliance with the cost allocation 18 manual. MR. REED: I don't dispute that's what it 19 20 says, but this is not the -- this is not the part of the 21 Stipulation & Agreement that is germane to whether Laclede 22 produces these records. It's on the next page. 23 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Go ahead. MR. REED: You finish page 8 at the bottom 24

25 and there's information about access to collective

1 bargaining employees. And then on page 9 you have to go 2 down to line 3, Laclede Gas Company and the Laclede Group. 3 This is a long sentence that ends paragraph 2, and it 4 says -- you can see what it says, shall also provide any 5 such -- any other such information relevant to ratemaking, 6 financing, regulatory authority over the Laclede Gas 7 Company. Read it for yourself. 8 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Provided that Laclede 9 Group shall have the right to object, and I know you're 10 going forward to say that an objection that it's not in the possession or control of Laclede is not relevant 11 12 because that's one of the exceptions --13 MR. REED: Correct. 14 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: -- but don't they have the right to reject -- or to object based on 15 16 relevancy? MR. REED: Yes, unless it has -- unless it 17 has to do with the proposed restructuring. They can, yes, 18 19 they can object on relevancy, absolutely. COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So if it's not 20 21 relevant to the Cost Allocation Manual, they can object on 22 that basis, can they not? 23 MR. REED: They can object, but the issue is whether it's relevant to the ACA review, whether 24 25 Laclede paid too much for gas and whether Laclede should

1 not have released that capacity to LER because -- because Laclede could have and should have used that capacity. 2 3 It's a different issue. 4 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Go ahead. 5 MR. REED: I realize that Laclede wants to б pigeonhole this thing into the affiliate rules and the 7 CAM, but that's not where we're coming from. We're trying 8 to decide --9 JUDGE JONES: So if that's a different 10 issue, why are we looking at the Stip & Agreement? MR. REED: Because this says that 11 possession, a lack of possession is not a defense. 12 Laclede has access to affiliate records, period. It's 13 14 right here. 15 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: But Mr. Reed, in our Order we limited what they had to produce to those things 16 17 in their possession. Now, are you asking us to reconsider 18 our Order? 19 MR. REED: Those things in Laclede's possession are also defined by this agreement, by this 20 21 Stipulation & Agreement. 22 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: But we indicated 23 those things that were in their possession, and you're citing something that says they can't object --24 25 MR. REED: Right.

1 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: -- to the production 2 based upon it not being in their possession, but our Order 3 only required them to produce what was actually in their 4 possession. 5 MR. REED: Well, they are in Laclede's б possession. They are, by operation of this Stipulation & Agreement which is approved, which is law, they are in 7 8 Laclede's possession. 9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And where is 10 possession defined? MR. REED: Well, possession is defined by 11 the case law like Hancock v Shook. You have a copy of it 12 in the binder. That's where -- where possession is 13 14 defined. It's control, it's custody, it's the practical 15 ability to obtain the documents from third parties. 16 Of course Laclede has the practical ability 17 to obtain these documents from LER. I mean, Mr. Neises is the vice president of both companies. He signs contracts 18 19 for both of the companies, and you have copies of those in the binder as well. So possession is that -- is defined 20 21 by the Missouri Supreme Court, and it's broad. 22 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Go ahead. 23 MR. REED: So here's my point and I'll move to the relevance. Commission ordered Laclede to produce 24 25 these documents, and it may have said the documents in

1 your possession , but they have possession by virtue of 2 this Stipulation & Agreement. They have possession. They 3 agreed they have possession. It's a condition of the 4 approval of the merger, of the restructuring. They also 5 have possession by virtue of the Hancock v Shook case б which says that possession is broad. It's control. It's 7 access. It's the practical ability to obtain the 8 documents from a third party, a party not a party to the 9 case, a nonparty, to obtain those and produce them. 10 Now, Laclede never objected to possession 11 ever, ever before. I mean, they've never done it formally. I think what they're saying is, well, the 12 affiliate rules say that -- the affiliate rules say that 13 14 Laclede must have possession for particular purposes. Therefore, what Laclede is arguing is that 15 16 if you're investigating the affiliate relationship between LER and Laclede, then I have the records, but if for any 17 other reason I don't have them, I don't have them in the 18 19 other hand. That's what Laclede is arguing. 20 But what we're saying here is that Laclede 21 does have possession of these records and that we can 22 access them under the general discovery provisions that the -- that the Supreme Court rules provide and the case 23 law that follows and interprets those particular rules. 24 25 Now, that argument by Laclede that I have

1 them for one purpose but not another, that is Laclede 2 using the affiliate rules as a shield and basically saying 3 that unless the affiliate rules provide that you can have 4 these LER documents, you can never have them, and that is 5 contrary to the Missouri Supreme Court rules, to the б general discovery provisions, to the case law that 7 applies. 8 Do I have plenty of time left? 9 JUDGE JONES: You have about ten minutes 10 left. MR. REED: Okay. I'll be fine, then. 11 Okay. I want to move to -- I want to -- the issue of 12 13 prudence. Of course this is a prudence case. Was Laclede 14 prudent in making purchases during the two ACA periods we're talking about? In particular, there are two 15 16 contracts that you'll find in your binder between Laclede 17 and LER. They are at document No. 6 and No. 7. 18 Now, as I indicated earlier in the things 19 that we've filed, we're trying to obtain the sources of 20 gas that LER used to perform under this contract with 21 Laclede. You see the March 10, 2004 contract between 22 Laclede and LER. Laclede Energy Resources is the seller. 23 Laclede, the regulated company, is the buyer. So LER is selling gas to Laclede. Now, the delivery location, 24 25 Laclede Gas Company aggregate. Okay. So that's St.

1 Louis.

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                   JUDGE JONES: Is this highly confidential?
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                   MR. REED: Yes, it is. Let's move to HC.
4
    I'm sorry. Is it?
                   MR. PENDERGAST: Yes.
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                   (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an
7
    in-camera session was held, which is contained in
8
    Volume 2, pages 57 through 71 of the transcript.)
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1 MR. PENDERGAST: If it please the 2 Commission, I too want to thank you for this opportunity 3 to hold an oral argument on the important question at 4 issue today, namely the propriety of Staff's information 5 request of Laclede. Mr. Reed previously indicated that б what I was going to argue, and I have a few more things to 7 say than maybe Mr. Reed had indicated, and where I'd like 8 to begin is by saying that we object to having to provide 9 this information for three reasons. 10 The first reason is that it's based on a fundamentally misleading depiction of the relationship 11 between Laclede and LER, one that is meant to give you a 12 false impression that LER has achieved its success only by 13 14 exploiting the gas supply assets of Laclede. Second, and I think Commissioner Murray got 15 16 to this very quickly in her series of opening questions, 17 the Staff's information requests are premised on the 18 wholesale rewriting of the rules and standards that you've 19 approved to govern access to the records of a utility's 20 affiliate, rules and standards that Laclede and LER have 21 operated under in good faith during the ACA periods in 22 question, and that the Staff now seeks to retroactively 23 change through the guise of an ACA adjustment. 24 It's also inconsistent with the pricing

25 standards that are in the Cost Allocation Manual, and as

the Commissioner asked, that's the information that we were obligated to provide was what was necessary to comply with the pricing principles in the Cost Allocation Manual and other requirements.

5 Mr. Reed just basically said today, well, б that's irrelevant. We come up with our own standard, we 7 come up with our own way of pricing these things, and so 8 you've got an obligation not to just provide information 9 to show compliance with the affiliate transaction rules, 10 which also limits it to information that's necessary to 11 show compliance with the standards in there, but also with the CAM, because Mr. Sommerer has invented a new standard, 12 and that's the standard that he seeks to go ahead and have 13 14 information provided to go ahead and pursue it.

15 Well, if we didn't have rules, if we don't 16 have CAMS, if we didn't have requirements to say what 17 those standards and rules are supposed to be, maybe Mr. Sommerer would be free to do that. But we do have 18 19 rules, we do have standards. And I believe Mr. Zucker is 20 going to go ahead and hand out relevant pages of the Cost 21 Allocation Manual as well as some of the materials I'll be 22 using.

23 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Mr. Pendergast, I'd
24 like to ask a question. Mr. Reed started out by going
25 through a timeline of Orders we had issued. I wanted to

1 give you a chance to respond. I believe it was he said on 2 February -- we issued an Order that indicated that Laclede 3 was supposed to respond and provide the documents by 4 February 4th, and he said that Laclede just didn't 5 respond, didn't -б MR. PENDERGAST: That's not true, your 7 Honor. 8 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Like I said, I 9 wanted to give you a chance to respond. 10 MR. PENDERGAST: And I appreciate that. 11 First of all , in your Order you said that the set of documents were in our possession that we needed to 12 13 provide, and the documents were not in our possession. We 14 didn't object to providing the documents, but we said the 15 Commission had indicated if they were in our possession we were supposed to provide them, and I indicated to Mr. Reed 16 17 they weren't in our possession. 18 And what I also indicated to Mr. Reed is 19 that we wanted to sit down and we wanted to talk about 20 additional information that would indeed demonstrate that 21 we were in compliance with the affiliate transaction rule

22 and in compliance with the pricing standards in our CAM,

23 which is the relevant criteria for determining what

24 information we want to provide.

25 Staff said they weren't interested in

sitting down and talking about that, and that's because Staff has their own standard that they want to get information on. Unfortunately, it's not a standard that you've authorized, it's not one you've approved, and it's not one they've agreed on in the CAM.

б COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Did you file 7 anything in EFIS indicating, letting the Commission know 8 that you did not have the records in your possession? 9 MR. PENDERGAST: I did not file something 10 immediately in there. What I did is I sent a rather 11 lengthy letter to Mr. Reed explaining that, and also explaining the information that we were willing to provide 12 that we wanted to go ahead and discuss at a meeting that 13 14 they weren't interested in having with us.

And two weeks later it was Mr. Reed that 15 found that he had to file a request for clarification with 16 17 the Commission to have you change your Order that we had 18 complied with. So he asked for a request for clarification because he didn't like the result that we 19 20 got under the Order that you had issued and said that you 21 needed to go ahead and change your Order, and that's what 22 he's trying basically to do today.

23 So I think that the real issue is, and I 24 think Staff has recognized this as well, is that the scope 25 of their access to affiliate records doesn't really depend

on possession. What it depends on is what the affiliate
 transaction rule says, which establishes specific criteria
 for what affiliate records have to be maintained.

4 It specifically provides that an affiliate 5 and a utility has to make records available to the extent б necessary for the sole purpose of showing compliance with those standards, and, in fact, that's the same kind of 7 8 language that we have in the CAM that Commissioner Murray 9 asked Mr. Reed about. It says we've agreed to go ahead 10 and provide information as necessary to go ahead and show compliance with the CAM. And I'm going to go over what 11 those standards are in just a minute. 12

13 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Mr. Pendergast, 14 excuse me, but does the Cost Allocation Manual incorporate 15 all of the affiliate transaction rules or only a portion 16 of them?

MR. PENDERGAST: Well, it incorporates the 17 concepts in the affiliate transaction rule with 18 19 elaboration to show how they work in the context of the 20 specific transactions that Laclede Gas deals with. And in 21 the papers that we've provided you, the excerpts from the 22 Cost Allocation Manual, what's really at issue here are 23 those provisions that govern when we purchase gas supply or capacity from the affiliate, which would be Laclede 24 25 Energy Resources, or when we sell gas supply or capacity

1 to an affiliate.

2 And basically what the CAM recognizes is 3 that it's a market test that you have to use in order to 4 determine whether or not those particular transactions 5 were reasonable. In the wholesale natural gas market, б everything is determined by the market. It's what can I 7 buy gas from, and if I'm buying gas from LER, what's the competitive market price for that gas as established by 8 9 looking at other vendors who are also selling gas in the 10 same market and the same location? And that's what we did to comply with the 11 12 affiliate transaction rule. We provided Staff with information showing what that was. And if we could go 13 14 in-camera for just a moment, I'd like to go ahead and kind of illustrate that up on the board if I could. 15 16 (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an 17 in-camera session was held, which is contained in 18 Volume 2, pages 78 through 110 of the transcript.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

COMMISSIONER DAVIS: All of the documents 1 2 are highly confidential, correct? 3 MR. PENDERGAST: I think most -- well, 4 there are some orders in there and other things in there. 5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: The rules -- the 6 affiliate transaction rule itself and any Commission 7 decisions aren't, but --8 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. I think the others 9 are. 10 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Anything that's a number relating to Laclede is highly confidential for the 11 12 most part? 13 MR. PENDERGAST: That's generally fair. 14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. Now, 15 Mr. Pendergast, I understand that -- I'm going to throw out another scenario. 16 17 MR. PENDERGAST: Sure. 18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: And I don't think it 19 violates the affiliate transaction rule. Okay. But let's say, you know, it's -- it's an unexpected cold day in 20 21 January and, you know, Laclede -- and maybe this may not 22 even be technically feasible because Laclede may need all 23 of its capacity on cold days, but okay. 24 What is to stop someone -- if Laclede is 25 earning close to its allowed return and whoever

1 represents, you know, Laclede in terms of capacity knows 2 that, what's to stop them from calling up LER and saying, 3 hey, looks like it's going to be a good day. The company 4 can make a lot of money selling capacity off-system. You 5 know, I'll sell it to you at fair market value, you mark б it up and make whatever you can get, and you'll make off 7 like bandits and in the end the company will benefit? 8 I mean, I can envision that scenario 9 happening, and it causes me concern. It may not violate 10 the affiliate transaction rule, but that don't mean we 11 shouldn't do something about it. 12 MR. PENDERGAST: Well, and you know, I can understand how somebody might have that concern, 13 14 Commissioner. What prohibits it from happening is, first 15 of all, the guy that's going to make the call for the gas 16 company, he gets rewarded based on whether he uses that to 17 make off-system sales, not on whether Mr. Jaskowiak takes 18 some and LER's earnings go up. okay. So that doesn't 19 factor in to his earnings. And secondly, if I can just put up the --20 21 as I showed before, our off-system sales have gone up 22 tremendously, and I know there's a belief at times that 23 every time a utility makes a decision there's some underlying financial calculation that's made, that you 24 25 don't go ahead and necessarily do it just because it's the 1 right thing to do.

But the fact of the matter is, if you look at how these have inclined, gone up, the amount that the company's been able to keep of these transactions has gone ahead and changed. Forget LER for a minute. It's been able to -- it's been changed significantly over this period of time.

8 Used to be when, you know, back here when 9 we were in a rate case, we kept everything, everything we 10 made between rate cases. Okay. And then around here I 11 think we went ahead and had to give 50 percent back once 12 we got to 12 million. Okay. And then here, I think we 13 got to the point where we had to give between 75 and 85 14 percent back to our customers.

Now, you know, if you just went ahead and 15 16 responded to what the financial incentive was, and not 17 that incentives aren't important, but that's the only thing that entered into your calculation, you wouldn't 18 19 continue to work hard to go ahead and drive these things 20 up even though you're only getting 30 percent of what you 21 got before. I mean, you work hard because it's the right 22 thing to do. You work hard because it's in your 23 performance evaluation. You'll be rewarded on it. 24 I submit to you -- you know, can you be 25 absolutely 100 percent certain that nobody's ever made

that phone call? You know, you can't be absolutely
100 percent certain about anything. But you're never
going to go ahead and be able to have, I think, more
robust information than this that we played it on the up
and up.

б And, you know, once again, Commissioner, 7 the rules themselves, the affiliate transaction rules 8 themselves are designed to go ahead and not have to look 9 into what somebody's motivation is. They're designed to 10 not have to look into what your real intention is. The proof is in the pudding, and, you know, the pudding's been 11 cooked up by the Commission in the form of its affiliate 12 13 transaction rules.

14 Those are the rules of the game we did 15 business under. They're the rules of the game LER did 16 business under. If people think the rules ought to be 17 changed, the transactions ought to be outlawed, that there ought to be additional separation, you know, whatever, 18 19 that's fine. I mean, you know, somebody can come forward 20 and propose a change to the rule and then we can go ahead 21 and debate that.

But what we shouldn't do is retroactively go back and say, you know, we think a different standard ought to apply because we don't like the standard that the rule has gone ahead and imposed on everybody. I think the

1 rules work well, but if you're going to change it, it 2 ought to be changed prospectively. 3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: All right. Thank you, 4 Mr. Pendergast. 5 MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you. б CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you, Judge. I 7 just have a few quick, I hope they're quick questions. 8 MR. PENDERGAST: Sure. 9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: On the chart that you 10 had up before where you set out a characterization of Laclede's position and Staff's position, if we assume that 11 those characterizations are accurate the way -- and I'm 12 not saying they're not --13 14 MR. PENDERGAST: Sure. 15 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: -- but assuming that's the case, as a matter of law, does the Commission have the 16 17 power to adopt Staff's position and disallow amounts 18 through this PGA? 19 MR. PENDERGAST: As a matter of law, I 20 would say the Commission does not have the power to adopt 21 the Staff adjustment that's based on a pricing standard 22 different than what's in the affiliate transaction rule. 23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So as a matter of law, we cannot adopt what Staff is doing? 24 25 MR. PENDERGAST: That would be my position, 1 yes.

2 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Aside from that, the 3 question of law or the legality of it, more of a policy 4 question. Is it Laclede's position that you are asking 5 the Commission to decide the ultimate decision in this 6 case, the way things have been framed up, without 7 reviewing any type of sampling of the documents Staff is 8 requesting? 9 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. Well, I guess --10 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: I mean, I look at this thing and you're saying, this is what the Staff wants to 11 do, it's wrong, wrong, wrong, and we don't -- but this is 12 really kind of a discovery discussion or an exchange of 13 14 information discussion we're hearing here today. I guess 15 that's what I'm trying to --16 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. I guess what I 17 would prefer is I would prefer if you looked at the Cost 18 Allocation Manual documents, if you looked at the affiliate transaction rules, and if you looked at what 19 20 we've said here today and what we've said in the pleading, 21 if you could give clarification, yeah, that you really 22 ought to be evaluated when you're buying gas from an 23 affiliate on what the fair market price of that gas is as determined by, you know, other vendors and sellers and 24 25 buyers in the market.

1 That would be helpful. That would be 2 helpful. It would be helpful to have some kind of clarity 3 because, quite frankly, given where Staff has come from, 4 we have absolutely no idea what the standard is that we're 5 supposed to be operating under. We don't know when we're 6 making money, not making money, when it's appropriate, 7 when it's not. It would be helpful to go ahead and have 8 that clarified.

9 If you don't clarify it, if you don't feel 10 comfortable going that far at this point, then what I would submit is we ought to have an evidentiary hearing at 11 this point. Staff ought to come in, they ought to go over 12 this purchase contract that they said they had concerns 13 14 with, they ought to go over the sales stuff that they said they had concerns with, and they ought to say, this is my 15 view of what the standard is in the rule, this is my view 16 17 of what the standard is in the CAM, this is my view of 18 why --

19 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Can I stop you right20 there?

21 MR. PENDERGAST: Sure.

22 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: The evidentiary hearing 23 that you want to have, what would be the case? Is the 24 case -- if you removed the PGA aspect of it, so basically 25 does it become a rulemaking, a proposed rulemaking to change policy? Or explain to me what type of evidentiary
 hearing, what type of case that would be.

3 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. What it would be is 4 we would finally get -- I mean, you know, Staff made its 5 first recommendation to disallow costs associated with б this contract we had with LER I think two and a half years 7 ago. Okay. And they said this is inappropriate, I have a problem with it, here's \$4.5 million worth of costs we 8 9 ought to disallow. I think that's over two ACA periods. 10 It's not really a good number because it does include some 11 transportation that produces it.

12 But that notwithstanding, they ought to 13 come in and they ought to say, here's why we think it's 14 reasonable to go ahead and look at these other costs, 15 here's why we think this disallowance is appropriate. 16 And if they want to go ahead and say, you 17 know, here's the kind of information we think we should

19 what the standard is, if you ultimately want to conclude, 20 well, okay, we think there's some merit to what Staff has 21 proposed here, we think, you know, they've shown us that 22 there's some shenanigans here and we think we need to look 23 forward, then fine.

have gotten or we're entitled to get under our view of

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24 But what I don't think we ought to do is 25 say we want to send them off on an audit of 93 percent of

1 transactions that LER does with third parties based on 2 these untested allegations that they've made. I mean, 3 they made the allegations two and a half years ago. Why 4 isn't it appropriate for them to come forward now and 5 prove them up? б CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Wouldn't -- wouldn't an 7 evidentiary hearing in the PGA case, though, be an 8 appropriate place for that? 9 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. I agree, 10 absolutely. No, and I think that's what we should do. CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: But I think what they've 11 suggested is that they need to review some materials to be 12 able to do that, and you-all are refusing to turn over 13 14 those materials. 15 MR. PENDERGAST: Chairman, what they're 16 saying is, we've refused to go ahead turn over some 17 materials that we need to pursue a standard that's not in the affiliate transaction rule, that's not in Laclede's 18 19 CAM, that's not in any of the seminal documents that we've 20 operated under for the last four or five years. 21 Mr. Sommerer has got a different theory, 22 different standard about how things ought to be priced, and you need to ignore your CAM -- Mr. Reed just said that 23 today -- and you need to go ahead and ignore the affiliate 24 25 transaction rule and give us what we want because I've got

a different theory and I've got a different standard, and
 that's not appropriate.

3 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Let me try and ask this 4 question. I think it's a variation of what Commissioner 5 Davis asked. In your chart, you are setting out that the 6 company believes that the customer should be -- the gas 7 should be priced at the fair market price?

MR. PENDERGAST: Absolutely.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: And Staff is suggesting 10 something else. But if the Staff were to review the 11 material that they are seeking, some sampling of it, and they were to find a consistent lower cost of gas going 12 through LER which is lower than what the fair market price 13 14 is, and that was happening on a consistent basis, do you 15 believe that would support a finding of imprudent behavior on the part of Laclede? 16

MR. PENDERGAST: Well, first of all, since we've provided information that shows we've met the fair market price, I don't really understand how that could go ahead and happen.

But what it's effectively saying is that, you know, the criteria we've come up with for determining whether these transactions are proper or not, basically the fair market price and how you're supposed to calculate that fair market price, you know, really ain't working, you know, and we need to go ahead and look behind and see
 if there's something else that's going on.

You know, my view would be, if that's the case and we need to revisit the rules and we need to come up with something other than fair market price and we need to come up with a more specific way of determining what it should be, then I think that's fine to go ahead and do and look at.

9 But what we shouldn't do is go back and 10 say, you know, the standards you've been operating under for the last six or seven years we need to go ahead and 11 revisit and we need to get information based on a 12 different standard. I mean, you know, ACA --13 14 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Let me ask another question. I don't mean to cut you off. I know this has 15 gone on for a while. 16 17 What you're saying, I think you're saying, 18 and please clarify if I'm wrong, is that basically 19 customers should be entitled to the fair market price and 20 no less? 21 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. 22 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Is that what you're 23 saying? 24 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. 25 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So even if an affiliate

on a consistent basis is selling gas that is beneath that price to other customers outside of its native load or outside of where they're going otherwise, that those customers have -- they should not benefit at all from those other transactions, that they're only entitled to б what your definition of what fair market price is? (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an in-camera discussion was held, which is contained in Volume 2, page 123 of the transcript.) 

1 MR. PENDERGAST: And I think that once you 2 have that kind of robust indication of this was a 3 competitive contract and it's done at the fair market 4 price, you know, there's not a need to look at anything 5 else.

б And I certainly don't think that under 7 those circumstances somebody's justified an investigation 8 because something's rotten in Denmark, particularly when 9 you look at the macro results we've achieved in off-system 10 sales and how they've, you know, gone up on the gas company side so dramatically over the last four or five, 11 six years when we were supposedly migrating them over to 12 13 our affiliate.

 14
 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: From your perspective,

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 is Staff arguing that the fair market price can be

 16
 determined by looking at these documents?

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 MR. PENDERGAST: I think Staff is arguing

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 that if - 

 19
 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Rather than by your

 20
 definition, I guess is what I'm asking.

21 MR. PENDERGAST: I don't know whether Staff 22 would go ahead and say they want to get what the fair 23 market price is, but if that's the fair market price, what 24 it's basically saying is the fair market price for an 25 affiliate only is what that affiliate ultimately does with your capacity and gas that you've sold to them. If they
 ultimately make another sale to somebody else that maybe
 the gas company could have made a sale to, then we want to
 go ahead and get those margins for the gas company.

5 If I go ahead and I sell that same gas б capacity to a BP Amoco or Conoco Phillips, the matter 7 ends. They can go compete with me. They can sell it to anybody else they want. But if I do it with an affiliate, 8 9 we need to go ahead and follow them, and then we need to 10 go and have them give back any money they gave if we can establish at some point that that's a customer that you 11 could have made an off-system sale to. 12

You know, Chairman, I -- why would this 13 14 suggest to anybody that Laclede's been involved in 15 anything other than a robust effort to go ahead and grow 16 its off-system sales for its regulated customers? I mean, 17 you know, you can hypothecate and you can theorize, but 18 sometimes just looking at the facts and looking at the 19 real world and looking at what's happened is enough, and I 20 think it is in this particular case. I just don't think 21 you can treat an affiliate substantially different than 22 you do a non-affiliate.

23 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: You've made some very 24 interesting arguments here today on -- for the outcome of 25 the whole case. Ultimately, though, today we have the

question before us of whether or not we are going to move
 forward with discovery and the exchange of this
 information.

4 What is your response to me if I suggest 5 that by not sharing some sampling of information, that б perhaps that suggests that maybe there really is something that the Staff should be seeing, by not turning this over? 7 And I don't want to get -- I understand you're advocating 8 9 very strongly for your client. I don't want to -- but 10 what is your response if I say, you know, the Staff's asking to look at this, don't want to turn over, so maybe 11 there is something there? And I'm not suggesting that, 12 but what's your response? 13

14 MR. PENDERGAST: Well, my response to that 15 is, No. 1, the reason they said they need to look at it is 16 because they happen to go ahead and have a standard that's 17 different than anything in the affiliate transaction rule, anything in the CAM. And we've given them the information 18 19 to show compliance with that, and we shouldn't be required 20 just to go ahead and prove our innocence, go ahead and 21 provide them information that isn't required under any of 22 those rules.

And the second thing I would say on the if you don't have anything else to hide, you know, assume you're a judge and you go out there and you've ruled in 1 favor of somebody and then, you know, a couple weeks later 2 you buy a new car. It's a pretty nice car. Can somebody 3 on a judicial salary really afford that nice a car? Maybe 4 moved into a new house. Somebody comes up to you and 5 says, looks like you're doing pretty well there. I'd like 6 to take a look at your financial records if you don't 7 mind. And I think, you know, the response would be that's 8 none of your business.

9 And if they were to go ahead and come back 10 and say, well, if you've got nothing to hide, why don't 11 you go ahead and provide it to them, I think you might 12 punch them in the nose. That's just not in my view a very 13 reasoned objection to somebody not providing --

14 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: I understand. Point 15 taken on that. And I'm not driving a new car. I want to 16 be clear on the record. I haven't bought anything new. 17 I've got bald tires on there. I've got problems with 18 that.

I take that point, but the difference is that there is a relationship that the Staff and the regulated entities and their affiliates have that is ongoing. So having exchanges of information are quite a bit different from just the simple making an accusation, go prove it. That's what we're here to do. This is our job.

MR. PENDERGAST: I understand. CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: So that's why I'm -- is there any -- is there any compromise or sampling of information that would make sense in this instance if it is overly broad or perhaps overly burdensome? (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an in-camera session was held, which is contained in Volume 2, page 128 of the transcript.) 

1 MR. PENDERGAST: Now, Staff's view on that 2 was, well, that's just arbitrary. You're just taking data 3 and you're just putting your own mental construct on it, 4 and you're saying we ought to use an average instead of 5 using the lowest or instead of using the higher end. б I guess all I'm saying is, if you go and 7 you start saying I need to sample information, what you're 8 going to need to do is you're going to have to make a lot 9 of subjective arbitrary assessments of what do I relate to 10 what, what costs do I relate to what sales, how do I 11 determine what was the margin? In a business where you go ahead and have a portfolio supply and transportation 12 13 portfolio to customers and you don't draw lines from one 14 to the other, I'm not sure that that's ever going to go 15 ahead and get you anywhere. But we tried to give them some additional 16 17 information. They said it's arbitrary. And, you know, if you have information on that 93 percent of the 18 transactions that you did with other, whatever you come up 19 20 with, I can guarantee you it's going to be arbitrary, it's 21 going to be somebody's view of how things ought to be 22 allocated. 23 We're probably in all likelihood going to

24 go ahead and disagree with it. And I think in the end 25 you're not going to come up with anything that's any more

1 satisfying than the information that your own rules say 2 ought to be provided to show some compliance with both the 3 CAM and with the affiliate transaction standards. 4 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Should we be 5 reevaluating our affiliate transaction rules? б MR. PENDERGAST: You know, I think it might 7 be helpful to look at the affiliation transaction rules. 8 Again, I think that, you know, we've learned some things 9 about how you really need to price transactions. You 10 know, for example, a lot of transactions, market and cost are the same thing. The rule might want to go ahead and 11 12 recognize that. I think also providing some additional 13 14 elaboration on how you go ahead and determine some of

15 those things under the rule might be helpful. I also 16 think it's helpful for us to go ahead and try and come up 17 with a way to better satisfy people's needs for this 18 information. And quite frankly, you know, there are a lot 19 of transactions out there. It's hard to keep up with 20 them.

One thing we've talked about doing is coming up with a system where we could put these transactions on a secure website, we could go ahead and provide the contemporaneous market data that shows these transactions were competitive, give Staff a code, give

1 Public Counsel a code, so that we don't have to wait three 2 or four years after these transactions took place to go 3 ahead and go back and try and make that evaluation. We 4 can make them as you go along. 5 I really think that's what we ought to be 6 spending our time on rather than spending our time making 7 up new standards, you know, and applying them 8 retroactively. 9 CHAIRMAN CLAYTON: Thank you. 10 JUDGE JONES: Commissioner Davis. COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Can I get Mr. Zucker 11 to bring the LER sales to Laclede that --12 13 MR. ZUCKER: Do what with it? 14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Can you bring that up 15 here so I can --16 MR. ZUCKER: You have that on paper. 17 MR. PENDERGAST: But it's kind of hard to 18 see 2008. COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. All right. 19 Thank you. This would be a highly confidential document, 20 21 I'm assuming. I don't believe it's in our packet in terms 22 of actual LER revenue, a chart like you have for Laclede 23 in terms of you've got the chart there that has 5, 10 -you've got the sales percentage, but you don't have a 24 25 dollar percentage for -- or dollar number for LER?

1 MR. PENDERGAST: Not for the percentages. We do have overall revenue for those four years, but not 2 3 connected specifically to Laclede. 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: You've got that chart 5 right there, that's in our packet, correct? б MR. PENDERGAST: Correct. That is and that 7 is. 8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Can you produce 9 another chart just like that one except make it for LER? 10 MR. PENDERGAST: Laclede sales to LER? COMMISSIONER DAVIS: No. Just LER, you 11 know, sales -- I don't guess LER has any capacity release. 12 13 Okay. 14 MR. PENDERGAST: We've got total revenues 15 here. COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. That's -- all 16 17 right. That's total revenues, that's not net, and --18 MR. PENDERGAST: Earnings you mean? COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. What is the 19 20 amount on the previous -- let's go back to the -- is that 21 net margins, is that what that is for Laclede? 22 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. 23 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. So can you generate a chart just like that for LER? 24 25 MR. PENDERGAST: Oh, you mean -- yeah. We

1 can generate something that shows what the earnings are. 2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: And will you do that 3 and will you send it to us? 4 MR. PENDERGAST: Sure. And I think we 5 have that -- I think we disclosed that with the -- yeah. б COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. All right. 7 Next question, and Mr. Pendergast, I've been listening to 8 you intently here, and let me phrase it this way. Are you 9 here today acknowledging that Laclede Gas may have, in 10 fact, been gaming the system but that's okay just because it wasn't, in fact, prohibited by any regulation or 11 agreement or anything else here at the Commission or in 12 13 law? 14 MR. PENDERGAST: No, not at all, Commissioner. What I'm here today is to say that Laclede 15 in conducting its affiliate transactions with LER has 16 17 complied with the pricing standards that the Commission 18 itself went ahead and approved. We've complied with the 19 CAM provisions that were developed in compliance with that 20 particular order, and that we've done everything on the up 21 and up. 22 And I'm here to say today that 23 Laclede -- the fact that LER's existence has been a benefit to Laclede's regulated ratepayers. They have not 24 25 done anything but been a market for our off-system sales

capacity release revenues. They have provided us 50 or
 \$60 million worth of liquidity at very cheap rates during
 very tight credit market times, and they've been a
 reliable supplier of gas. And, you know, I don't think
 there's any question that LER has been good for Laclede's
 ratepayers.

JUDGE JONES: We're in open court again,just so you know.

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: One last question. 10 How would you feel if this Commission appointed a, quote, 11 special master or a third-party expert, someone who is truly independent and impartial to review these documents 12 13 and make any recommendations to this Commission about what 14 we should do, which could include promulgating an 15 emergency rule to fix any gaps that may exist in the existing affiliate transaction rule? 16

17 MR. PENDERGAST: Well, it's interesting 18 that you should mention that, Commissioner. One of the 19 things we had proposed when we -- one of the numerous 20 pleadings we filed in this case was, in the same pleading 21 we asked for this oral argument, we also suggested that we 22 have mediation, and the purpose of that was to get a third 23 party to sit down and go over, No. 1, first the data we have provided that we say shows that these were 24 25 competitive deals, shows that they were consistent with

the affiliate transaction rule, and have them look it
 over, and if they continue to have concerns, we could go
 to a different step.

4 So I'm not averse to doing that. As far as 5 turning over what would probably be 30 or 40,000 documents 6 relating to purchases that LER made and an equal number of 7 confirmations and sales data on sales they made over a 8 two-year period and having that person try and make any 9 sense out of that, I just really don't think that would 10 get you anywhere.

I just think that there's too much information. There's no direct line between the costs and the revenues. And you know, I honestly don't know what you do with it. I don't know what Staff would do with it if they went in and they looked at those 93 percent of LER's transactions that were with people other than Laclede Gas Company.

18 But I do think it would be helpful if the 19 Commission were so inclined to sit down and say, okay, 20 here's all the information we've provided that shows we 21 were in compliance with the standard in the affiliate 22 transaction rule and have that master and try and, you 23 know, have an understanding of what that rule is, have an understanding of what the documents are that we've 24 25 provided and, you know, reach a conclusion as to whether

or not it satisfies it. I think that would be fine. 1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: You referenced 2 3 mediation, which I think of mediation as something 4 where -- a process where you have two parties that have a 5 dispute but don't necessarily have irreconcilable б differences. 7 My concern here is that I don't think 8 Laclede and the Staff are ever going to be able to 9 reconcile any of those differences through mediation. 10 What about binding arbitration? MR. PENDERGAST: You know, I suppose that 11 would depend on what the terms of it is and what was the 12 binding thing about, whether -- if you're talking about 13 14 the merits of the issue, whether you provide the information. I can't honestly tell you at this point that 15 I would necessarily be comfortable with that. 16 17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. I'm sorry. No further questions, Judge. 18 JUDGE JONES: I just have one question, 19 20 Mr. Pendergast. Do you agree, then, with Mr. Reed that 21 Laclede could have acted imprudently with regard to the 22 standards under the ACA but been in compliance with the 23 CAM and the affiliate transaction rule?

24 MR. PENDERGAST: I would agree with25 Mr. Reed that there are certain circumstances under which

1 that could happen. I would not agree with Mr. Reed that 2 any of the circumstances and any of the transactions that 3 Staff has pointed to are ones where you could have been 4 both in compliance with the rule and at the same time 5 imprudent. б JUDGE JONES: Well, we've gone -- we're 7 past two hours now. Mr. Pendergast has gotten substantially large bulk of the argument time. Mr. Reed, 8 9 do you need to reply? MR. REED: I do, and I need to do so in 10 about five minutes because I need to leave, and so I will 11 be very quick, and I'd like to get this done now if we 12 13 can. 14 JUDGE JONES: Okay. That's fine. Thank 15 you, Mr. Pendergast. MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you. 16 17 MR. REED: I just want to address a couple things. One is that this is not -- this case is not about 18 19 whether Laclede violated the affiliate transactions rule. 20 This case is about whether Laclede was prudent in entering 21 into these contracts with LER. So the standard is, was 22 Laclede prudent in entering into these contracts? Was it 23 a good idea to enter into these contracts? Was the cost of gas higher for Laclede's ratepayers because of the 24 25 contracts?

Laclede so far has given us only the information that they believe will prove what they want to prove. (REPORTER'S NOTE: At this point, an in-camera session was held, which is contained in Volume 2, pages 139 through 140 of the transcript.) 

JUDGE JONES: Okay. COMMISSIONER DAVIS: For the record, I think that was less than five minutes. JUDGE JONES: Probably was. With that, then, we stand adjourned. Thank you. WHEREUPON, the hearing in this case was adjourned. 

	Page 142
1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MISSOURI )
	) ss.
3	COUNTY OF COLE )
4	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified
5	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest Litigation
6	Services, and Notary Public within and for the State of
7	Missouri, do hereby certify that I was personally present
8	at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the
9	time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof;
10	that I then and there took down in Stenotype the
11	proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true
12	and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at
13	such time and place.
14	Given at my office in the City of
15	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.
16	Kellen Sedden
17	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR
	Notary Public (County of Cole)
18	My commission expires March 28, 2009.
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