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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Prehearing conference
July 7, 1999

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In Re: Laclede Gas)
Company) NO. GR-99-315
)

NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding
Regulatory Law Judge

REPORTED BY:
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: This is case number
3 GR99-315, in the matter of Laclede Gas, to revise
4 natural gas rates schedules.

5 My name's Nancy Dippell, and I'm a
6 Regulatory Law Judge for the Public Service
7 Commission.

8 We've convened this pre-hearing conference
9 this morning for the purpose mainly so the parties can
10 get together and discuss settlement of the issues.

11 I appreciate you-all coming together today
12 on this Friday to accommodate my schedule, and you-all
13 will continue to meet in the hearing room as
14 scheduled. Or some other room's scheduled for you to
15 meet for the rest of the week.

16 In my absence -- I'm going to be out of town
17 next week-- and I would ask that you let one of my
18 associates know, Judge Ruth know when you've completed
19 your negotiations, just so we can know when the room's
20 available again.

21 If you have any questions, you can contact
22 her. She can get in touch with me or she can answer
23 your questions in my absence.

24 At this time I'd like to go ahead and just
25 have oral entries of appearance. They have made

1 written entries to the court reporter. If you'd just
2 like to state your name and the company you represent.

3 I'll start at my right.

4 MR. PENDERGAST: Michael C. Pendergast,
5 Gerald T. McNieve and Ellen L. Thoroff on behalf of
6 Laclede Gas Company.

7 I'll also note that while he's not present
8 here today, Mr. Thomas Burnwill will also be
9 participating as an attorney on behalf of the company
10 and will be making an entry of appearance when formal
11 proceedings resume.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. We'll continue
13 around the corner.

14 MR. EVANS: Ronald K. Evans appearing on
15 behalf of Union Electric Company. Susan B. Knowles
16 will also be participating in this pre-hearing
17 conference starting next week. K-n-o-w-l-e-s.

18 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston, Cliff Snodgrass,
19 David Stueven appearing for the staff of the Missouri
20 Public Service Commission. Nathan Williams will also
21 be joining later in this pre-hearing conference.

22 MR. MICHAEL: Douglas Michael appearing on
23 behalf of the Public Counsel and the Public, P.O. Box
24 700, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102-7800.

25 MS. SCHMIDT: Diana M. Schmidt, Bryan Cave,

1 LLP, appearing on behalf of the Missouri Industrial
2 Energy Consumers. My address, 211 North Broadway,
3 Suite 3600, St. Louis, Missouri, 63102.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Robert C. Johnson appearing on
5 behalf of the Missouri Energy Group, Emerson Electric,
6 et al. My office address is 720 Olive Street,
7 St. Louis, Missouri, 63101.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any other parties?

9 MR. LANDWEHR: John Landwehr, Cook, Vetter,
10 Doerhoff and Landwehr, 231 Madison Street, Jefferson
11 City, Missouri, appearing for MRT Energy Marketing
12 Company.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any other parties
14 represented? We don't see anyone today for Oil
15 Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 56.

16 Are there any issues that need to be taken
17 up on the record?

18 No motions pending that I'm aware of at this
19 time.

20 MR. PENDERGAST: I just wanted to note for
21 the record that as we have in the past, the company
22 intends to make a conscientious effort in this
23 proceeding to try to resolve as many issues as
24 possible, and if we can obtain an offer or settlement,
25 and pursue that as well.

1 And if we should fail in that endeavor, at a
2 minimum we're going to work very hard to try and
3 narrow the issues down to a manageable level for the
4 Commission, particularly in light of the time
5 constraints in this case.

6 The issues are simply too numerous and the
7 room too small not to make that kind of effort. We
8 will be doing that and trying to cooperate with the
9 parties in that endeavor.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Anything else from the
11 parties that needs to be on the record?

12 I'd like to state that we have already set a
13 procedural schedule in this case. We have scheduled
14 local public hearings on August 11th in downtown
15 St. Louis and one in the County or in
16 St. Charles -- Clayton? It's in Clayton.

17 There's also evidentiary hearings scheduled
18 to begin on August 30th. I will attempt to pre-mark
19 the pre-filed exhibits with numbers and provide
20 you-all with a list that morning when you come in to
21 the hearing so we can try to begin as expeditiously as
22 possible.

23 I would remind you to bring six copies for
24 the bench and three copies for the court reporter of
25 any exhibits that you have not pre-filed.

1 And, plus, be prepared to furnish copies to
2 all of the counsel for the parties.

3 Anything further? That will adjourn the
4 on-the-record pre-hearing conference.

5 (HEARING ADJOURNED.)

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STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Kim D. Murphy, Certified Court Reporter within
and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that
I was personally present at the proceedings had in the
above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth
in the caption sheet hereof; that I then and there
took down in Stenotype the proceedings had and
produced with computer-aided transcription and that
the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript
of such Stenotype notes so made at such time and
place.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and on this 1st day of August, 1999.

Kim D. Murphy

