# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)Case No. GR-2010-0171Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules)

# MOTION TO APPROVE TARIFF FILING ON LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS' NOTICE AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

**COMES NOW** Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC"), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.065(2) and 4 CSR 240-2.080(16) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and in support of their Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days' Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment, state as follows:

#### **Request for December 9, 2011 Effective Date**

1. Contemporaneous with the filing of this Motion, Laclede submitted to the Commission a proposed Third Revised Tariff Sheet No. R-56 ("Revised Tariff Sheet"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, which seeks to make a temporary modification to its Low-Income Energy Affordability Program (Low-Income Program). The purpose of the Revised Tariff Sheet is to implement a proposal that grew out of discussions among interested stakeholders in the St. Louis area in 2010 regarding ways to better coordinate energy assistance programs and, in the process, help customers maintain or restore their utility service this winter heating season. The program for this winter season is identical to last winter's program.

Accordingly, the Revised Tariff Sheet, if approved, would reallocate up to
 \$150,000 of Laclede's existing Low-Income Program budget to help eligible customers<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Customers whose household income is less than or equal to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

who would otherwise have to pay 80% of their arrearages to restore or maintain service. Instead of paying the full 80%, eligible customers would receive a bill credit equal to 30% of their arrearages, provided that a payment and/or pledge equal to 50% of their arrearages was made on their behalf by a participating Community Action Agency. The amount of the credit would not exceed \$500 per customer or \$1,000 for a registered elderly or disabled customer.

3. It is expressly understood by the undersigned that customers participating in the program established by the Revised Tariff Sheet would continue to be eligible to participate in the Bill Payment Assistance component of the Low Income Program, that such customers would continue to be subject to the rights and obligations afforded by the Commission's Cold Weather Rule, and that any expenditures made by Laclede for the reallocated funds would be treated for recovery purposes in a manner identical to funds expended on the Low Income Program.

4. With this Motion, Laclede requests that the Commission permit the Revised Tariff Sheet to go into effect on less than 30 days' notice. Specifically, Laclede requests that the Commission approve the Revised Tariff Sheet effective for service on and after December 9, 2011.

5. Consistent with 4 CSR 240-2.080(16), Laclede submits that there is good cause for granting its request. The December 9, 2011 effective date will allow this effort to maintain or restore service to eligible utility customers to be implemented in a timely manner as the winter heating season progresses.

6. Laclede filed the Revised Tariff Sheet as soon as possible after the stakeholders reached an agreement to renew this initiative.

2

7. Laclede has contacted the parties to the stipulations and agreements in this case, and each party indicated that it does not object to the Revised Tariff Sheet.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede Gas Company respectfully requests that the Commission issue its Order approving the Revised Tariff Sheet for service rendered through March 31, 2012.

# LACLEDE GAS COMPANY

#### /s/ Michael C. Pendergast

Michael C. Pendergast, Mo. Bar 31763 Vice President and Associate General Counsel Rick Zucker, Mo. Bar 49221 Assistant General Counsel – Regulatory

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# **Certificate of Service**

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion was served on all of the parties to Case No. GR-2010-0171 on this 1st day of December, 2011 by hand-delivery, email or United States mail, postage prepaid.

/s/ Gerry Lynch

Gerry Lynch

### EXHIBIT 1 P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, Third Revised Sheet No. R-56 CANCELLING P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, First Sheet No. R-56

 Laclede Gas Company
 For
 Refer to Sheet No. R-1

 Name of Issuing Corporation or Municipality
 Community, Town or City

| RULES AND REGULATIONS   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 36. Low-Income Energy Affordability Program (continued)   |  |  |  |  |
| <ol> <li>11. Neither the Bill Payment Assistance Program nor the ARP will affect any of the provisions of the Cold Weather Rule, including the initial payment requirements thereunder; provided, however, that the monthly amounts due after deducting Bill Payment Assistances may be substituted in lieu of the monthly budget plan payments due under the Cold Weather Rule and in section 10(B) of the Company's tariff under the Cold Weather Maintenance of Service. No credit refunds shall be issued by the Company to a participant enrolled in the ARP or the Bill Payment Assistance Program for the life of the Program period.</li> <li>12. Program tracking information will be collected by Laclede and the CAAas provided in Attachment 3 to the Stipulation and Agreement in GR-2007-0208; provided, however, that customers who opt out of levelized billing will be separated for information tracking purposes.</li> <li>13. Any disagreement as to the interpretation or implementation of any of the foregoing items may be taken to the Commission for a decision.</li> <li>14. On an experimental basis and for the period ending March 31, 2012, a portion of the program funds for the 2011/2012 program year, not to exceed \$150,000, may be reallocated (thereby reducing on a dollar for dollar basis the amount available under the program for that year) to provide a one-time bill credit of 30% of existing arrearages to those qualifying customers who are required to pay 80% of their existing arrearages in order to restore or maintain service under the provisions of the Commission's Cold Weather Rule. Until such time as the \$150,000 amount is exhausted, such credit shall be made to eligible customer so whose behalf a pledge is made by a participating CAA that, together with any payment by the customer, equals 50% of the customer's existing arrearages, provided that the customer, greater than \$1000. The provision of such a credit shall not preclude a participating customer from also being a participant in the Bill Payment Assistance Pr</li></ol> |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |

| DATE OF ISSUE | December 1, 2011                  | DATE EFFECTIVE         | January 1, 2012      |                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
|               | Month Day                         |                        | Month                | Day Year          |
| Year          |                                   |                        |                      |                   |
| ISSUED BY     | M.C. Darrell, Senior Vice Preside | ent and General Counse | I, 720 Olive St., St | . Louis, MO 63101 |
|               | Name of Officer                   | Title                  |                      | Address           |