

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

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

Case No. GR-99-315

DISSENTING OPINION OF COMMISSIONER CONNIE MURRAY

I dissent from the majority's reaffirmation of our earlier decision that net salvage should be treated in accordance with Staff's suggested departure from the traditional, whole life method of depreciation.

I would use this opportunity to reconsider that decision and determine that the appropriate calculation of whole life depreciation rates should include, as it traditionally has, an accrual for future net salvage. This would return us to the well-established policy of matching the costs of assets to the ratepayers who benefit from those assets. Such a determination would correct our mistaken reliance upon Staff's inadequately supported position that the Commission should embrace a radical new policy that would separate the calculation of net salvage from the calculation of depreciation.

I respectfully dissent.

Respectfully submitted,


Connie Murray, Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 28th day of June, 2001.