

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

Stanley Lewis,)	
)	
	Complainants,)
v.)	Case No. GC-2007-0267
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
	Respondent.)

**LACLEDE GAS COMPANY’S ANSWER
AND MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”), pursuant to the Commission’s January 17, 2007 Notice of Complaint in the above captioned case, and submits its Answer and Motion to Dismiss the Complaint filed against Laclede by Stanley Lewis. In support thereof, Laclede states as follows:

1. Mr. Lewis complains that his bills have been, and continue to be, too high, especially given the size of the home he lives in. He would like some of his money back.

2. In response, Laclede states that Mr. Lewis has owned and received gas service at his current residence, 5739 Hamilton in Jennings, Missouri, since August 2000. Mr. Lewis is on a cold weather rule payment plan, and his account is paid current. Laclede’s meter is on the outside of Mr. Lewis’ home, and Laclede has received regular and consistent meter readings. Laclede has at all times issued bills to Mr. Lewis based on Commission-approved tariff rates.

3. According to St. Louis County real estate records, Mr. Lewis lives in a 760 square foot ranch style home with a full basement, built in 1959. His usage has been somewhat higher than average for this size home, but home size is only one factor in

evaluating usage. The age, condition and efficiency of the furnace, along with the weatherization quality of the home are also important factors.

4. Nevertheless, a review of Mr. Lewis' usage over the past three years indicates significant improvement. His usage has gone from 1297 CCF in 2004 to 1239 CCF in 2005, and then to only 975 CCF in 2006. While these figures are not adjusted for weather, the past three years have shown a general downward trend in usage. It should be noted that gas bills are materially affected by both usage and gas costs, so even if usage is unchanged, higher gas costs will cause bills to be higher.

5. In summary, Mr. Lewis has not offered any facts that indicate that Laclede has violated its tariffs or Commission rules. Laclede sympathizes with customers struggling to pay higher costs for many items, including energy. Laclede believes that assistance for Mr. Lewis will come not from the complaint process, but from Laclede's pursuit of rate design, conservation and energy efficiency measures that both align and further the interests of the Company and its customers in reducing energy usage and customer bills.

WHEREFORE, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission accept Laclede's Answer and dismiss this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rick Zucker

Rick Zucker
Assistant General Counsel
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1516
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-0533 Phone
(314) 421-1979 Fax
rzucker@lacledegas.com

Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on the Complainant, the General Counsel of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel on this 20th day of February, 2007 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Gerry Lynch_____