

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas)	
Company's Tariff to Increase its)	<u>File No. GR-2010-0171</u>
Annual Revenues for Natural)	Tariff No. YG-2010-0376
Natural Gas Service)	

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARTIES REGARDING PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CUSTOMER NOTICE**

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") and, on behalf of all of the parties to this case with the exception of MIEC (the "Parties"),¹ submits the following recommendations regarding procedural schedule, public hearings and customer notice in this case:

1. On December 10, 2009, the Commission issued its Order Directing Notice, Suspending Tariff, Setting Hearings, and Directing Filings in this case. In that Order, the Commission directed the parties to submit a proposed procedural schedule, make recommendations regarding the times and locations of local public hearings, and recommend language for inclusion in the notice to customers. To that end, several of the Parties participated in the early pre-hearing conference held in this case on January 14, 2010 and, as a result of their discussions there and afterwards, have formulated the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration:

Proposed Procedural Schedule

2. At Staff's request, the Parties have recommended that the current dates for the main evidentiary hearings in this case be moved back one week. In addition to accommodating Staff's schedule, the extra week would also provide all Parties with

¹ Laclede transmitted this pleading to counsel for MIEC, but at the time of this filing had not received a response.

additional time to prepare and submit their surrebuttal testimony and prehearing briefs. Consistent with this change, the Parties are also recommending that the true-up hearing, tentatively scheduled for August 26-27, be moved into the next week. The Parties submit that these adjustments will not materially impact presentation of the case to the Commission.

3. The Parties have agreed to provide all workpapers (in electronic format whenever feasible) within two business days following the date when the related testimony is filed and, once rebuttal testimony is filed, to provide answers to data requests within 10 calendar days and to submit objections to such data requests within 5 calendar days. The Parties request that the Commission approve this agreement in its Order addressing these recommendations. With that as background, the parties recommend that the Commission adopt the following procedural schedule:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervener Testimony and Schedules	05/10/10
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervener Rate Design Testimony and Schedules and Preliminary Reconciliation	05/24/10
Settlement Conference	06/07/10 through 06/11/10
Preliminary Issues List	06/18/10
Rebuttal Testimony Due	06/24/10
Surrebuttal / Cross Testimony Due	07/16/10
Statement of Positions / Final Reconciliation	07/20/10
Pre-Hearing Brief	07/23/07
Hearing	08/02/10 through 08/13/10
True-Up Hearing	09/01/10 through 09/02/10
Rates Suspended to	11/04/10

Local Public Hearings

4. The Parties recommend that a total of seven local public hearings be held in this case and that such hearings be scheduled between May 25, 2010, just after the final piece of direct testimony is proposed to be filed, and June 2, 2010, before the settlement conference is proposed to start. The Parties further propose that at least one local public hearing each be held in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County, and that at least one local public hearing be held in the portion of Laclede's service territory that is south of St. Louis. By proposing hearings in various portions of Laclede's service territory, the parties believe that such hearings should provide an adequate opportunity for customers to testify on the Company's proposed filing in a public forum.

Customer Notice Language

5. Finally, the Parties recommend that the Company individually notify its customers of the rate increase request and public hearings, via a bill insert, with such notice to be provided at least 15 days prior to the first public hearing. The Parties further recommend that the following language be used in such notices:

NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

In December 2009, Laclede Gas Company asked the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to approve an increase in its natural gas service rates of approximately \$60.7 million, of which approximately \$8.1 million is already being recovered in rates through Laclede's Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS), resulting in a net increase of \$52.6 million. For the average residential customer the proposed increase would be approximately 7.1 percent or \$5.59 per month.

The PSC will conduct an investigation and hold hearings to determine if the proposed rates are just and reasonable. The PSC has the authority to approve rates that are lower than Laclede's request depending on the results of its investigation and hearing.

The PSC will hold public hearings in which customers will have an opportunity to present comments to the PSC commissioners about the rate

increase request. Public comment hearings have been set before the PSC as follows:

– LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES LISTED

***A question-and-answer session will be held one-half hour before the beginning of each hearing.**

If you are unable to attend a live public hearing and wish to make written comments or secure additional information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (573) 751-4857, email opcservice@ded.mo.gov or the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 800-392-4211, email pscinfo@psc.mo.gov.

Comments may also be registered in the case using the Commission's electronic filing system at <https://www.efis.psc.mo.gov/mpsc/Comments.html>. If submitting comments electronically, please reference Case Number GR-2010-0171.

The Commission will also conduct an evidentiary hearing at its offices in Jefferson City from August 2-6 and from August 9-13, 2010, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The hearings and local public hearings will be held in buildings that meet accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede respectfully requests on behalf of all of the Parties that the Commission approve the recommendations set forth above.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Michael C. Pendergast

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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all parties of record on this 21st day of January 2010 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Gerry Lynch