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July 10, 2000

BRIAN D. KINKADE
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GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Research and Public Affairs

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Case No. GF-2000-843

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of **STAFF'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert V. Franson
Assistant General Counsel
(573) 751-6651
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

RF/dkf
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

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

In the Matter of the Application of)
LACLEDE GAS COMPANY for an)
Order Authorizing LACLEDE GAS)
COMPANY to Issue and Sell First)
Mortgage Bonds, Unsecured Debt and)
Authorized but Unissued Common Stock)
of the Company in a Total Amount not to)
Exceed \$350,000,000 Together with)
Certain Rights to Accompany the)
Common Stock and Any Additional)
Shares of Common Stock as May be)
Required by the Exercise of Such Rights;)
All Pursuant to a Universal Shelf)
Registration Statement)

Case No. GF-2000-843

STAFF'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Service Commission of the State of Missouri ("Staff") and respectfully states as follows:

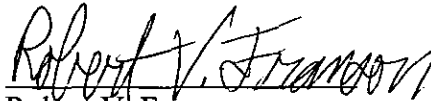
1. On June 23, 2000, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") filed a Verified Application to issue First Mortgage Bonds, Unsecured Debt and Common Stock in an amount not to exceed \$350,000,000 with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission").
2. On June 26, 2000, the Commission issued an Order directing Staff to file a Response to a Motion to Expedite by July 6, 2000. This Response was to state whether Staff it could file its Response by August 10, 2000.
3. Staff is unable to provide an exact date by which it can respond because its response will be greatly affected by another case currently pending before the Commission. The other

case, EF2000764, is also a financing case and involves similar financial issues. Staff will be able to file a Staff Recommendation within 10 business days following the Commission decision in EF2000764.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this Response to the Order Directing Response to Motion to Expedite.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE,
General Counsel

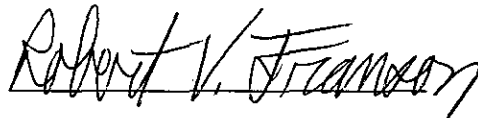


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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 10th day of July, 2000.



Service List for
Case No. GF-2000-843
July 10, 2000

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