

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
January 30, 2001**

CASE NO: GO-2000-394

Office of the Public Counsel
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Jefferson City, MO 65102

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, slightly slanted style.

**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's)
Experimental Price Stabilization Fund.) Case No. GO-2000-394

ORDER SETTING HEARING

On December 22, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Staff Recommendation with respect to the Experimental Price Stabilization Program (PSP) of Laclede Gas Company (Laclede). Staff recommended that the Commission terminate the third year of the PSP, alleging that it is no longer appropriate in the current market conditions.

On January 5, 2001, Laclede filed its Response to Staff's Recommendation. Laclede requested that the Commission issue an order specifying that the company may continue operating under the PSP as previously approved by the Commission or, alternatively, take no action on Staff's Recommendation and permit the program to continue by its own terms.

On January 23, 2001, Staff filed a Reply to Laclede's Response. Staff continues to argue that the PSP is flawed. Staff also suggests that, if the Commission feels that it needs to take evidence and hear arguments, that the Commission hold a one-day hearing on February 2, 2001, or some other date in the first week of February.

Laclede filed a Response to Staff's Reply on January 29, 2001. Laclede reiterates its support for the PSP. Also on January 29, 2001, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a brief pleading noting that it supports Staff's recommendation to terminate the third year of the PSP.

The Commission has determined that prior to taking any action on Staff's recommendation, it requires additional information regarding the alleged deficiencies in the PSP and a more thorough explanation of the savings that have allegedly resulted from the PSP. In particular, Laclede shall be prepared to explain how it calculated the financial gains and savings it claims to have made. The Commission will schedule a hearing to allow the parties to present oral arguments on these topics. The parties should have appropriate witnesses available to answer questions, if necessary, from the Commissioners or the Regulatory Law Judge.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the parties to this case shall appear for a hearing on February 2, 2001, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The parties shall have appropriate witnesses available to answer questions, if necessary, from the Commissioners or the Regulatory Law Judge.

2. That the hearing will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in this hearing, please call the Public Service

Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.

3. That this order shall become effective on February 1, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black 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)

Vicky Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30,
1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of January, 2001.

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 30th day of Jan. 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

