

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
July 17, 2000**

CASE NO: GS-2000-525

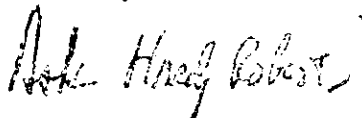
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company)	
Regarding an Incident at 1904 Birchwood)	<u>Case No. GS-2000-525</u>
Drive, Barnhart, Missouri, on)	
February 7, 2000)	

ORDER DIRECTING RESPONSE

On February 24, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff and Commission, below) filed a motion to open a case in response to an apparent natural gas incident that occurred on February 7, 2000, at 1904 Birchwood Drive in Barnhart, Missouri; an address where Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) provides natural service. In response, the Commission issued its order establishing this case on March 1, 2000.

On July 11, 2000, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a gas incident report and a motion to file a report and a request for a Commission order.

In its motion, Staff stated that it has completed its investigation, the results of which are in the gas incident report, and that it has several recommendations. In brief, Staff recommended that: Laclede require its contract locator to notify them when they are aware that horizontal drilling is occurring near their underground natural gas facilities; Laclede contact the contractor to determine the type of

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excavation equipment that will be used when the excavation notification indicates "unknown" for the excavation device, such as was the case in this incident; Laclede review and revise as necessary its procedures for inspecting construction activities in the vicinity of its natural gas pipelines to increase their effectiveness; Laclede alert contractors utilizing horizontal drilling equipment that any natural gas facilities intersecting the drill path should be excavated and exposed prior to drilling; Laclede review and revise as necessary its procedures and employee training for responding to, and taking appropriate actions upon natural gas leaks that are beyond routine action; Laclede review and revise as necessary its procedures and employee training for identifying the various actions that should be taken when a hazardous situation is identified; Laclede review and revise as necessary its policies regarding the use of isolation valves and temporarily interrupting gas service to customers when safety of life and property are present; and Laclede be directed to file a response to Staff's recommendations within 30 days after filing of this report for review by the Commission.

The Commission has reviewed the gas incident report and the motion to file a report and a request for a Commission order filed by Staff. The Commission has determined that the motion to accept the gas report will be granted and that the request that Laclede file a response to Staff's recommendations should also be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the motion filed by the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission on July 11, 2000, to accept the gas incident report is granted.
2. That the request filed by the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission on July 11, 2000, to require Laclede Gas Company to file a response to the recommendations is granted, and the company shall file such response no later than 3:00 p.m. on August 16, 2000.
3. That this order shall become effective on July 27, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior 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**