

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

March 1, 2000

CASE NO: GS-2000-525

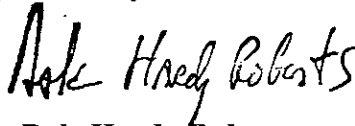
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Michael C. Pendergast
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Streer, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

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 ESTABLISHING CASE

On February 24, 2000, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Motion to Open Docket [sic]. Staff stated that the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) has the authority to establish a case for the purpose of receiving information from a public utility under its jurisdiction pursuant to Section 394.140, RSMo 1994. Staff stated that Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) is a gas corporation as defined in Section 386.020(18), RSMo Supp. 1999, and, as such, is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction under 386.020(42), RSMo Supp. 1999.

Staff stated that Laclede provides natural gas service to a single-family residence at 1904 Birchwood Drive, Barnhart, Missouri, where an explosion occurred at approximately 3:05 p.m. on February 7, 2000. Staff stated that a responding Laclede employee died as a result of injuries sustained in the explosion and subsequent fire, and that the single-family residence was destroyed as a result of the explosion and

subsequent fire. Staff stated that some homes in the area were condemned and some received minor damage as a result of the explosion and subsequent fire. Finally, Staff stated that it has initiated a formal investigation into the incident.

Staff requested that the Commission establish a case for the purpose of receiving information, including a gas incident report, relating to the incident at 1904 Birchwood Drive, Barnhart, Missouri.

The Commission determines that a case should be established to receive information relevant to the above-described incident and to determine what, if any, action by the Commission is warranted. Thus, the Commission will establish case number GS-2000-525.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That case number GS-2000-525 is hereby established for the purpose of receiving a gas incident report from the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the response of Laclede Gas Company thereto, pertaining to the incident which occurred on February 7, 2000.

2. That the Energy Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file its accident report within one hundred twenty (120) days of the effective date of this order.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 13, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "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
4 CSR 240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1996.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 1st day of March, 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 1st day of March 2000.**

Dale Hardy Roberts

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

