

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

July 17, 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

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 DIRECTING FILING

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 stated that opening a case would facilitate Staff in its monitoring of the PSP program. The Commission issued an Order Opening Case and Directing Notice on January 11, 2000. On February 1, 2000, the Commission issued an Order Directing Reports, in which it directed Laclede to provide Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) with a report of the transactions under the PSP through December 31, 1999. The Commission also directed Laclede to file the next report on or before May 1, 2000, and quarterly thereafter.

On July 7, 2000, Laclede filed a Verified Application for Authorization to Implement Temporary Revisions to Price Stabilization Program. Along with the Application, Laclede filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment. In its motion, Laclede claimed the temporary revisions were designed to provide Laclede with the "additional resources and flexibility required to obtain meaningful price protection for its customers in advance of the upcoming winter heating

7

season." Specifically, Laclede requested the Commission act on its request by August 1, 2000.

On July 11, 2000, the Commission, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.808(16), issued its Order Directing Filing which required all interested parties to respond by July 14, 2000, to Laclede's Application. The Order also directed Staff to file either a recommendation and memorandum or a pleading requesting a hearing on or before July 21, 2000.

On July 14, 2000, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed its Response to Order Directing Filing wherein it stated that it is currently reviewing Laclede's Application but is not prepared at this time to state its position with respect to the Application. Public Counsel requests that the Commission allow it to respond no later than July 21, 2000, or, in the alternative, requests that the Commission set this matter for hearing.

The Commission will grant Public Counsel's motion and allow it to file a response to Laclede's Application no later than July 21, 2000.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Office of the Public Counsel shall have until July 21, 2000, to file a response to Laclede Gas Company's Verified Application for Authorization to Implement Temporary Revisions to Price Stabilization Program.

2. That this order shall become effective on July 20, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief
Regulatory Law Judge, by
delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 17th day of July, 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 17th day of July 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge