

1 Cover Information Sheet  
2 Public Hearing  
3 Laclede Gas Case No. GR-99-315  
4 August 11, 1999 - 12:00 Noon

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1 APPEARANCES:  
2 MARC D. POSTON, Assistant General Counsel  
Page 1

GR99315v2  
 3 301 West High Street  
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360  
 FOR: Staff of the Public Service Commission.  
 4  
 GERALD T. MCNEIVE, JR.  
 5 720 Olive Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63101  
 6 FOR: Laclede Gas Company  
 7 TOM BYRNE  
 720 Olive Street  
 8 St. Louis, MO 63101  
 FOR: Laclede Gas Company  
 9  
 MICHAEL DANDINO, Senior Public Counsel  
 10 P.O. Box 7800  
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-7800  
 11 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel and the  
 Public  
 12  
 MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST  
 13 720 Olive Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63101  
 14 FOR: Laclede Gas Company  
 15  
 16  
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1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let's go ahead and go on the 11:58:08  
 2 record. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set 11:58:10  
 3 this time for a local hearing in case number GR-99-315. 11:58:16  
 4 My name is Nancy Dippell. I am a Regulatory Law Judge 11:58:20  
 5 with the Public Service Commission. 11:58:24  
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6                   This hearing was ordered by the Commission, 11:58:26  
 7                   and the notice of the hearing was sent by the 11:58:28  
 8                   Commission's Information Officers to local newspapers 11:58:30  
 9                   and radio stations. 11:58:34  
 10                  Prior to commencing the hearing, I'm going 11:58:36  
 11                  to give you a brief explanation of the agency and the 11:58:38  
 12                  procedures to be followed. And I'll try to identify 11:58:40  
 13                  some of the people who are present. The Missouri Public 11:58:44  
 14                  Service Commission is a State agency which regulates the 11:58:48  
 15                  rates charged by investor owned utility companies in 11:58:50  
 16                  Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and 11:58:54  
 17                  reasonable. The quality of the service and the degree 11:58:56  
 18                  of safety employed in their operations are also 11:58:58  
 19                  regulated by the Commission. 11:59:00  
 20                  The Public Service Commission is made up of 11:59:02  
 21                  five Commissioners appointed by the Governor to hear and 11:59:04  
 22                  decide cases such as these. Two of the Commissioners 11:59:06  
 23                  are here today. They are the Chair Lumpe on my right 11:59:10  
 24                  and Commissioner Schemenauer on my left. 11:59:14  
 25                  The Commission employs a staff of engineers, 11:59:18

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1                  accountants, financial analysts and other specialists in 11:59:20  
 2                  the field of utility regulation, and also relies on 11:59:24  
 3                  their expertise. 11:59:26  
 4                  I also have sitting on the front row Marc 11:59:28  
 5                  Poston who is an attorney for the staff of the Public 11:59:32  
 6                  Service Commission. And at the table to my left, we 11:59:36  
 7                  have the Office of the Public Counsel representative, 11:59:40  
 8                  who is Mike Dandino. And it is the job of the Public 11:59:46

9 Counsel to represent the public in a hearing before the 11:59:48  
 10 Commission. And if you have issues that you'd like to 11:59:50  
 11 discuss with Mr. Dandino, he will certainly be happy to 11:59:54  
 12 stay after the hearing and discuss those with you. 12:00:00  
 13 Representing the company today are their 12:00:02  
 14 attorneys Gerald McNeive and Tom Byrne. And there are 12:00:06  
 15 also some customer representatives from the company 12:00:12  
 16 present. 12:00:14  
 17 Mr. McNeive, is there anyone you'd like to 12:00:14  
 18 introduce? 12:00:18  
 19 MR. MCNEIVE: Yeah. I guess, Your Honor, 12:00:20  
 20 Gloria Thirdkill is here. If you could stand up, Gloria 12:00:22  
 21 -- from our community relations department. And Marie 12:00:26  
 22 Schaefer is here from our customer relations department. 12:00:30  
 23 And if there are any people with billing problems or 12:00:34  
 24 other questions, I think they would be available to 12:00:38  
 25 help. Thank you. 12:00:40

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1 JUDGE DIPPELL: In this case, the applicant 12:00:40  
 2 has requested an increase in natural gas revenue from 12:00:42  
 3 approximately 30.5 million dollars a year. For the 12:00:46  
 4 average residential customer, that increase is 12:00:48  
 5 approximately \$3.37 a month. 12:00:54  
 6 The formal evidentiary hearings in this 12:00:56  
 7 matter will begin on August 30th. These evidentiary 12:00:58  
 8 hearings will be held in Jefferson City and are much 12:01:00  
 9 like a trial. 12:01:04  
 10 The various parties, including the staff of 12:01:04  
 11 the Missouri Public Service Commission, the office of 12:01:06

12 the Public Counsel, as well as the company will be 12:01:08  
 13 presenting their expert witnesses at that time to 12:01:10  
 14 justify the position that they are taking in the case. 12:01:16  
 15 In addition to those parties, there are also 12:01:20  
 16 other intervenors in the case including Union Electric 12:01:22  
 17 Company, Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers, Missouri 12:01:26  
 18 Energy Groups, MRT Energy Marketing Company, and some 12:01:30  
 19 others. 12:01:34  
 20 But today the company is not on trial and 12:01:34  
 21 they're not necessarily here to answer questions. The 12:01:36  
 22 real purpose of today is more of a fact finding mission 12:01:40  
 23 on the part of the Commission. We want your input, and 12:01:44  
 24 we hope to take your comments from this hearing and 12:01:46  
 25 follow up with any review of any issues that may be 12:01:50

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1 raised. 12:01:54  
 2 After the local public hearings and the 12:01:54  
 3 evidentiary hearing, the Commissioners will evaluate the 12:01:56  
 4 evidence and will make a decision. And that decision is 12:02:00  
 5 expected to be made in November or December of this 12:02:04  
 6 year. So your comments are important to us, and we look 12:02:06  
 7 forward to hearing from you. 12:02:08  
 8 Although the company will not have an 12:02:10  
 9 opportunity to present its witnesses today and, 12:02:12  
 10 therefore, cannot answer your questions on the record, I 12:02:14  
 11 believe they will be available to speak with you after 12:02:18  
 12 the hearing is concluded. And, certainly, after we 12:02:20  
 13 conclude, you can stay and speak to Mr. Poston if you 12:02:24  
 14 have questions about the staff, or, again, the Public 12:02:30

15 Counsel. 12:02:32  
 16 Our procedure today will be as follows: If 12:02:32  
 17 there is anyone that would like to testify, if I could 12:02:36  
 18 please get you to sign the list. Sir, were you 12:02:42  
 19 interested in testifying today? 12:02:46  
 20 GUEST: No. 12:02:50  
 21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there anyone else that is 12:02:52  
 22 interested in testifying? Since we don't have any 12:02:54  
 23 members of the public who would like to testify today, I 12:03:00  
 24 will state that we are having another public hearing 12:03:06  
 25 this evening in Clayton. And there will hopefully be 12:03:08

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1 members of the public there for us to gather 12:03:14  
 2 information.  
 3 Commissioners, is there anything you'd like 12:03:22  
 4 to say before we conclude? There's no one here to 12:03:24  
 5 testify. We can stay for a while and see if anyone else 12:03:24  
 6 shows up. 12:03:28  
 7 CHAIR LEMPE: That's what I was going to 12:03:28  
 8 say. We can stay for awhile, since we scheduled this 12:03:32  
 9 for approximately two hours in order to hear anyone that 12:03:34  
 10 did wish to speak. We will stay for a while to see if 12:03:38  
 11 anyone comes late. And I think the rest has been 12:03:42  
 12 explained very well. 12:03:46  
 13 This is a session where we listen to the 12:03:48  
 14 public and any information they wish to give us as to 12:03:52  
 15 the case. And we are not here to make a decision today. 12:03:56  
 16 we have not already made a decision. That comes later, 12:04:00  
 17 after we hear all of the testimony. So I think it would 12:04:04

18 be good if we did stay a little while to see if someone 12:04:08  
 19 does arrive. 12:04:14  
 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. At this time I'm 12:04:16  
 21 going to go ahead and go off the record. And then we 12:04:16  
 22 will stay for awhile and see if anyone shows up. Thank 12:04:20  
 23 you. 12:04:24  
 24 (Thereupon, a short recess was taken.)  
 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let's go ahead and go back 12:16:50

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1 on the record for just a minute again. Again, my name 12:16:52  
 2 is Nancy Dippell. I am a Regulatory Law Judge with the 12:16:56  
 3 Public Service Commission. And we've come here today to 12:16:58  
 4 hear public comments about the Laclede Gas Company's 12:17:00  
 5 proposed rate increase. 12:17:06  
 6 I have had a couple of members of the public 12:17:10  
 7 say that they might like to testify. So I will ask now 12:17:12  
 8 if they would like to come forward. 12:17:16  
 9 Let me tell you a little bit about what the 12:17:18  
 10 procedure is for testifying. Since this is an official 12:17:20  
 11 hearing of the Public Service Commission, the statements 12:17:24  
 12 and testimony of the witnesses will be taken down by the 12:17:24  
 13 court reporter and will be under oath. 12:17:28  
 14 The court reporter will take down all that 12:17:30  
 15 testimony. And the Commissioners who couldn't be here 12:17:32  
 16 today will have an opportunity, then, to read your 12:17:36  
 17 remarks. And it becomes a formal record upon which the 12:17:40  
 18 final decision will be based. 12:17:42  
 19 The Commission does want your input. And we 12:17:44  
 20 are not here to ask questions of the company or any 12:17:46

21 other party. They will be witnesses at the formal 12:17:50  
 22 hearing which starts on August 20th in Jefferson City 12:17:54  
 23 where they are allowed to put forth their evidence. 12:17:58  
 24 Even though you really won't have an 12:18:02  
 25 opportunity to ask questions of the company on the 12:18:04

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1 record, again, there are some representatives of the 12:18:08  
 2 company here who would be happy to stay and answer your 12:18:10  
 3 questions. And the Office of the Public Counsel, Mr. 12:18:16  
 4 Dandino, who represents the interest of the public in 12:18:18  
 5 these rate hearings, would also be able to take down any 12:18:26  
 6 of your concerns. 12:18:30  
 7 But the Commission would like to get your 12:18:30  
 8 input and take your comments. And so I will ask now if 12:18:32  
 9 Mr. Little is interested in coming forward to testify. 12:18:38  
 10 MR. LITTLE: No. 12:18:42  
 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Sakkara, would you like 12:18:50  
 12 to testify? 12:18:52  
 13 MR. SAKKARA: I have some questions. I 12:18:52  
 14 don't know if you'll be able to answer them. I'm a 12:18:54  
 15 State employee. 12:18:58  
 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let me go ahead and swear 12:18:58  
 17 you in, and then -- if you would, please raise your 12:19:00  
 18 right hand.  
 19 (Thereupon, the witness was sworn.)  
 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Could you state 12:19:10  
 21 your name and spell it for the court reporter. 12:19:12  
 22 MR. SAKKARA: Amen-Ra Sakkara. A-m-e-n dash 12:19:14  
 23 R-a, S-a-k-k-a-r-a.



24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Could you tell 12:19:20  
25 us what your address is? 12:19:22

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1 MR. SAKKARA: 7184 Hazelwood Lane, 63130. 12:19:24  
2 JUDGE DIPPELL: And are you a customer of 12:19:28  
3 Laclede Gas? 12:19:30  
4 MR. SAKKARA: Yes, I am. 12:19:30  
5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Go ahead and give us your 12:19:32  
6 comments. 12:19:32  
7 MR. SAKKARA: Well, I have some questions. 12:19:34  
8 You said that the approximate raises are based on an 12:19:36  
9 average of customer services. I'd like to know how you 12:19:40  
10 figure an average of customer service and the criteria 12:19:44  
11 that is used for that. And are you taking into 12:19:48  
12 consideration that the people on the poverty level are 12:19:50  
13 having difficulties paying their bills as it is. 12:19:54  
14 And most of these people that are at poverty 12:19:56  
15 level -- their homes aren't insulated well. So the 12:19:58  
16 average is going to be disproportionate for the people 12:20:00  
17 in the lower income brackets as you do for the people in 12:20:04  
18 the higher line. 12:20:08  
19 And I'd like to know -- is this Commission 12:20:08  
20 -- how is it -- who elects the Commission to make these 12:20:10  
21 decisions on this particular issue? 12:20:14  
22 MS. DIPPELL: Okay. I will answer that part 12:20:18  
23 about how the Commission is structured. And that is: 12:20:20  
24 The Commission is appointed by the Governor. There are 12:20:22  
25 five Commissioners, and they serve six year terms. And 12:20:24

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1 those terms rotate so that their terms expire at 12:20:28  
2 different times. And then the Commissioners are 12:20:34  
3 appointed by the Governor and are given -- have 12:20:36  
4 statutory authority to make these kinds of decisions. 12:20:40  
5 I can't really answer your other questions. 12:20:44  
6 But I'm interested in the comments that you are making, 12:20:46  
7 because it sounds like you have an opinion as to how you 12:20:50  
8 think the Commission -- things that you think the 12:20:54  
9 Commission should consider when they're making their 12:20:56  
10 decision. And so I would like you to state those 12:21:00  
11 things, if you'd like to.  
12 MR. SAKKARA: Sure. I believe that if 12:21:02  
13 you're going to do a rate increase on an average based 12:21:04  
14 on the usage by particular citizens in whatever 12:21:10  
15 community area they live in, that all of these things 12:21:14  
16 should be taken into consideration. 12:21:18  
17 And, secondly, I don't understand why it is 12:21:18  
18 that a public utility needs to increase the particular 12:21:20  
19 rates. That should be a part of a cost of business. If 12:21:24  
20 any other business that has problems, they can't go to 12:21:28  
21 the public and ask for money to continue their business. 12:21:30  
22 Laclede Gas, in my opinion, should be able to make those 12:21:34  
23 changes within their own staff and find ways to cut back 12:21:36  
24 like everyone else does in order to cover the offset of 12:21:42  
25 the cost of doing business. 12:21:46

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1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there any questions for 12:21:48  
2 Mr. Sakkara? Commissioner Lumpe, did you have any 12:21:50  
3 questions? I am going to allow the attorneys for the 12:21:56  
4 Public Counsel and the staff and the company to ask you 12:21:58  
5 any questions, if they have questions about your 12:22:02  
6 comments. Mr. Dandino, do you have any questions. 12:22:04  
7 MR. DANDINO: Your Honor, I don't have any 12:22:06  
8 questions. But I'd just like to make some type of 12:22:08  
9 response to Mr. Sakkara. Maybe I can answer some of his 12:22:12  
10 questions.  
11 Mr. Sakkara, you're right. When you look at 12:22:16  
12 -- if the increase is made on an avenue bill, you're 12:22:20  
13 right. Some people pay -- an average is simply that. 12:22:26  
14 So some people pay more, some people pay less. But they 12:22:30  
15 are not really necessarily basing it -- they are not 12:22:34  
16 calculating the rate increase based on an average. They 12:22:36  
17 are looking at a total dollar that the company needs. 12:22:40  
18 And, really, the average is kind of looking at -- that's 12:22:44  
19 how it falls across for every customer. Of course, 12:22:50  
20 there is no such thing as a real typical customer. 12:22:54  
21 And you're right. A low income customer -- 12:23:00  
22 not only -- they'll probably pay more than \$3.37 a 12:23:02  
23 month, they are going to pay a higher percentage of 12:23:08  
24 their income. Because let's say it's \$5 a month. That 12:23:10  
25 \$5 will be a lot more of their income. 12:23:14

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1 Those type of issues need to be addressed 12:23:20  
2 more in programs called Heat and Light Funds where they 12:23:24  
3 provide assistance to low income home owners and renters 12:23:28

4 to get assistance based on their income and also based 12:23:34  
5 on the -- allow them to insulate their homes. Those 12:23:40  
6 type of programs are in effect in Missouri. And there 12:23:48  
7 are programs through Dollar Aid through the utility 12:23:52  
8 companies that offer low income assistance. 12:23:58  
9 when they calculate -- when they're looking 12:24:00  
10 at calculating the rates, the company comes in and says, 12:24:04  
11 "This is how much money we need." And they come to the 12:24:08  
12 Public Service Commission and say, "Based on what we 12:24:12  
13 need and what we are allowed to -- money we are allowed 12:24:16  
14 to get as a return on our investment or our rate of 12:24:20  
15 return, we need this X amount of rates." 12:24:26  
16 Because there is a monopoly, this Commission 12:24:30  
17 is the one that determines whether they get a fair rate. 12:24:34  
18 You know, our office many times disagrees not only with 12:24:40  
19 the rate they're requesting, but also some of the items 12:24:44  
20 that go into determining that rate. Whether, like you 12:24:48  
21 said, the company should bear that cost or whether the 12:24:52  
22 rate payers should bear that cost. Those are all the 12:24:56  
23 kind of factors I think this Commission looks at. 12:25:00  
24 But one of the things they do look at is 12:25:04  
25 rate in terms of what is just, affordable and reasonable 12:25:08

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1 for the rate payers. But they also look at what is fair 12:25:12  
2 and proper for a company in order for it to make a fair 12:25:18  
3 rate of return. 12:25:22  
4 So this Commission has to kind of balance 12:25:22  
5 those interests. I don't know if that kind of answers 12:25:26  
6 your questions. But I hope that answers some of the 12:25:30

7 questions.

8 MR. SAKKARA: Well, I know for a fact that 12:25:34  
9 the African-American community is disproportionately at 12:25:36  
10 a disadvantage when it comes to all services. We pay 12:25:42  
11 higher costs for everything in the community from the 12:25:44  
12 stores to the electric to gas. And I think that taking 12:25:48  
13 all these things in consideration, that the Commission 12:25:52  
14 should -- if they're going to increase the rates, that 12:25:54  
15 there should be some compensation for the 12:25:58  
16 African-American community in regards to these type of 12:26:02  
17 pay hikes knowing that the community is at a 12:26:02  
18 disadvantage in that situation. 12:26:08

19 Also, I'd like to know -- when these 12:26:10  
20 proposals of increases are established, I think it 12:26:10  
21 should be more clear to what the increase is for. And 12:26:14  
22 if the increase is established and stated properly, that 12:26:18  
23 these funds be used only for those particular things 12:26:22  
24 that are outlined for the increase, other than projects 12:26:26  
25 the community receives no benefits from, like exploring 12:26:32

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1 oil wells in Texas, and things of this nature. 12:26:32  
2 And so these are the things that I am 12:26:34  
3 concerned with. You take the money, and what are you 12:26:36  
4 going to do with it? Where is the money going? What 12:26:38  
5 constitutes the gas company or any utility to ask the 12:26:42  
6 community for services and the community gets nothing 12:26:46  
7 back from it. 12:26:50  
8 MR. DANDINO: And those are proper 12:26:54  
9 questions; yes. 12:26:56

10 MR. SAKKARA: Are there any answers for it? 12:26:56  
 11 MR. DANDINO: Unfortunately, I can't answer 12:27:00  
 12 those.  
 13 MR. SAKKARA: Well, what does the Commission 12:27:00  
 14 do -- if these questions are valid, then what purpose is 12:27:02  
 15 the Commission? I mean, their forethought should be -- 12:27:06  
 16 and also their concerns -- at directing their attention 12:27:08  
 17 to those particular issues. 12:27:12  
 18 MR. DANDINO: Well, I think in some of it, 12:27:14  
 19 when they have the evidentiary hearings, those are the 12:27:16  
 20 type of issues that are brought up in the expert 12:27:22  
 21 testimony filed by our office and the staff. But, also, 12:27:24  
 22 some of the questions the Commissioners can take from 12:27:28  
 23 this public hearing -- take your concerns to the 12:27:32  
 24 evidentiary hearings where they present the evidence and 12:27:36  
 25 ask those questions. They get answers and put them in 12:27:38

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1 the record and then try to consider those issues as part 12:27:42  
 2 of the decision. 12:27:46  
 3 MR. SAKKARA: Yeah. Because I don't think 12:27:48  
 4 it's fair for an individual family that lives in the 12:27:48  
 5 Ladue, Creve Couer or some influential area who has no 12:27:54  
 6 problem paying a utility bill -- and charged at a rate 12:27:56  
 7 of -- what is that? 3.5 or whatever percentage -- and 12:28:00  
 8 then you charge people in the lower income bracket the 12:28:04  
 9 same rate. I don't think that's very economical. 12:28:08  
 10 And I think if there is a Commission, these 12:28:12  
 11 are the concerns they -- I shouldn't be asking these 12:28:16  
 12 questions. They should be asking these questions and 12:28:18

13 making sure that the utility companies stay within these 12:28:20  
 14 particular guidelines for some services for the 12:28:26  
 15 community. 12:28:28  
 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Did you have anything 12:28:28  
 17 further? 12:28:28  
 18 MR. DANDINO: I have nothing further. 12:28:30  
 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston, did you have any 12:28:32  
 20 questions from the staff? 12:28:34  
 21 MR. POSTON: I have no questions. 12:28:34  
 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Were there any questions 12:28:36  
 23 from the company? 12:28:36  
 24 MR. MCNEIVE: No, Your Honor. 12:28:42  
 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Anyone else? Thank you very 12:28:42

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1 much Mr. Sakkara for testifying. Is there anyone else 12:28:44  
 2 from the public that would like to testify today? Since 12:28:48  
 3 there's no one else from the public and it is about 12:28:54  
 4 12:35, I am going to go ahead and adjourn the hearing. 12:28:56  
 5 I appreciate you all coming. 12:29:00  
 6 We are having another public hearing this 12:29:02  
 7 evening at the County Counsel Chambers in Clayton. It 12:29:04  
 8 begins at 6:00. And the Commission will be there to 12:29:08  
 9 hear any additional comments. 12:29:14  
 10 MR. SAKKARA: Is there any breakdown on what 12:29:16  
 11 this money is going to be spent for that we can look at? 12:29:18  
 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: The company has pre-filed 12:29:24  
 13 testimony with the Commission explaining what they 12:29:26  
 14 believe they need the money for the increase for. And 12:29:30  
 15 the cross-examination of that testimony will be what 12:29:32

16 will be taken in the evidentiary hearing on August 20th. 12:29:36  
 17 Those are all public records, and they're 12:29:40  
 18 part of this case file at the Commission's offices. 12:29:42  
 19 MR. SAKKARA: But that puts us at a 12:29:48  
 20 disadvantage coming to a hearing and not having any 12:29:50  
 21 documentation. It's like asking questions in the air, 12:29:52  
 22 you know? They just blow around. You don't have any 12:29:56  
 23 basis. Do you understand what I'm saying? 12:30:00  
 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: I think I understand what 12:30:02  
 25 you are saying. It's those kind of questions that the 12:30:04

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1 Commission does makes their decision based upon. And it 12:30:06  
 2 is the company's burden to show that they need the 12:30:10  
 3 increase. So they will present their evidence to the 12:30:12  
 4 Commission, Public Counsel will present evidence for 12:30:16  
 5 what it thinks is fair to the public. The staff will 12:30:18  
 6 have sort of a neutral position, balancing the interest 12:30:22  
 7 of the company and the public. 12:30:28  
 8 MR. SAKKARA: But is there anyone that 12:30:30  
 9 represents the African-American community or any other 12:30:32  
 10 community, Asian or Caucasian or whatever? 12:30:36  
 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: The office of the Public 12:30:36  
 12 Counsel represents the public. If you would like to 12:30:38  
 13 make sure that some of these issues are addressed, 12:30:44  
 14 perhaps Mr. Dandino after the hearing can help you. If 12:30:46  
 15 you would like to see any of that information, again, it 12:30:50  
 16 is part of the public record, and it is on file at our 12:30:54  
 17 office and can be issued. Members of the staff, 12:30:58  
 18 perhaps, could discuss it with you to break it down for 12:31:02



19 you. I don't have the specific information with me. 12:31:04  
 20 Are there any other comments before I adjourn the 12:31:12  
 21 hearing? Okay. Then thank you all for coming. And 12:31:14  
 22 this hearing is adjourned. 12:31:18  
 23  
 24  
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1 STATE OF MISSOURI )  
 2 CITY OF ST. LOUIS ) SS  
 3 I, Celena D. Moulton, a Notary Public within  
 4 and for the State of Missouri, do certify that I acted  
 5 as Official Reporter at the time these proceedings  
 6 transpired, that these proceedings were reduced to  
 7 shorthand by me on the day and at the place and time  
 8 first aforesaid and later transcribed by computer, and  
 9 that this and the foregoing 18 pages are a true and  
 10 accurate transcript of proceedings of the Missouri  
 11 Public Service Commission held at 111 North 7th Street,  
 12 City of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on the 11th day of  
 13 August, 1999.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
 15 hand and Seal this 16th day of August, 1999.

16 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 8, 2002.  
 17  
 18  
 19

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 CELENA D. MOULTON, C.S.R.  
 Notary Public, within and  
 for the State of Missouri

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