

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

July 17, 2000

CASE NO: GF-2000-843

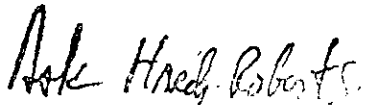
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Assistant Vice President & Associate General
Counsel
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

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 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)	<u>Case No. GF-2000-843</u>
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)	

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO LATE FILE RESPONSE AND GRANTING
MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

On June 23, 2000, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) filed a verified application requesting that the Commission grant it the authority to issue and sell various debt and equity instruments. Laclede's application requested that the Commission grant its approval no later than August 23, 2000. However, Laclede did not file a separate motion for expedited treatment as required by 4 CSR 240-2.080(17). Furthermore, Laclede's application did not contain a certificate of service showing service on the Office of the Public Counsel. On June 26, the Commission issued a Notice of Deficiency and Order Directing Compliance that directed Laclede to file a motion for expedited treatment in compliance with the Commission's regulation. That order also directed Laclede to file an appropriate certificate of service. Laclede filed the required

certificate of service on July 3. On the same date, Laclede filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment that is in compliance with the Commission's rule.

On June 26, the Commission issued an Order Directing Staff to Respond to Request For Expedited Consideration. That order directed Staff to file, by July 6, a statement indicating whether or not it would be able to file a Staff Recommendation regarding Laclede's Application by August 10. Staff filed its Response to Motion for Expedited Consideration on July 10, along with a motion requesting leave to file its response out of time.

Staff's Response indicates that it will be able to file a Staff Recommendation in this case within ten business days following the Commission's decision in another case, EF-2000-764. The Commission issued its ruling in EF-2000-764 on July 13. Therefore, Staff's response indicates that it will be able to file a Staff Recommendation no later than July 27.

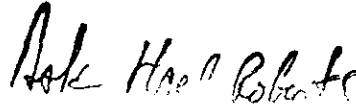
Given Staff's response, the Commission finds that Laclede's Motion for Expedited Treatment should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Laclede Gas Company's Motion for Expedited Treatment is granted.
2. That Staff shall file its recommendation regarding Laclede Gas Company's Application no later than August 10, 2000.
3. That Staff's Motion to Late-File Response to Request for Expedited Consideration is granted.

4. That this order shall become effective on July 27, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

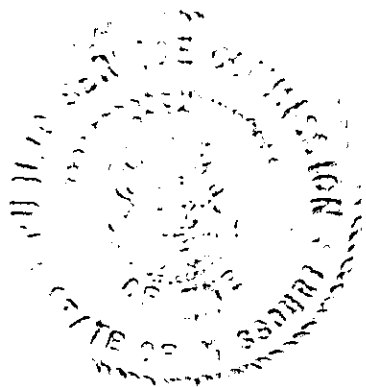
Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory Law
Judge by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

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