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August 8, 2003

FILED³

AUG 08 2003

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Executive Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

RE: In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Laclede Gas
Company - Case No. GT-2003-0032
Tariff No. JG-2003-0048

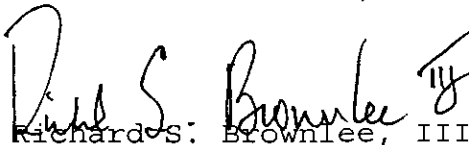
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original plus eight (8) copies of
MSBA Reply to Missouri Public Service Commission's Order on the
Laclede Tariff in the above-captioned matter.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed, please
give me a call. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

HENDREN AND ANDRAE, L.L.C.


Richard S. Brownlee, III

RSB\sa
Enclosures
Public Counsel
General Counsel
All Counsel of Record
James Cherrington
Louie R. Ervin
Robert McWilliams

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of)
Laclede Gas Company)

Case No. GT-2003-0032

FILED³

AUG 08 2003

Missouri Public
Service Commission

MSBA RESPONSE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S

ORDER ON THE LACLEDE TARIFF

COMES NOW Missouri School Boards' Association ("MSBA") and for its Response to Missouri Public Service Commission's Order on the Laclede tariff August 15, 2003, approval date, states as follows:

1. Laclede includes in its experimental school tariff, a requirement to be notified by September 1, 2003, as to which schools will participate in the school program.

2. In order to implement the experimental natural gas aggregation program for the St Louis schools, either Laclede or MSBA must purchase natural gas for schools and arrange pipeline capacity for delivery well in advance of next heating season, which begins November 1, 2003. Natural gas prices have declined recently, but the trend could reverse at any time and the window is narrowing to lock-in fixed prices before next heating season.

3. For public schools to participate in the experimental program, each respective School Board must publish a Notice of Special Meeting, an agenda, hold a public meeting, and vote to enter into a Participation Agreement with the MSBA program.

School Boards must know the substance of an approved Laclede tariff before having meters enrolled in the experimental program. The School Boards also want to have a sense of the price they will pay for natural gas through the MSBA program before considering enrolling.

4. After School Boards have authorized entering into a Participation Agreement, MSBA consultants must receive and process the Agreements, request historic usage information from Laclede for individual meters for each district, await Laclede's response with historic usage information (which can take up to two weeks), receive usage data, assess which meters would likely benefit from participation, provide Laclede a final list of participating schools, await Laclede's calculation of pipeline capacity requirements for the aggregate school meters, provide an aggregate usage and pipeline capacity to be released by month to MSBA's supplier and lock-in fixed prices as appropriate.

5. MSBA has already expended substantial time and efforts to extending the decision on going forward with the experimental program until as late as August 15, 2003. This decision would have been made between the schools and Laclede as early as May 31, 2003, pursuant to the earlier approved Stipulation and tariff had the law not changed. MSBA has and is taking steps to shorten the process time for program implementation. MSBA has bid gas supply based on estimated participant usage volumes. MSBA has and is spending significant attorney, financial staff

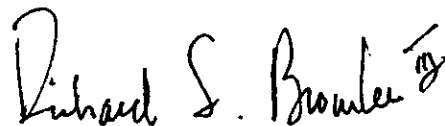
and consultant time to finalize a gas supply contract, subject to final usage volumes and signature immediately following a decision by the Commission. MSBA is and has requested that School Boards place the Participation Agreement on their August agenda with a commitment by MSBA that they will not enroll district meters, even if authorized by a Participation Agreement, until after a decision by the Commission can be considered. MSBA is and has requested historic usage volumes from Laclede for schools districts that have either authorized entering into a Participation Agreement or have reasonable expectations of doing so.

6. To date, eighteen (18) St. Louis area school districts, representing over 300 meters and purchases of approximately \$15,000,000 have entered into a Participation Agreement, all subject to enrollment after first knowing the Commission's decision regarding Laclede's tariff. This is a giant undertaking in light of these numbers.

WHEREFORE, MSBA request approval of the Laclede tariff as requested herein by August 15, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

HENDREN AND ANDRAE, LLC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard S. Brownlee, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "B".

Richard S. Brownlee, III

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

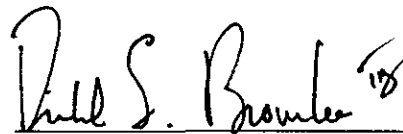
I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing has been mailed or and-delivered to the following on this 8th day of August, 2003:

Mike Pendergast
720 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

Office of Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City MO 65102

General Counsel
MO Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City MO 65102

Robert E. McWilliams
Lashley & Baer, P.C.
714 Locust Street
St. Louis, MO 63101-1699

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard S. Brownlee, III", with a small flourish at the end.

Richard S. Brownlee, III