

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

In the Matter of the Proposed Change to Laclede) **Case No. GT-2016-0182**
Gas Company's General Rule and Regulations) Tracking No. YG-2016-0183
Fourth Revised Tariff Sheet No. R-13)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND RESPONSE TO
MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its recommendation and response to the motion for expedited treatment filed herein by Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") respectfully states as follows:

1. On January 15, 2016, Laclede filed a revised tariff sheet, P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, Fourth Revised Sheet No. R-13 (the "Revised Tariff Sheet"), which bears a proposed effective date of February 14, 2016. However, also on January 15, 2016, Laclede filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment ("Motion") in which Laclede requested the Commission approve the Revised Tariff Sheet as soon as reasonably practical but no later than January 20, 2016. Staff's recommendation memorandum addressing the Revised Tariff Sheet and the Motion is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2. Laclede's Motion represents that the "purpose of the Revised Tariff is to clarify that neither a service initiation fee nor a reconnection charge shall be applied to customers who have natural gas service restored within a year of losing such service due to property damage resulting from flooding occurring within the Company's service territory during the last week of 2015 and the first week of 2016."

3. Laclede's Motion also represents that "there will be no negative impact on other customers or the general public if the Commission grants such relief [*i.e.*, expedited approval of the Revised Tariff Sheet] since Laclede Gas alone will bear the loss of any revenue foregone as a result of not applying these charges."

4. As reflected in Staff's recommendation memorandum attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, Staff has verified that the Company has filed its annual report, and is not delinquent on its PSC assessment. Staff is not aware of any other matters before the Commission that affects or is affected by this filing.

5. As also reflected in Staff's recommendation memorandum attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, given the circumstances which led to the filing of the Revised Tariff Sheet – *i.e.*, the extreme flooding which occurred in the Company's service territory during the last week of 2015 and the first week of 2016 which resulted in a number of customers losing natural gas service along with other financial hardship as a result of the flooding – and Laclede's representation that it will bear the loss of any revenue foregone as a result of not applying the charges which are the subject of the Revised Tariff Sheet, Staff is of the opinion that good cause exists for approval of the Revised Tariff Sheet on less than thirty (30) days' notice.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the following tariff sheet as soon as reasonably practical but no later than January 20, 2016, as requested by Laclede:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated
Fourth Revised Sheet No. R-13, Cancelling Third Revised Sheet No. R-13

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

Jeffrey A. Keevil

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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 19th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. GT-2016-0182, Tariff Tracking No. YG-2016-0183
Laclede Gas Company

FROM: Michelle Bocklage, Rate & Tariff Examiner

/s/ Michael S. Scheperle 1/19/2016 /s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil 1/19/2016
Tariff/Rate Design / Date Staff Counsel Department/ Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation to **Approve** a Revised Tariff Sheet To Eliminate Certain Service Initiation Fees and/or Reconnection Charges For Flood Victims In Laclede Gas Company's Service Territory

DATE: January 19, 2016

On January 15, 2016, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") filed Laclede Gas Company's Motion For Expedited Treatment and P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, Fourth Revised Tariff Sheet No. R-13.

The Revised Tariff Sheet as filed bears a proposed effective date of February 14, 2016. However, pursuant to Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(14), Laclede requests expedited approval of the Revised Tariff Sheet; specifically, Laclede requests the Commission approve the Revised Tariff Sheet as soon as reasonably practical but no later than January 20, 2016.

Laclede states that as a result of the flooding in Laclede's service territory during the last week of 2015 and the first week of 2016, over 500 Laclede customers lost natural gas service. Laclede estimates that approximately 150 customers are still without service.

Laclede has stated that the Revised Tariff Sheet will provide a modest measure of economic relief to customers experiencing financial burdens as a result of the recent flooding. The Revised Tariff Sheet clarifies that neither a service initiation fee nor a reconnection charge shall be applied to customers restoring natural gas service within a year of losing such service due to property damage resulting from flooding occurring within the Company's service territory during the last week of 2015 and the first week of 2016.

Laclede states that neither other customers nor the general public will be negatively impacted since Laclede will bear any lost revenue that may occur from not applying the service initiation fee and/or reconnection charge as provided in the Revised Tariff Sheet.

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.

Given the circumstances which led to the filing of the Revised Tariff Sheet and Laclede's representations related thereto, Staff is of the opinion that there is good cause for approval of the following tariff sheet on less than thirty (30) days' notice and recommends that the Commission issue an order approving the following tariff sheet as soon as reasonably practical but no later than January 20, 2016, as requested by Laclede:

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

Fourth Revised Sheet No. R-13, CANCELLING Third Revised Sheet No. R-13

