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November 1, 2002

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED<sup>3</sup>
NOV 0 1 2002

Missouri Public

Re: Case No. GT-2003-0117

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede"), please find an original and eight (8) copies of a Procedural Recommendations of Laclede Gas Company.

Would you please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Dean L. Cooper

DLC/lar Enclosure

cc:

John Coffman

Lera Shemwell

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI



	Service our p.
In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of )	Service Commission
Laclede Gas Company to Implement )	. "aslon
An Experimental Low Income Assistance )	Case No.GT-2003-0117
Program called Catch-Up/Keep-Up	

## PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") and for its Procedural Recommendations in the above-captioned case, states as follows:

- 1. On September 23, 2002, Laclede filed a tariff (the "New Tariff") proposing a revised version of the "Catch-Up/Keep-Up" program (the "Program") that the Company had initially filed with the Commission on July 29, 2002 (the "Original Program"), in an effort to implement an energy assistance program for its low-income customers.
- 2. By Order dated October 10, 2002, the Commission suspended the New Tariff until November 21, 2002 and scheduled a prehearing conference for October 23, 2002 for purposes of affording the parties "the opportunity to discuss, define, and possibly resolve the issues presented." In its Order, the Commission also directed the Parties to file their procedural recommendations by November 1, 2002.
  - 3. In response, Laclede recommends the following procedural schedule:

November 15, 2002

All Parties file testimony addressing and responding to the positions and assertions set forth by them and other Parties in their previous pleadings in this case as well any related matters November 18, 2002 (noon)

Local Public Hearing, filing of Issues List and

**Position Statements** 

November 19, 2002

Evidentiary Hearing in which all Parties reserve the right to provide concise, additional testimony responding to any new matters raised in the testimony of other Parties submitted on November 15, 2002. Closing Statements to follow evidentiary

hearing.

November 25, 2002

Filing of Briefs and Proposed Findings of Fact and

Conclusions of Law

4. Because of the need to have this matter decided as expeditiously as possible and because it believes the factual disputes between the Parties will be relatively modest and could be thoroughly examined addressed, if necessary, in a long hearing day the Company believes this is a reasonable schedule. Staff and Public Counsel have indicated, however, that they believe a least two days of hearings will be required and it is the Parties' understanding that only November 19, 2002 is available for an evidentiary hearing during the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>. Public Counsel has also indicated that certain Public Counsel personnel involved in this proceeding have prior commitments during portions of the week of November 18th that would make it very difficult for it to litigate this matter during that week. Accordingly, in the event the Commission determines that an alternative schedule is more appropriate in light of these considerations, it is Laclede's belief that the following schedule would largely accommodate Staff and Public Counsel:

November 18, 2002 (noon)

Local Public Hearing

November 19, 2002

All Parties file testimony addressing and responding to the positions and assertions set forth by them and other Parties in their previous pleadings in this case as well any related matters

November 21

Filing of Issues List

November 22

Filing of Position Statement

December 2-3, 2002

Evidentiary Hearing in which all Parties reserve the right to provide concise, additional testimony responding to any new matters raised in the testimony of other Parties submitted on November 19, 2002. Closing Statements to follow evidentiary

hearing.

December 9, 2002

Parties Submit Briefs and Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

To accommodate either of these schedules, Laclede requests that the 5. Commission make arrangements for the hearing transcript to be provided on the day following the conclusion of the hearing. Laclede also agrees to provide responses to all data requests previously submitted by Staff and Public Counsel by November 6, 2002, provided that Laclede does not waive its right to object to any data request on customary grounds or to respond that the information requested is not available in the format requested.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede Gas Company respectfully request that the Commission approve the first procedural schedule set forth herein or, should it determine that a different procedural schedule is more appropriate, the second procedural schedule set forth herein.

### Respectfully Submitted,

Michael C. Pendergast by LL Michael C. Pendergast, #31763

Vice President & Associate General

Counsel

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### **Certificate of Service**

The undersigned hereby certifies that copies of the foregoing have been emailed, mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile to all counsel of record this \_\_/st day of November 2002.