

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
September 21, 1999**

CASE NO: GR-99-315

General Counsel

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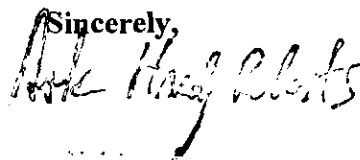
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,


Dale Hardy Roberts

~~Secretary~~/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copy:

Lawrence O. Thomas

Director, Financial Analysis
Mississippi River Transmission Corp.
525 Milam Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 21st
day of September, 1999.

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Tariff)
to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules.) Case No. GR-99-315

ORDER ESTABLISHING TRUE-UP AUDIT AND HEARING

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede), the Staff of the Public Service Commission of the State of Missouri (Staff), and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a Joint Motion for a True-Up Audit and Hearing on August 18, 1999. The movants requested that the Commission order a true-up audit and hearing to recognize in Laclede's rates several items including:

- (a) revenues associated with customer changes as of August 1, 1999;
- (b) rate base component changes and associated depreciation and property taxes as of August 1, 1999;
- (c) capital structure changes for long-term debt, short-term debt, preferred stock and common equity;
- (d) changes in employee levels and benefits costs, including costs associated with the August 1, 1999, contract wage increases for union employees in the Laclede and Missouri Natural Divisions, and changes in management salaries;
- (e) the effect of any change in the Commission's annual assessment for fiscal year 2000;
- (f) costs associated with maintenance agreements for computer systems which are in service;

- (g) changes in rate case expenses;
- (h) verifiable cost changes associated with the calculable increases in facility locates;
- (i) changes in deferred balances and amortizations associated with the tracking mechanisms and accounting authorizations granted to Laclede in its last two rate case proceedings, based on the parties' positions on this issue.¹

The Commission ordered that a test year ending December 31, 1998, be used and that the test year be updated through March 31, 1999. The movants recommended a true-up audit and hearing be held in late September; however, at the evidentiary hearing the parties agreed that October 7, 1999, would be an appropriate date. The Commission will therefore order that true-up testimony and schedules be filed and a true-up hearing be held as set out below.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a true-up audit shall be conducted through August 31, 1999.
2. That true-up testimony and schedules shall be filed no later than October 1, 1999.
3. That a true-up hearing is scheduled for October 7, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The hearing will be held in the Commission's

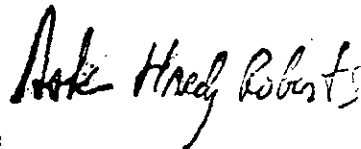
¹ This list is taken verbatim from the *Joint Motion to Establish True-Up Audit and Hearing* filed on August 18, 1999.

hearing room on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

4. That anyone wishing to attend the hearing who has special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days before the hearing at: Consumer Services Hotline - 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline - 1-800-829-7541.

5. That this order shall become effective on October 1, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Crompton, Drainer, Murray and
Schemenauer, CC., concur.
Lumpe, Ch., absent.

Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

ALJ/Sec'y: D. J. Pope
9-17 GR-99-315
Date Circulated CASE NO.

absent
Lumpe, Chair
[Signature]
Crumpton, Commissioner
[Signature]
Murray, Commissioner
[Signature]
Schemenauer, Commissioner
[Signature]
Drainer, Vice-Chair

9-21
Agenda Date

4/10/00

Action taken: _____

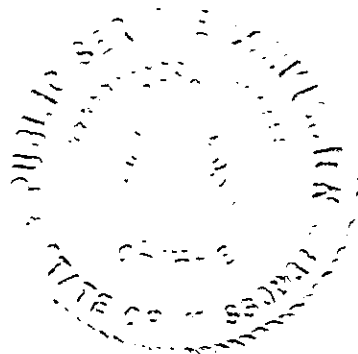
Must Vote Not Later Than _____

STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson
City,

Missouri, this 21ST day of SEPTEMBER, 1999.



Dale Hardy Roberts
Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge