

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Public Hearing

May 23, 2007

Union, Missouri

Volume 3

In the Matter of Laclede Gas )  
Company's Tariff to Revise )Case No. GR-2007-0208  
Natural Gas Rate Schedules )

HAROLD STEARLEY, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE  
LINWARD "LIN" APPLING,  
COMMISSIONERS

Reported by: Matthew Behlmann, CCR No. 1208

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Laclede Gas:

Mr. Michael C. Pendergast

Mr. Ricky Zucker

Public Service Counsel:

Mr. Marc Poston

Public Service Commission Staff:

Mr. Greg Ochoa

Court Reporter:

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## PROCEEDINGS

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JUDGE STREARLEY: Good evening, it's

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Wednesday, May 23rd, 2007. The Missouri Public

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Service Commission has set this time for a local

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public hearing in Case No. GR-2007-0208. The Laclede

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Gas Company seeks to implement a general rate increase

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for its natural gas service in Missouri. I am Harold

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Stearley. I am a Regulatory Law Judge that will

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preside over this hearing tonight. With me is

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Commissioner Appling.

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While the other commissioners couldn't be

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here physically, they will either be watching this by

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web casting, or they will be able to review our

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recording and the official transcripts from the court

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reporter in this matter. They will all be reviewing

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any testimony that we receive.

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Any testimony we receive tonight will be

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recorded by the court reporter, and it must be given

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under oath. The purpose is to give the general public

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an opportunity to present their remarks and comments

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on this case and have them entered into the official

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record. If the people present choose to testify, what

1 we will do is call their names, I will ask them to  
2 spell their names for the Court Reporter so that it is  
3 entered into the record correctly. I will then swear  
4 them in and they can provide to the commission  
5 whatever statements they wish to register with regard  
6 to this case.

7               There may be some follow-up questions from  
8 attorneys that are present, for those witnesses, or  
9 from Commissioner Appling, or from myself. So we  
10 don't want you to be finally excused until all  
11 questions have been asked and answered, and that you  
12 have been given a full opportunity to present your  
13 comments. We will conclude our hearing when everyone  
14 who wishes to has had an opportunity to give their  
15 remarks. Does anyone have any questions about the  
16 procedure that we will follow?

17               Well, hearing none, we will begin our  
18 public hearing in the matter of Laclede Gas Company's  
19 Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules, Case No.  
20 GR-2007-0208. We will begin by taking entries of  
21 appearance from counsel, beginning with Laclede Gas  
22 Company.

23               MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you, Your Honor.  
24 Michael C. Pendergast, and Ricky Zucker appearing on  
25 behalf of Laclede Gas Company. By business address is

1 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri. I'd also like  
2 to note we have a number of folks in the audience that  
3 are hear to answer any questions that any of the folks  
4 here today may have.

5           We've already had an opportunity to talk to  
6 two gentleman a bit, but if they have some additional  
7 questions I have Chris Cillas, who is our director of  
8 operations, Jim Hickman is here from our Monet  
9 division, as is Becky Martin. We also have George  
10 Csolak from our corporate communications here. As I  
11 said, if anybody has any additional questions we will  
12 be happy to go ahead and try our best to answer them.  
13 Thank you.

14           JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. Pendergast.  
15 Is there any counsel present from any of the  
16 interveners tonight?

17           Hearing no responses to that, we will let  
18 the reflect that no other counsel has entered an  
19 appearance in tonight's public hearing.

20           MR. OCHOA: Your Honor, there is the  
21 representative from the Office of Public Counsel here.

22           JUDGE STEARLEY: You're certainly right,  
23 and I don't mean to forget you. So let me take  
24 entries from the staff of the Missouri Public Service  
25 Commission.

1 MS. SHEMWELL: Good evening, Your Honor.  
2 Lera Shemwell, representing the staff of the Missouri  
3 Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson  
4 City, Missouri 65102. Thank you.

5 JUDGE STEARLEY: Is there anyone from the  
6 Office of Public Counsel?

7 MR. POSTON: Yes, thank you. Marc Poston  
8 for the Office of the Public Counsel and the Public,  
9 P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri.

10 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Did I miss  
11 anyone? Commissioner Appling, would you like to make  
12 any opening remarks?

13 COMMISSIONER APPLING: No opening remarks,  
14 but just to say welcome to everyone and now is the  
15 time to speak tonight. We look forward to hearing  
16 from you. Thank you for being a part of this hearing  
17 tonight.

18 JUDGE STEARLEY: I would like to thank our  
19 post in Union who provided us with the opportunity to  
20 do this video conferencing. If we didn't have this  
21 type of technology we wouldn't have the opportunity to  
22 reach out to so many members of the public. We  
23 certainly appreciate their hosting this public hearing  
24 for us tonight. With that, I will got through any  
25 prospective witnesses we may have in the audience. We

1 certainly have a small turnout here, but we would like  
2 to hear any comments you have to offer.

3 MR. OCHOA: Would anyone like to testify?  
4 No, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE STEARLEY: No one wishes to testify?  
6 All right. Well, then I guess we will make it a very  
7 rapid public hearing then. Mr. Pendergast has  
8 indicated that he has some personnel present who can  
9 answer and have already answered some questions for  
10 the people there. Since we don't have any testimony  
11 tonight, then I guess Commissioner Appling I asked  
12 your for opening remarks, would you have any closing  
13 remarks?

14 COMMISSIONER APPLING: I don't have any  
15 closing remarks, but I would like to say to the two  
16 people that are there, thank you for coming out. Mr.  
17 Pendergast is a good man there and any questions you  
18 have, I invite you to ask him and his team. Make sure  
19 you ask him some questions tonight. Mike, good to  
20 hear from you. We will be talking to you pretty soon,  
21 probably more than we really want to.

22 MR. STEARLEY: I believe this is probably  
23 the shortest public hearing I have ever had to preside  
24 over, and with that, this public hearing in Case No.  
25 GR-2007-0208 is hereby adjourned.