

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

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| In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's |) | |
| Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Factors |) | <u>Case No. GR-2017-0299</u> |
| To be reviewed in its 2016-2017 Actual |) | Tracking No. YG-2017-0239 |
| Cost Adjustment |) | |

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission in the above-captioned matter and files its Staff Recommendation as set forth in the accompanying Memorandum (which is incorporated herein by reference) concerning the May 17, 2017, tariff filing and substitute tariff filing of May 23, 2017, by Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), and further states as follows:

1. Laclede filed a tariff sheet on May 17, 2017, and a substitute tariff sheet on May 23, 2017, with a requested effective date of June 1, 2017, to reflect a change in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment ("PGA") factor as a result of estimated changes in the cost of natural gas that have occurred since it established its existing PGA rates last November and inclusion of an "UACA" adjustment.

2. As explained in the accompanying Memorandum, this filing will increase the total residential general winter only PGA rate to \$.34611 per therm for the first 30 therms from the current rate of \$.27670 per therm. For all therms in excess of the first 30 therms, this rate will increase to \$.59022 per therm from the current rate of \$.52081 per therm. These changes represent an increase of \$.06941 per therm.

3. Case No. GR-2017-0299, under which these changes were filed, was established to track the Company's PGA factors to be reviewed in its

2016-2017 Actual Cost Adjustment (“ACA”) filing. Case Nos. GR-2016-0224 and GR-2015-0201 were established to track the Company's PGA factors to be reviewed in its 2015-2016 and 2014-2015 ACA filings, respectively. This rate change should be implemented on an interim basis, subject to refund, pending final Commission decisions in Case Nos. GR-2017-0299, GR-2016-0224, and GR-2015-0201.

4. Staff has verified that the Company has filed its annual report and is not delinquent on any assessment. Staff is not aware of any other matter before the Commission that affects or is affected by this filing except for the cases mentioned above.

5. As explained in the accompanying Memorandum, Staff has reviewed this filing and has determined that it was calculated in conformance with Laclede's PGA Clause. Staff is of the opinion that good cause for approval of this tariff sheet on less than thirty (30) days' notice is demonstrated by Laclede's Commission-approved PGA clause allowing for ten (10) business days' notice for PGA change filings.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the following tariff sheet filed on May 17, 2017, as substituted on May 23, 2017, on an interim basis, subject to refund:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated
Two Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 29, Cancelling Two Hundred and Twenty- Sixth Revised Sheet No. 29

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

Jeffrey A. Keevil

Missouri Bar No. 33825

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Missouri Public Service Commission

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record this 25th day of May, 2017.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. GR-2017-0299, File No. YG-2017-0239
Laclede Gas Company

FROM: Anne M. Crowe, Regulatory Auditor
Procurement Analysis Unit - Operational Analysis Department

/s/ David M. Sommerer 5/25/2017 /s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil 5/25/2017
Commission Staff Division/Date Staff Counsel's Office/Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation to Approve Laclede Gas Company's
Optional PGA Filing Effective June 1, 2017

DATE: May 25, 2017

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company) of St. Louis, Missouri filed a tariff sheet on May 17, 2017, and a substitute tariff sheet on May 23, 2017. This tariff sheet bears the effective date of June 1, 2017. This tariff sheet was filed to reflect a change in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) factor as a result of estimated changes in the cost of natural gas that have occurred since it established its existing PGA rates last November. This filing also includes an "UACA" adjustment that increases the rate by \$.05 per therm pursuant to Tariff Sheet No. 28-c.

The total residential general winter only PGA rate filed by Laclede will increase to \$0.34611 per therm for the first 30 therms from the current rate of \$0.27670 per therm. For all therms in excess of the first 30 therms, this rate filed by Laclede will increase to \$.59022 per therm from the current rate of \$.52081 per therm. These changes represent an increase of \$0.06941 per therm.

Case No. GR-2017-0299, under which these changes were filed, was established to track the Company's PGA factors to be reviewed in its 2016-2017 ACA filing. Case Nos. GR-2016-0224 and GR-2015-0201 were established to track the Company's PGA factors to be reviewed in its 2015-2016 and 2014-2015 ACA filings, respectively. This rate change should be on an interim, subject to refund status pending final Commission decisions in ACA Case Nos. GR-2017-0299, GR-2016-0224, and GR-2015-0201.

Staff has verified that Laclede has filed its annual report, and is not delinquent on its PSC assessment. Staff is not aware of any other matter before the Commission that affects or is affected by this filing, other than as mentioned above.

Staff has reviewed this filing and has determined it was calculated in conformance with Laclede's PGA Clause. Staff is of the opinion that good cause for approval of this tariff sheet on less than thirty (30) days' notice is demonstrated by Laclede's Commission-approved

OFFICIAL CASE FILE MEMORANDUM

MO PSC Case No. GR-2017-0299, File No. YG-2017-0239

May 25, 2017

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PGA clause allowing for ten (10) business days notice for PGA change filings. Therefore, Staff recommends the following tariff sheet, filed on May 17, 2017, as substituted on May 23, 2017, be approved on an interim basis, subject to refund:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated

Two Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 29, Cancelling Two Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Revised Sheet No. 29

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)) Case No. GR-2017-0299
Factors to be Reviewed in its 2016-2017)
Actual Cost Adjustment)

AFFIDAVIT OF ANNE M. CROWE

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW ANNE M. CROWE and on her oath declares that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the foregoing Staff Recommendation in Memorandum form; and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge and belief.

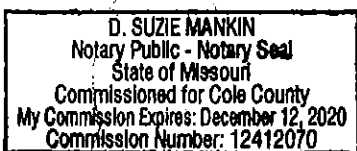
Further the Affiant sayeth not.




ANNE M. CROWE

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 24th day of May 2017.





Notary Public