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July 7, 2000

The Honorable Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re: Case No. GP-2000-394

Dear Judge Roberts:

Enclosed for filing please find the original and eight copies of a Verified Application for Authorization to Implement Temporary Revisions to Price Stabilization Program, along with a Motion for Expedited Treatment.

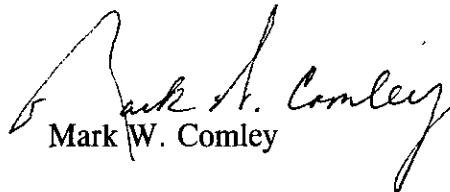
Would you please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

NEWMAN, COMLEY & RUTH P.C.

By:

  
Mark W. Comley

MWC:ab

Enclosure

cc: Office of Public Counsel  
Michael C. Pendergast  
General Counsel's Office

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
JUL 07 2000  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>2</sup>  
JUL 07 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's  
Experimental Price Stabilization Fund

)  
) Case No. GO-2000-394

**MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" and "Company"), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080(17), and submits its Motion for Expedited Treatment in the above-captioned case. In support thereof, Laclede states as follows.

1. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Motion, Laclede has filed a Verified Application in the above-captioned case in which it requests that the Commission authorize the Company to implement certain temporary revisions to its Price Stabilization Program ("PSP"), which program was approved by the Commission on June 15, 1999 in Case No. GO-98-484 (hereinafter the "Verified Application").

2. As explained in the Verified Application, the temporary revisions proposed by Laclede are designed to provide the Company with the additional resources and flexibility required to obtain meaningful price protection for its customers in advance of the upcoming winter heating season. Specifically, such measures have been proposed in an effort to address the almost unprecedented increase in the market prices for natural gas supplies and financial instruments that have occurred since the early part of this year.

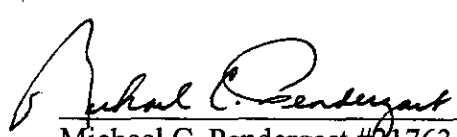
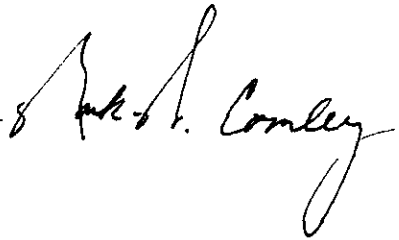
3. Because market conditions governing natural gas prices in general and natural gas financial instruments in particular can change rapidly and precipitously, Laclede believes that expedited approval of these temporary revisions will maximize its ability to take advantage of any favorable purchasing opportunities that may arise, however briefly, during the late summer and early fall. Laclede accordingly requests that the Commission act upon its request, by August 1, 2000.

4. Laclede submits that granting the relief requested in the Verified Application by August 1, 2000 will have no negative impact on the Company's customers or the general public. To the contrary, granting such relief on an expedited basis will benefit Laclede's customers by enhancing the Company's opportunity to procure on their behalf meaningful financial protection from escalating gas prices.

5. Laclede's Verified Application was filed as expeditiously as possible following the Company's recent discussions with the Commission Staff regarding measures that might be taken to procure reasonable price protection for the Company's customers. Laclede believed that it was important to explore such matters with the Staff and to communicate with the Office of the Public Counsel as well, before filing its Verified Application. The Company will continue to make itself available to both parties in an effort to expedite this matter.

**WHEREFORE**, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede Gas Company respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Motion for Expedited Treatment in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

 by 

Michael C. Pendergast #91763  
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Associate General Counsel  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Michael C. Pendergast, Assistant Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Laclede Gas Company, hereby certifies that the foregoing Motion for Expedited Treatment has been duly served upon the General Counsel of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel by hand delivery, on this 7th day of July, 2000.

