

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. and Laclede Gas)
company for an Order Authorizing the)
Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets of)
Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc., Located in)
Missouri to Laclede Gas Company and)
Either Authorizing the Transfer of)
Existing Certificates of Public)
Convenience and Necessity or Granting a)
New Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity to Laclede Gas Company in)
Conjunction with Same)

Case No. GM-2006-0183

STAFF'S PLEADING REGARDING STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff (Staff) of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and respectfully states as follows:

1. On October 21, 2005, Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. (Fidelity) and Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) filed a joint application (Application) seeking authority from the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) authority for the sale and transfer of certain assets from Fidelity to Laclede.

2. Fidelity and Laclede also filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment on October 21, 2005.

3. Staff has already commenced its review of the Application and considered the date for filing of a Staff Recommendation. Staff emphasizes that in considering the date for filing of a Staff Recommendation, time is of the essence. Staff believes that it can prepare a Staff Recommendation in this case by December 9, 2005. In recommending this date, Staff relies on

assurances from Laclede of a seven (7) day or faster turnaround on Data Request responses. Staff emphasizes that any failure on this seven day deadline will adversely affect Staff's ability to prepare a Staff Recommendation. Fidelity should also meet this seven day deadline in data request responses or Staff's ability to prepare a Staff Recommendation will be adversely impaired.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully informs the Commission of its best available information regarding a date for a Staff Recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ Robert V. Franson

Robert V. Franson
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 34643

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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 all counsel of record this 1st day of November 2005.

/s/ Robert V. Franson