

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
January 11, 2000**

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/Thomas M. Byrne
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copies:
To the mayor of each city and the county commission of each county in which
Laclede provides service

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Experimental Price Stabilization Fund.) Case No. GO-2000-394

ORDER OPENING CASE AND DIRECTING NOTICE

On December 29, 1999, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a motion requesting that the Commission open a case in connection with the Experimental Price Stabilization Fund (PSP) of Laclede Gas Company (Laclede). Staff noted that on June 15, 1999, the Commission issued an order granting Laclede's request to extend or modify the experimental PSP set forth in Case No. GO-98-484. The Commission approved Laclede's "Alternative B" plan with certain additional modifications "that Laclede agreed to during the hearing and in its posthearing briefs." Part of the modifications that the Commission found Laclede had agreed to was "... a provision giving the Commission the right, but not the obligation, to review the program annually and, if necessary, revise it to correct any major deficiencies on or before February 15 of each year of the program."

Staff seeks to review the program on behalf of the Commission and wishes to open a case to facilitate the monitoring of the PSP program. Staff proposes to monitor the program through the submission of data requests and other inquiries. Staff states that Laclede has advised it in correspondence that Case No. GO-98-484 has been closed and "no longer provides a basis for the submission of data requests."

Staff indicates that it believes the closure of Case No. GO-98-484 does not terminate its responsibility to monitor the PSP, should the Commission choose to review the program. Staff suggests that opening a case to monitor the PSP program would eliminate any misunderstanding on the extent of compliance or obligation to comply with data requests or other inquiries submitted by the Staff to Laclede in connection with the PSP program approved in Case No. GO-98-484.

The Commission has considered Staff's motion and finds that a case should be opened in connection with Laclede's Experimental Price Stabilization Program. The Commission also finds that interested parties should be given an opportunity to intervene. Accordingly, a copy of this order and of Staff's Motion to Open Docket shall be sent to each party in Case No. GO-98-484. The Records Department of the Commission should also serve a copy of this order and of Staff's Motion to Open Docket upon the mayor of each city and the county commission of each county in Laclede's service area. In addition, the Information Office shall send notice of this order to the publisher of each newspaper located in the counties in which Laclede provides service, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri, and to members of the General Assembly representing the Missouri area served by Laclede.

Parties wishing to intervene may file an application to intervene no later than 30 days from the issuance of this order with:

Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and send copies to:

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

and to:

Office of the Public Counsel
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Case No. GO-2000-394 is established to allow the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission to monitor the Experimental Price Stabilization Program of Laclede Gas Company.

2. That any party wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than February 10, 2000.

3. That the Records Department and Information Office of the Commission shall serve a copy of this order and provide notice as described in this order.

4. That this order shall become effective on January 21, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



(S E A L)

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Vicky Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30,
1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 11th day of January, 2000.

**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 11TH day of January 2000.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge