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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Prehearing Conference

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January 10, 2007

Jefferson City, Missouri

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Volume 1

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In the Matter of Laclede Gas )

Company's Tariff to Revise Natural ) Case No. GR-2007-0208

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Gas Rate Schedules )

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NANCY M. DIPPELL, Presiding,

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SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

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REPORTED BY:

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KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR

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

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: This is Case No.  
3 GR-2007-0208, in the matter of Laclede Gas Company's  
4 tariff to revise natural gas rate schedules. My name is  
5 Nancy Dippell. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to  
6 this case, and we've come here today for an early  
7 prehearing conference. I'm going to begin by letting  
8 people make entries of appearance, and I'll just start  
9 here to my right.

10 MS. VUYLSTEKE: Diana Vuylsteke of Bryan  
11 Cave, LLP, 211 North Broadway, Suite 3600, St. Louis,  
12 Missouri 63102, appearing on behalf of the Missouri  
13 Industrial Energy Consumers.

14 MS. WOODS: Shelley Ann Woods, Assistant  
15 Attorney General, Post Office Box 899, Jefferson City,  
16 Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf of the Missouri  
17 Department of Natural Resources.

18 MS. SHEMWELL: Lera Shemwell, Post Office  
19 Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, appearing on behalf of  
20 the Staff of the Public Service Commission.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you hear everyone all  
22 right, Ms. Schroder?

23 MS. SCHRODER: Yes, I can.

24 MR. PENDERGAST: Michael C. Pendergast,  
25 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101, appearing on

1     behalf of Laclede Gas Company.

2                   MS. LANGENECKERT:  Lisa Langeneckert,  
3     Stolar Partnership, LLP, 911 Washington Avenue, St. Louis,  
4     Missouri 63101, appearing on behalf of the Missouri Energy  
5     Group.

6                   MS. BAKER:  Christina Baker, P.O. Box 2230,  
7     Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf of the  
8     Office of Public Counsel.

9                   JUDGE DIPPELL:  And Ms. Schroder?

10                  MS. SCHRODER:  Sherrie Schroder,  
11     7730 Carondelet, Suite 200, St. Louis, Missouri 63105,  
12     appearing for USW Local 116.

13                  JUDGE DIPPELL:  Thank you.  And  
14     Ms. Schroder is appearing by telephone this morning.

15                  We basically just came here today to talk  
16     about procedural stuff, but there is one issue that  
17     appears to be pending, and that is with the test year.  
18     And, Ms. Baker, am I correct that Office of Public Counsel  
19     had suggested a calendar year test year?

20                  MS. BAKER:  I'm here because Marc Poston is  
21     in the MGE case.  So I'm really just listening in.  Ted  
22     can probably answer that.

23                  MR. ROBERTSON:  I think what we did was we  
24     filed for calendar year 2005, is what we marked to file.

25                  MS. SCHRODER:  I'm sorry.  I am having

1 trouble hearing.

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Mr. Robertson, could  
3 you speak up a little bit so Ms. Schroder can hear you.  
4 It's Ted Robertson with the Office of the Public Counsel.

5 MR. ROBERTSON: Our attorney, Marc Poston,  
6 I believe made a filing requesting calendar year 2005 for  
7 the test year. I hate to say it was a mistake, but what  
8 we were trying to do was base it on the fiscal year, and I  
9 think he believed that the fiscal year was a calendar  
10 year. Further discussions with the company, I believe the  
11 fiscal year is ending September, as requested by the  
12 company. So, therefore, we don't oppose --

13 MS. SHEMWELL: September 30th.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. So everybody's on  
15 board with the same test year, then. All right.

16 MR. ROBERTSON: I might add, though, let me  
17 add, the company also requested a true-up. I believe our  
18 filing was that we would file for the true-up  
19 recommendation when we filed direct testimony. We still  
20 agree with that, from that perspective.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yeah. It looks like the  
22 true-up issue will have to be addressed later as to  
23 whether or not after audits and so forth are done we  
24 can -- we can determine that at a later date, but you  
25 might want to keep that in mind when you're looking at

1 your procedural schedule, although the hearing date I've  
2 already chosen, so I hope that works.

3 MR. PENDERGAST: Is there any flexibility  
4 on the hearing date, Judge?

5 JUDGE DIPPELL: There is some flexibility  
6 on that. I actually gave you a little bit longer than I  
7 would have liked to have, but I chose that date because  
8 the earlier dates in July, the holiday, the July 4th  
9 holiday fell in the middle of one of the first two weeks,  
10 and I believe the Commissioners are out of the office at a  
11 NARUC or one of their regularly scheduled conferences like  
12 the third week in July. I would have preferred to have  
13 set it earlier.

14 MR. PENDERGAST: Earlier. So your  
15 flexibility runs to earlier. Okay.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: But if you can come forth  
17 with a convincing argument, we might be able -- I might be  
18 convinced and can convince the Commissioners to change it.

19 MS. SHEMWELL: Are the first two weeks in  
20 August available, do you know?

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: I believe they are.

22 MR. PENDERGAST: Would it be advisable,  
23 although true-up and that sort of thing in a sense will be  
24 addressed, I guess, with the direct testimony of the  
25 parties, should we nonetheless propose that, to the extent

1 true-up hearings are necessary, propose dates where we can  
2 get them on the schedule?

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: That would be a good idea  
4 to get those on the calendar. If it's at all a  
5 possibility, then we should get those dates on the  
6 calendar.

7 Are there any other issues that need to be  
8 addressed on the record?

9 MR. PENDERGAST: The only question I had  
10 was if you could give us any guidance on the issue of  
11 local public hearings. You know, I mean, we've obviously  
12 got a tradition of those and generally speaking where we  
13 have them and -- or at least the general areas where we  
14 try and have them. Is there anything additional that we  
15 should be aware of?

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: No. With all of the local  
17 public hearings that we've had recently, we've found a  
18 couple of locations that I think are going to be keepers.  
19 So I would assume that in keeping with the current  
20 tradition around here, that there will be local public  
21 hearings and there will be more rather than fewer. In the  
22 past we've usually had like two, one in the City and one  
23 in the County on a Laclede rate case.

24 MR. PENDERGAST: We had more in the last  
25 one.



1 JUDGE DIPPELL: I started to say, so I  
2 would expect that we would schedule at least that many and  
3 perhaps more. I haven't discussed it with the  
4 Commissioners.

5 MR. PENDERGAST: Okay. But you'd like to  
6 have whatever recommendations we have on that?

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: I would. Like I say,  
8 having gone through the Ameren hearings recently, we found  
9 several St. Louis locations that are working well, so I  
10 know the Wohl Center, for instance.

11 MS. SCHRODER: I'm sorry. The what?

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: The Wohl Center, W-o-h-l.  
13 It has seemed to be working well and is an easy location  
14 for the public to access, too.

15 MS. SHEMWELL: They didn't like UMKC,  
16 despite the fact that it had excellent, I thought,  
17 accessibility.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: UMKC -- not UMKC -- UMSL.

19 MR. PENDERGAST: I understand why they  
20 didn't like UMKC. That's a long drive.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: We could definitely keep  
22 that one short if we held one at UMKC.

23 Anyway, are there any other questions for  
24 me? I didn't bring calendars or anything down. There  
25 is -- if you have questions about dates, although I'm

1   headed home after this, so I won't actually be upstairs  
2   for you to ask questions, but I know Ms. Shemwell at least  
3   sort of knows how the calendar works up there. So if you  
4   have questions about dates or whatever, you can contact  
5   one of the other judges up there that can probably help  
6   you out. And if you-all would let Christina Koenigsfeld  
7   know when you're finished, she wants that phone.

8                   Anything else? All right. Seeing nothing  
9   further, we can conclude the on-the-record portion. Go  
10  off the record.

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

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF MISSOURI )  
3 COUNTY OF COLE ) ss.

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.

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17 Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR  
18 Notary Public (County of Cole)  
My commission expires March 28, 2009.

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