

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
February 1, 2001**

CASE NO: GO-2000-394

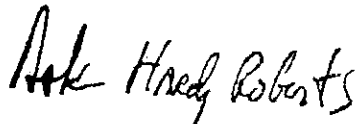
Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Michael C. Pendergast
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

Enclosed find certified copy of a *NOTICE OF EX PARTE* in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



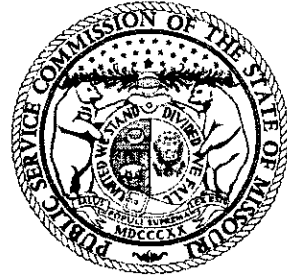
**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department:
All Parties in Case No. **GO-2000-394**
All Commissioners

FROM: Chair Sheila Lumpe *SL*

DATE: February 1, 2001



On January 31, 2001, I was a participant in a public meeting called by the Missouri Attorney General, Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon. The meeting concerned the causes of recent increases in the cost of natural gas and the impact on Missouri consumers. Representatives from Missouri Gas Energy and Laclede Gas Company also participated in the meeting which was held in Kansas City, Missouri. During their presentation to the Attorney General, Missouri Gas Energy representatives discussed aspects of the case noted above. The Commission is currently considering the issues in this case. As soon as I realized that Laclede was discussing issues related to this case, I left the meeting room, to limit the *ex parte* communication. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

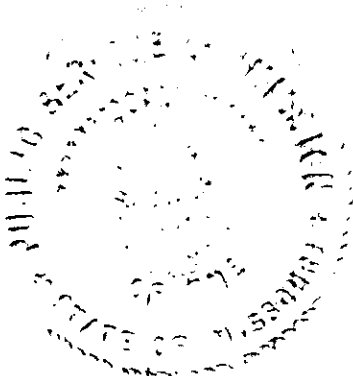
cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

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 1st day of February 2001.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "R".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge