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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Early Prehearing Conference
January 14, 2010
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

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

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding,
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

REPORTED BY:
KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR
MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

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Service Commission.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Welcome, everyone. This
3 is a -- I almost called it a local public hearing, but
4 this is a prehearing conference. As you may be aware,
5 I've done a few local public hearings in the last couple
6 weeks. This is Case No. GR-2010-0171, Laclede Gas
7 Company's request for a rate increase.

8 We'll begin today by taking entries of
9 appearance, beginning with Laclede.

10 MR. PENDERGAST: Michael C. Pendergast and
11 Rick Zucker appearing on behalf of Laclede Gas Company.
12 Our business address is 720 Olive Street, St. Louis,
13 Missouri 63101.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Staff.

15 MS. SHEMWELL: Good morning and thank you,
16 Judge. Lera Shemwell, Kevin Thompson, Robert Berlin,
17 Jamie Ott, Eric Dearmont for the Staff of the Commission,
18 Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. For Public
20 Counsel.

21 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston appearing for the
22 Office of the Public Counsel and the public, P.O.
23 Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For MIEC. Is anywhere
25 here for MIEC?

1 (No response.)

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for MEG.

3 MS. LANGENECKERT: Lisa Langeneckert --
4 I'll spell my last name. It's L-a-n-g-e-n-e-c-k-e-r-t --
5 of the law firm of Sandberg, S-a-n-d-b-e-r-g, Phoenix,
6 like the city in Arizona, and von Gontard, small v-o-n
7 capital G-o-n-t-a-r-d, appearing on behalf of the Missouri
8 Energy Group. My business address is 515 North 6th
9 Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Is anyone here
11 for DNR?

12 MS. MANGELSDORF: Yes. Sarah Mangelsdorf
13 appearing for the Missouri Department of Natural
14 Resources, P.O. Box 899, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And is anyone
16 here representing the unions?

17 (No response.)

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I don't see anyone. Okay.
19 The first item I wanted to bring up was the unions filed a
20 request to intervene late. Does any party have an
21 objection to the unions joining in?

22 MS. SHEMWELL: No, Judge.

23 MR. PENDERGAST: We don't, your Honor.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Hearing no objection,
25 then, I will grant their late intervention as well as

1 their motion to file that late motion to intervene,
2 intervene late, and I'll send -- I'll put out a notice
3 into EFIS indicating that that has been done.

4 The main purpose of this conference today
5 was to allow the parties to work on a proposed procedural
6 schedule, and by previous order that's due on the 21st of
7 this month. And also the previous order asked for
8 recommendations about locations and times for local public
9 hearings, also by the 21st.

10 One other matter I wanted to bring up was
11 the question of test year, and the parties have filed
12 responses earlier this week indicating that they generally
13 agree with the company's proposed test year. I do have
14 one question, though, and that's about the true-up, if we
15 can get some clarification on that.

16 Several of the responses indicated that
17 they wanted more time to decide on the true-up, but I want
18 clarification. Is that concern about the true-up hearing
19 or the true-up itself through July 31st? Public Counsel,
20 I'll ask you first.

21 MR. POSTON: We didn't have any objection
22 to what was being proposed. I guess what I was talking
23 about is just keeping the true-up hearing in place, and at
24 a later date we'll determine whether we need it.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Whether we need the

1 hearing?

2 MR. POSTON: Right.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is that true for Staff as
4 well?

5 MS. SHEMWELL: I would say that that's
6 generally Staff's position as well. We'll see if there's
7 anything that we think needs to be true'd up and then --
8 but keep the hearing dates, yes.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Specifically what I was
10 wondering about was the proposal from Laclede was to true
11 up certain items through July 31st, I believe, of next
12 year. Was there an objection to doing that?

13 MR. POSTON: I don't have one now. I'd
14 like to talk with them about it, about the reasons for it.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, we'll wait for that.
16 I won't issue any sort of order on the test year at this
17 point. And if there is a problem with that, let me know
18 in your filings.

19 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah. From our
20 perspective, and I think we indicated in our pleadings, we
21 thought it was appropriate for the Commission to maintain
22 these true-up hearing dates, just reserve them in case we
23 need it, and -- but we also said we'd be open to exploring
24 ways of being able to avoid a true-up. It may be possible
25 to go ahead and by agreement reach some sort of consensus

1 on allowing some items in that would otherwise be handled
2 for a true-up.

3 So we'll be discussing that, and I think as
4 long as we have the hearing dates reserved, we're in good
5 shape.

6 MS. SHEMWELL: I don't think there's any
7 disagreement on the update period, though, Judge.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, the update period, I
9 believe, was through February.

10 MR. PENDERGAST: March 31st, I think.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Of this year. And that
12 was in Public Counsel's statement also. More questions
13 about the July dates.

14 Anything else anyone wants to bring up
15 while we're on the record?

16 MR. PENDERGAST: I don't believe so.

17 MS. SHEMWELL: There's one issue that has
18 come to mind, and that is that data responses in EFIS
19 apparently don't require someone to attest to the accuracy
20 and correctness of the information, but our rules do, and
21 I've just realized that recently. And we hope to or we
22 will expect that data responses have that attestation
23 either in EFIS or filed sep-- or submitted separately.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

25 MR. PENDERGAST: I'll be happy to take a

1 look at that issue. I don't recall it being a problem in
2 the past, and, you know, we'll take a look at it. I'm not
3 prepared to go ahead and say that it's a problem at this
4 point.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Anything else
6 anyone wants to bring up while we're on the record?

7 (No response.)

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right, then. The
9 on-the-record portion of this prehearing conference is
10 adjourned, and I'll leave you to your discussions.

11 WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the
12 prehearing conference was concluded.

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3 STATE OF MISSOURI)

4) ss.

5 COUNTY OF COLE)

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7 I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified

8 Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest Litigation

9 Services, do hereby certify that I was personally present

10 at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the

11 time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof;

12 that I then and there took down in Stenotype the

13 proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true

14 and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at

15 such time and place.

16 Given at my office in the City of

17 Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.

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Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR

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