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March 4, 1999

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Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED
MAR 4 1999
Missouri Public
Service Commission

RE: GR-99-315 - In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Tariff Sheets Designed to Increase Rates for Gas Service Provided to Customers in the Missouri Service Area of the Company.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **MOTION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Poston
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-8701
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MP/jb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED
MAR 4 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas
Company's Tariff Sheets to Revise
Natural Gas Rate Schedules.

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Case No. GR-99-315

MOTION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule, states as follows:

1. On January 26, 1999, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") submitted to the Commission proposed tariffs designed to produce an annual increase of approximately 6.1 percent in the Company's revenues.
2. On February 9, 1999, the Commission issued its *Suspension Order and Notice*, in which it ordered, among other things, that the proposed tariffs would be suspended until December 26, 1999 and that an evidentiary hearing is scheduled for August 9, 1999 through August 13, 1999. Applications to intervene were filed by MRT Energy Marketing Company, Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE, and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers.
3. The Commission should establish a procedural schedule for the filing of testimony, for prehearing conferences, and for other events leading up to the hearing in this case.
4. The hearing date in the *Suspension Order and Notice* does not allow the parties sufficient time to thoroughly investigate the facts and issues in this case, to formulate positions and to draft and prepare testimony for the Commission concerning the issues in this case. The Staff respectfully proposes that the Commission modify the schedule established in the *Suspension Order and Notice*, and allow the parties more time for the preparation of testimony.

5. The Staff knows of four other cases that will proceed toward hearing contemporaneously with this case. The established or proposed procedural schedules in those cases should be considered when setting the procedural schedule in this case to avoid possible conflicts. Those four cases are: St. Joseph Power and Light (Case Nos. HR-99-245, GR-99-246, EC-98-573, and ER-99-247); Laclede Gas Company GSIP (Case No. GT-99-303); the proposed merger of Kansas City Power and Light Company with Western Resources (Case No. EM-97-515); and the proposal of United Water Missouri Inc. to increase its revenue (Case No. WR-99-326). In addition, the Staff is informed that St. Louis County Water Company intends to file a proposal for a rate increase on March 12, 1999, which may also conflict with the procedural schedule in the present case. The scheduling problems posed by the Commission's crowded docket bear especially on Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel, who are parties to every case.

6. The Staff has reviewed the procedural schedules for each of these cases, the deadlines for decisions in these cases, the procedural schedules already in effect, the availability of dates for hearings and the demands on Staff personnel for the preparation of these cases.

7. After careful consideration, the Staff recommends that the Commission establish the following procedural schedule in this case:

Direct Testimony by Company	March 12, 1999
Test Year Recommendation by Staff	April 6, 1999
Staff Direct Testimony	July 6, 1999
Prehearing Conference	July 19-16, 1999
Rebuttal Testimony	August 17, 1999
Surrebuttal Testimony	September 7, 1999

Hearing Memorandum

September 14, 1999

Evidentiary Hearing

September 20-30, 1999

8. Adoption of the foregoing schedule would allow all parties to more thoroughly develop and present their cases without unduly limiting the time available to the Commission for deliberation. Because of the potential for conflict with the schedules in the other cases, the Commission should coordinate the procedural schedule in this case with the procedural schedules in each of the other five cases identified in Paragraph 5 hereof.

WHEREFORE, the Staff moves the Commission to enter its order establishing the procedural schedule proposed in Paragraph 7 hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel



Marc Poston
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 45722

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 4th day of March, 1999.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Poston", written over a horizontal line.

Marc Poston

**SERVICE LIST FOR
CASE NO: GR-99-315
March 4, 1999**

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