

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
September 19, 2000**

CASE NO: GS-2000-525, GC-2001-19

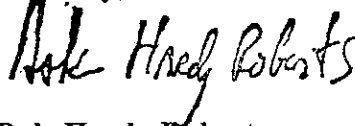
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Michael C. Pendergast
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "R".

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)	
The Staff of the Missouri Public)	
Service Commission,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2001-19</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

(Consolidated)

ORDER ESTABLISHING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND ORDER DIRECTING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Case number GS-2000-525 was established by the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) on March 1, 2000, for the purpose of receiving a gas incident report from the Staff of the Commission (Staff) and the response of Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) thereto, pertaining to an incident which occurred on February 7, 2000, involving a natural gas explosion and fire at 1904 Birchwood Drive in Barnhart, Missouri.

Case number GC-2001-19 is a complaint filed by the Staff against Laclede, alleging that in the incident set forth above, Laclede violated or failed to comply with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-40.030(14)(C) which prescribes the procedures for the investigation and classification of gas leaks and for scheduling the repair of these leaks.

The cases were consolidated by order of the Commission on September 13, 2000.

A series of pleadings advocating varying outcomes of the consolidated cases have been filed by both Staff and Laclede in both cases. Although no party has formally asked for a prehearing conference, this case is obviously contested since Staff and Laclede have not demonstrated any agreement on the disposition of the consolidated cases.

Thus, the Commission will schedule a prehearing conference to afford the parties the opportunity to discuss, define, and possibly resolve the issues presented in the consolidated cases. The Commission will also set a date for the filing of a proposed procedural schedule to ensure that the consolidated cases progress.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


1. That a prehearing conference shall be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

2. The prehearing conference shall be held in Suite 305, located in the office of the Missouri Public Service Commission in Jefferson City, Missouri, on the main floor of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street. The Governor Office Building meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in the prehearing conference, please call the Missouri Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.

3. That a procedural schedule shall be filed no later than November 2, 2000.

3. That this order shall become effective on September 29, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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 19th day of September, 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 19th day of September 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge