

FILED³

JUL 11 2011

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

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service)
Commission,)
Complainant,)
v.)
Laclede Gas Company, Laclede Energy)
Resources, The Laclede Group,)
Respondents.)

Case No. GC-2011-0098

APPLICATION TO INTERVENE

Comes now Lera Shemwell (“Applicant”) by and through undersigned counsel and, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.075 of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“the Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure, applies to Intervene in the instant case, and as grounds therefor states as follows:

1. Applicant is a Deputy Counsel in the Office of the Chief Staff Counsel of the Commission. However, Applicant files this Application in her own behalf and not in her capacity as Deputy Counsel. On July 7, 2011, Applicant joined in a Notice of Substitution of Counsel and discontinued representing the Staff of the Commission in this case.

2. On December 12, 2010, Respondents filed a “Counterclaim” alleging *inter alia* that Applicant, as a signer to pleadings filed on behalf of Staff, did not have a good faith, non-frivolous argument for the claims presented, was acting unethically in presenting and maintaining claims in various matters before the Commission, and had filed this and other cases

for purposes of harassment and to increase Laclede's cost of litigation, all in violation of Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(7).

3. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(7) is substantially the same as Missouri Supreme Court Rule 55.03(3), a violation of which can subject a licensed attorney to disciplinary action before the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel.

4. Both Commission Rule 4 SCR 240-2.080(7) and Supreme Court Rule 55.03(3) impose obligations not only on parties, but on persons "signing" pleadings.

5. On May 26, 2011, the Commission denied Staff's Motion to Dismiss Respondent's Counterclaim, thereby ruling that the allegations against Applicant would be heard with all other issues in the case at the evidentiary hearing scheduled for August 9, 2011.

6. Applicant's interest in the case, and the reason for seeking intervention, is that Applicant's right to practice law could be adversely impacted, and her law license could be subjected to sanctions, based upon a ruling or finding by the Commission on the allegations contained in Respondent's Counterclaim in its final order.

7. Applicant opposes the allegations contained in Respondent's Counterclaim.

8. Applicant has an interest that is different from that of the general public. Applicant's right to practice law and whether her law license is subjected to sanctions are not matters of concern, or the interests of, the general public.

9. Granting the proposed intervention would serve the public interest in that it will allow a full deliberation and determination of the issues in the case with all interested parties participating.

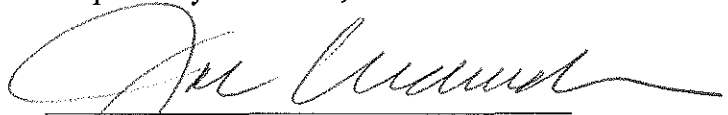
10. No other party in the case is legally or practically capable of protecting the individual professional interests of Applicant.

11. Notice regarding this application, including service of all notices and orders of this Commission should be directed to:

John D. Landwehr
Cook, Vetter, Doerhoff and Landwehr, P.C.
231 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

WHEREFORE, Applicant requests that she be granted leave to intervene in this case, and for such other relief deemed just in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Landwehr #29587
COOK, VETTER, DOERHOFF
& LANDWEHR, P.C.
231 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 635-7977
(573) 635-7414 (Facsimile)
jlandwehr@cvd1.net

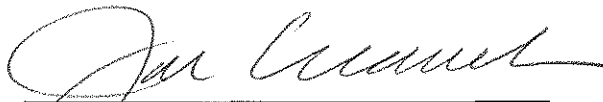
Attorneys for Applicant
Lera Shemwell

Certificate of Service

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that on this 11th day of July, 2011, a copy of the foregoing document was served upon all interested parties by e-mailing a true copy thereof to:

Office of General Counsel
Lewis Mills
Cully Dale
William J. Niehoff
Michael C. Pendergast
Rick E. Zucker
Mark C. Darrell

GenCounsel@psc.mo.gov
opcservice@ded.mo.gov
cully.dale@psc.mo.gov
wniehoff@mmrltd.com
mpendergast@lacledegas.com
rzucker@lacledegas.com
mdarrell@lacledegas.com



John D. Landwehr