

12/11
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,)	
)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-99-151</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER SETTING EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On October 13, 1998, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a complaint alleging that Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) violated or failed to comply with 4 CSR 240-40.030(14)(C)3 by not conducting a required six and one-half (6-½) month recheck leak investigation on a Class 3 gas leak that had been detected at 401 Pralle Lane, St. Charles, Missouri on May 19, 1997. On March 17, 1998 a natural gas explosion occurred at 401 Pralle Lane, injuring two people and causing approximately \$100,000 in property damage. (See Gas Incident Report filed in Case No. GS-98-422). Staff requests that the Commission authorize the Office of General Counsel to seek penalties against Laclede in Circuit Court.

Laclede filed an Answer and Explanation of Satisfaction on November 23, 1998 stating that the failure to perform the required recheck was caused by human error in processing the leak report and was an isolated incident. In addition, Laclede contends that performance of the recheck would not have prevented the subsequent gas

explosion. Laclede further claims that it has revised the procedure for processing Class 3 leak tickets in an attempt to avoid similar problems in the future.

An early prehearing conference should be scheduled to afford the parties the opportunity to discuss, define, and possibly resolve the issues presented in this case, or at least to agree on a procedural schedule. The Commission will also set a date for the filing of a proposed procedural schedule in order to ensure that this case progresses.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

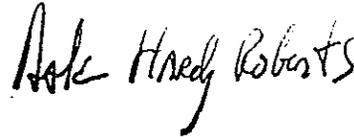
1. That a prehearing conference will be held on December 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

2. That anyone with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days before the prehearing or hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline - 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline - 1-800-829-7541.

3. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than January 4, 1999.

4. That this order shall become effective on December 11, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Anji Gandhi, 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 1st day of December, 1998.