

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 12th day of July, 2017.

In the Matter of the Laclede Gas Company's Request to Increase Its Revenues for Gas Service)))	<u>File No. GR-2017-0215</u> Tariff No. YG-2017-0195
In the Matter of the Laclede Gas Company d/b/a Missouri Gas Energy's Request to Increase Its Revenues for Gas Service)))	<u>File No. GR-2017-0216</u> Tariff No. YG-2017-0196

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTIONS

Issue Date: July 12, 2017

Effective Date: July 12, 2017

On April 11, 2017, Laclede Gas Company filed tariff sheets designed to implement general rate increases for its Laclede and Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) service areas. On April 20, 2016, the Commission issued an order providing notice and setting an intervention deadline of May 1, 2017. On May 19, 2017, the Environmental Defense Fund filed an application to intervene out of time, and on May 22, 2017, the National Housing Trust filed an application to intervene out of time.

The Environmental Defense Fund states that it is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the state of New York. It states that it "is a membership organization whose mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends."¹ It also states that "its organizational purpose is [to engage] . . . in activities to facilitate cost-effective and efficient energy market designs that encourage investment

¹ *Motion to Intervene Out of Time*, File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 (filed May 19, 2017), p. 1.

to modernize the energy grid so that it can support the ongoing deployment of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.”²

The National Housing Trust states in its application to intervene that it is a not-for-profit organization that is “dedicated to protecting and improving existing multifamily affordable housing”³ The National Housing Trust indicates that it is a “leading affordable housing policy institution . . . work[ing] to ensure that low-income renters can benefit from energy efficient . . . affordable homes”⁴

The Environmental Defense Fund states that good cause exists to grant its intervention out of time because it was unable to obtain its necessary internal approval in time to meet the short intervention deadline. The National Housing Trust also states that the intervention deadline of less than the default thirty-days set out in 4 CSR 2.075(1) prevented it from being able to obtain in-state counsel in time to file within the ordered time limit. Each of the potential intervenors pleads that its interests are different than those of the general public and cannot be adequately represented by the other parties.

Laclede Gas Company objected to both interventions being granted. Laclede states that the parties filed well after the ordered deadline, even though other parties were able to file in a timely manner.⁵ Laclede Gas Company argued that neither organization had established good cause for their untimely filing or had an interest different than that of the general public. Additionally, Laclede argues that the

² *Motion to Intervene Out of Time*, File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 (filed May 19, 2017), p. 1.

³ *Application to Intervene Out of Time of the National Housing Trust*, File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 (filed May 22, 2017), p. 1.

⁴ *Application to Intervene Out of Time of the National Housing Trust*, File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 (filed May 22, 2017), p. 1.

⁵ *Response in Opposition to Applications to Intervene*, File Nos. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216 (filed May 30, 2017), p. 1.

Environmental Defense Fund is participating in a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceeding involving Laclede-related company, Spire STL Pipeline, LLC, and Laclede fears that the intent of the Environmental Defense Fund is to use this case as leverage, rather than its interest in Missouri ratepayers.

The Commission set a shortened intervention time in this matter to avoid delaying setting a procedural schedule, not to limit the number of intervenors. Both the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Housing Trust have agreed to abide by the previous orders of the Commission. Thus, the Commission finds there is good cause to allow these intervenors to participate. Additionally, the Commission finds that these organizations with very specific national interests have interests that are different than those of the general public. Therefore, regardless of any additional motives for participating, the Commission determines that the requests for intervention out of time should be granted.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Motion to Intervene Out of Time* filed by the Environmental Defense Fund is granted and the Environmental Defense Fund is made a party to this case.
2. The *Application to Intervene Out of Time of the National Housing Trust* is granted and the National Housing Trust is made a party to this case.

3. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney,
Rupp, and Coleman, CC., concur.

Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

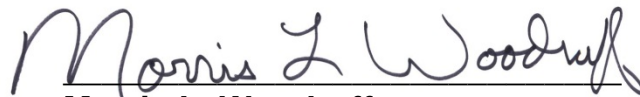
STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 12th day of July 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 12, 2017

File/Case No. GR-2017-0215 and GR-2017-0216

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.