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May 24, 1999

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Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: GR-99-315

FILED

MAY 24 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **MOTION TO MODIFY 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 MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

FILED
MAY 24 1999
Missouri Public
Service Commission

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

Case No. GR-99-315

MOTION TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

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

1. On April 29, 1999, the Commission issued its *Order Granting Interventions, Setting Procedural Schedule and Establishing Test Year*. In its *Order* the Commission established the following procedural schedule:

Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenors' Revenue Requirement Direct Testimony	-	June 14, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenors' Rate Design Direct Testimony	-	June 21, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Prehearing Conference	-	June 28-July 2, 1999 First day 10:00 a.m.
List of Issues Filed by Staff	-	July 12, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Rebuttal Testimony	-	July 29, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Surrebuttal Testimony	-	August 16, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Statement of Position All Parties	-	August 23, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Hearing	-	August 30-Sept. 3, 1999 First day 9:00 a.m.

2. The parties have discussed a concern that the current procedural schedule places constraints on the continuing audit process and testimony preparation time that is necessary for a rate case. The parties agreed upon a proposed modification to the procedural schedule.

3. During the procedural schedule modification discussions, Staff and Laclede Gas Company also discussed a true-up audit and hearing. Staff intends to address this matter in its direct testimony as ordered by the Commission. The Staff intends to recommend a true-up audit through August 1, 1999 with a one or two-day true-up hearing to be conducted some time after the primary evidentiary hearing scheduled to begin August 30, 1999. Subject to the availability of information, the Staff contemplates that its recommended true-up audit will encompass a package of items similar to those identified in Paragraph 3 of Laclede's March 11, 1999 Recommendation Concerning Test Year and Motion for True-Up Audit and Hearing.

4. The Staff requests that the Commission modify the procedural schedule as follows (proposed changes are shown in **bold**):¹

Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenors' Revenue Requirement Direct Testimony	-	June 28, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenors' Rate Design Direct Testimony	-	July 6, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Prehearing Conference	-	July 12-16, 1999 First day 10:00 a.m.
List of Issues Filed by Staff	-	July 19, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Rebuttal Testimony	-	August 5, 1999 3:00 p.m.
Surrebuttal Testimony	-	August 19, 1999 3:00 p.m.

¹ This schedule is consistent with the procedural schedule approved by the Commission in Case No. GR-98-374, "Laclede Gas Company's Tariff to Increase Rates."

Statement of Position
All Parties

- August 23, 1999
3:00 p.m.

Hearing

- August 30-Sept. 3, 1999
First day 9:00 a.m.

5. This proposed schedule merely adjusts the filing deadlines and the prehearing conference dates. It does not affect the scheduled hearing dates of August 30 through September 3, 1999. In developing this proposal, the parties have given the utmost consideration to the Commission's stated desire in its April 29, 1999 *Order* for ample time to thoroughly review and consider all the evidence.

6. The Staff has contacted all parties to this case and no party objects to this proposed modification to the procedural schedule.

WHEREFORE the Staff respectfully requests that the Commission modify the procedural schedule consistent with the proposal herein.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel



Marc D. Poston
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 24th day of May 1999.

Marc Post

**SERVICE LIST FOR
CASE NO: GR-99-315
May 24, 1999**

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