

1 STATE OF MISSOURI  
2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
3  
4  
5  
6 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
7 Prehearing Conference  
8 March 31, 2005  
9 Jefferson City, Missouri  
Volume 1

10

11

12 In the Matter of Laclede Gas )  
Company's Tariff to Revise Natural ) Case No. GR-2005-0284  
13 Gas Rate Schedules )

14

15

VICKY RUTH, Presiding,  
16 SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

17

18

19

20

21 REPORTED BY:

22 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR  
MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

23

24

25

1

## APPEARANCES:

2

MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST, Attorney at Law

RICK ZUCKER, Attorney at Law

3

720 Olive Street

St. Louis, MO 63101

4

(314) 342-0532

5

FOR: Laclede Gas Company.

6

LISA C. LANGENECKERT, Attorney at Law

The Stolar Partnership

7

911 Washington Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63101-1209

8

(314) 641-5158

9

FOR: Missouri Energy Group.

10

JULIA ENGELHARDT, Attorney at Law

7730 Carondelet, Suite 200

11

St. Louis, Missouri 65105

12

FOR: Pace Local 56.

13

DOUGLAS E. MICHEEL, Senior Public Counsel

P.O. Box 2230

14

200 Madison Street, Suite 650

Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230

15

(573) 751-4857

16

FOR: Office of the Public Counsel  
and the Public.

17

DAVID A. MEYER, Associate General Counsel

18

P.O. Box 360

200 Madison Street

19

Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-3234

20

FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public  
Service Commission.

21

22

23

24

25

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

2 JUDGE RUTH: Okay. Good morning. We are  
3 here for a prehearing conference in Case GR-2005-0284, in  
4 the matter of Laclede Gas Company's tariff to revise  
5 natural gas rate schedules.

6 My name is Vicky Ruth, and I will be  
7 conducting today's prehearing conference for Lewis Mills.  
8 He sends his apologies, but he is still in the agenda room  
9 discussing an order with the Commissioners. Today's date  
10 is Thursday, March 31st, and it is a few minutes after ten  
11 o'clock.

12 Today we have three of our parties on the  
13 speaker phone. We'll get to entries of appearance in just  
14 a minute, but I want to clarify that we have Julia  
15 Engelhardt from Pace Local 56, Lisa Langeneckert from the  
16 Missouri Energy Group, and Steve Rackers from the PSC. Do  
17 I have anyone from MIEC yet? Looks like we don't.

18 Since it is after ten o'clock, however, we  
19 are not going to wait, and we'll go ahead and proceed with  
20 the entries of appearance. We'll start on this side of  
21 the room, Staff.

22 MR. MEYER: Good morning. David Meyer on  
23 behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
24 Commission. Our address is P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City,  
25 Missouri 65102.

1 JUDGE RUTH: Those of you on the speaker  
2 phone, could you hear that entry of appearance?

3 MS. LANGENECKERT: This is Lisa. Yes.

4 MS. ENGELHARDT: Yes.

5 JUDGE RUTH: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. PENDERGAST: Thanks, Judge. Michael C.  
7 Pendergast and Rick Zucker appearing on behalf of Laclede  
8 Gas Company. My business address is 720 Olive Street,  
9 St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

10 JUDGE RUTH: You said that was  
11 Mr. Pendergast, and what was Mr. Zucker's first time?

12 MR. PENDERGAST: Rick.

13 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel appearing  
14 on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the  
15 Public, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri  
16 65102-2230.

17 JUDGE RUTH: Okay. Anyone else who wants  
18 to enter an appearance? That's it. Okay. Then for the  
19 speaker phone people, Ms. Engelhardt?

20 MS. ENGELHARDT: Yes. Julia Engelhardt.  
21 Mailing address is 7730 Carondelet, Suite 200, St. Louis,  
22 Missouri 65105.

23 JUDGE RUTH: Ms. Langeneckert?

24 MS. LANGENECKERT: Lisa Langeneckert  
25 appearing on behalf of the Missouri Energy Group. My

1 mailing address is The Stolar Partnership, 911 Washington  
2 Avenue, Suite 700, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. Do you need  
3 a spelling of my last name?

4 JUDGE RUTH: Please.

5 MS. LANGENECKERT: L-a-n-g-e-n-e-c-k-e-r-t.

6 JUDGE RUTH: And Ms. Engelhardt, could I go  
7 ahead and get you to spell your name again?

8 MS. ENGELHARDT: Certainly.

9 E-n-g-e-l-h-a-r-d-t.

10 JUDGE RUTH: Thank you. Okay. Have I had  
11 anyone from MIEC come on the speaker phone yet?

12 All right. Then I believe we have all the  
13 entries of appearance. I'll just state that I understand  
14 that this conference has been scheduled to facilitate the  
15 parties' possible settlement negotiations and also to give  
16 you an opportunity to work on a procedural schedule.

17 I will be upstairs in my office if you have  
18 any questions. Lewis Mills will be available as soon as  
19 agenda releases him. And I don't have anything further.  
20 Do the parties have any matters that need to be discussed  
21 on the record before we adjourn? Staff?

22 MR. MEYER: No, your Honor.

23 MR. PENDERGAST: Just sort of a heads up,  
24 your Honor. We had mentioned in our transmittal letter  
25 when we filed this case that we would be discussing with

1 the parties the possible incorporation of some of the  
2 concepts that have been discussed in the case sufficiency  
3 roundtable that the Commission has been conducting over  
4 the last several months. And I don't know where those  
5 discussions will lead, but it's possible that there could  
6 be a few items from those recommendations that have been  
7 made to the Commission that we may be pursuing, and I just  
8 wanted you to know that.

9                   Also, we do have a bit of a conflict with  
10 the evidentiary hearing schedule, and if possible we may  
11 be asking to move that around by just a few days. I don't  
12 know whether the Commission has anything else scheduled  
13 yet during that period of time, but we'll certainly check  
14 with you to see what the status of the weeks around that  
15 are.

16                   JUDGE RUTH: Certainly you can either look  
17 at the calendar, have some of you go up as a group and  
18 look at the calendar or you can call me and I can try to  
19 get some information as to what might be available, but,  
20 of course, you'll have to offer other suggestions to the  
21 Commission, and Lewis will write an Order either changing  
22 it or not.

23                   MR. PENDERGAST: Very good. Thank you.

24                   JUDGE RUTH: I'm not sure if those of you  
25 on the speaker phone, could you hear any of

1 Mr. Pendergast's comments?

2 MS. LANGENECKERT: MEG could hear fine.

3 JUDGE RUTH: Did you have anything, Public  
4 Counsel?

5 MR. MICHEEL: Not that I need to put on the  
6 record.

7 JUDGE RUTH: Then we will adjourn the  
8 on-the-record portion of the prehearing conference.  
9 Again, I'll be upstairs if you need me. Last one out of  
10 the room, please let me Beeson know so he can lock up the  
11 door. He's the gentleman at the receptionist area. Thank  
12 you.

13 WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the  
14 prehearing conference was concluded.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25