

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

In the Matter of the Proposed Change to)	
Laclede Gas Company's General Rules and)	<u>Case No. GT-2017-0312</u>
Regulations Fifth Revised Tariff Sheet)	Tracking No. JG-2017-0248
No. R-13)	

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

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its recommendation on Laclede Gas Company's ("Laclede" or "Company") tariff sheet filed on May 25, 2017, and response to the motion for expedited treatment filed herein by Laclede submits the attached recommendation memorandum which is incorporated herein by reference and further states as follows:

1. On May 25, 2017, Laclede filed a revised tariff sheet, P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, Fifth Revised Sheet No. R-13 (the "Revised Tariff Sheet"), which bears a proposed effective date of June 25, 2017. However, also on May 25, 2017, 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 June 14, 2017. 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 April and May of 2017."

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 affect or are affected by this filing other than Laclede's and Missouri Gas Energy's pending general rate cases, Case Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216.

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 April and May 2017 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 June 14, 2017, as requested by Laclede:

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

Jeffrey A. Keevil
Deputy Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 33825
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-4887 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
Email: jeff.keevil@psc.mo.gov

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 31st day of May, 2017.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. GT-2017-0312, Tariff Tracking No. JG-2017-0248
Laclede Gas Company

FROM: Michelle Bocklage, Rate & Tariff Examiner

/s/ Robin Kliethermes 5/31/2017 /s/ Jeff Keevil 5/31/2017
Tariff/Rate Design / Date Staff Counsel Division / 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: May 31, 2017

On May 25, 2017, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") filed Laclede Gas Company's Motion For Expedited Treatment and P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, Fifth Revised Tariff Sheet No. R-13.

The Revised Tariff Sheet as filed bears a proposed effective date of June 25, 2017. 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 June 14, 2017.

Laclede states that as a result of the flooding in Laclede's service territory during April and May 2017, over 600 Laclede customers lost natural gas service. Laclede estimates that approximately 110 customers are still without service due to the property damage as a result of the flooding.

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 April and May of 2017.

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, except Laclede's and Missouri Gas Energy's pending rate cases, Case Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216, that may require Laclede to revise the tariff sheet R-13 to reflect the correct revision of the tariff sheet and cancel the revised tariff sheet referenced below.

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 June 14, 2017, as requested by Laclede.

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

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

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

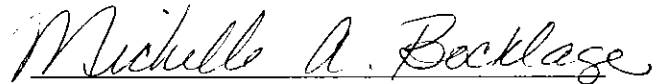
In the Matter of the Proposed Change to)
Laclede Gas Company's General Rule and) **File No. GT-2017-0312**
Regulations Fifth Revised Tariff Sheet No. R-13)

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHELLE A. BOCKLAGE

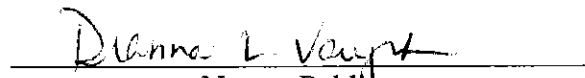
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

COMES NOW, Michelle A. Bocklage, and on her oath declares that she is of sound mind and lawful age; that she contributed to the attached 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.


Michelle A. Bocklage

Subscribed and sworn to be this 31st day of May, 2017.


Notary Public

