

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

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's)	<u>Case No. GR-2007-0208</u>
Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules)	Tariff No. YG-2007-0384

**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 (the "Parties"), submits the following recommendations regarding procedural schedule, public hearings and customer notice in this case:

1. On December 13, 2006, 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, all of the Parties participated in the early pre-hearing conference held in this case on January 10, 2007 and, as a result of their discussions there and afterwards, have formulated the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration:

Proposed Procedural Schedule

2. In developing a proposed procedural schedule, the Parties have recommended that the current dates for the main evidentiary hearings in this case be moved back one week. This additional week would accommodate the needs of Laclede's personnel, many of whom are witnesses in this case, to complete the closing of the Company's books and records for the preceding month. It would also provide all Parties with additional time to prepare and submit their surrebuttal testimony. At the same time,

the Parties are *not* recommending any change to the dates that the Commission has tentatively scheduled for the subsequent true-up hearing (should the Commission determine that such a hearing is necessary once it receives all of the Parties' recommendations on this issue). In light of this factor, moving the beginning date for the main evidentiary hearings back a week should accommodate the needs of the Parties without having any material impact on when the entire case is submitted 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 days and to submit objections to such data requests within 5 days. The Parties would 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	05/04/07
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervener Rate Design Testimony and Schedules and Preliminary Reconciliation	05/18/07
Settlement Conference	06/04/07 through 06/08/07
Preliminary Issues List	06/15/07
Rebuttal Testimony Due	06/22/07
Surrebuttal / Cross Testimony Due	07/13/07
Statement of Positions / Final Reconciliation	07/17/07
Pre-Hearing Brief	07/23/07
Hearing	07/30/07 through 08/10/07

True-Up Hearing

08/29/07 through 08/30/07

Rates Suspended to

11/01/07

Local Public Hearings

4. The Parties recommend that a total of four local public hearings be held in this case and that such hearings be scheduled between May 18, 2007, the date when the final piece of direct testimony is proposed to be filed, and June 4, 2007, the date when the settlement conference is proposed to start. The Parties further propose that one of the local public hearings be held at noon at the Wohl Community Center near downtown St. Louis, and that the other three hearings be scheduled in the evening in Clayton, at the University of Missouri St. Louis, and in Union, Mo., respectively. By proposing hearings in the northern, central and southern 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 public hearings, by a notice on the back of the bill or a separate 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

Laclede Gas Company filed revised tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to increase its rates for service to its Missouri customers and implement new service offerings, including a new conservation rebate program and a new fixed gas cost billing option. The proposed rates are designed to produce an additional \$43.1 million in annual distribution revenues and \$9.8 million in Purchased Gas Adjustment revenues above amounts being collected at the time of the filing. The combined effect of these changes would be to increase the typical residential customer's bill by an average of \$6.50 per month or about 5.7%.

Local public hearings to receive comments on the rate increase will be held on _____, 2007, beginning at _____, on _____, 2007, at the _____, beginning at _____ on _____, 2007 at the _____, beginning at _____ and on _____, 2007, at the _____ beginning at _____. There will be a presentation and an informal question and answer session on the filing beginning one-half hour before each local public hearing.

Additionally, if you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, telephone number (573) 751-4857.

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 18th day of January 2007 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Rick Zucker