STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JEFFERSON CITY February 13, 2001

CASE NO: GM-2001-342

Office of the Public Counsel

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Jan Bond

Diekemper, Hammond, Shinners, Turcotte and Larrew, P.C. 7730 Carondolet Avenue, Suite 200 St. Louis, MO 63105:

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

Sincerely,

Dale Hardy Roberts

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Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copies:

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Laclede)		
Gas Company for an Order Authorizing Its Plan)		
to Restructure Itself into a Holding Company,)	Case No.	GM-2001-342
Regulated Utility Company, and Unregulated)		
Subsidiaries.)		

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION, SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, AND REQUIRING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) filed an application for an order authorizing its plan to restructure, merge and form subsidiary companies on December 1, 2000. This Commission issued notice of the application and directed any party wishing to intervene to do so no later than January 25, 2001.

On December 29, 2000, an application to intervene of Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Local No. 5-6, AFL-CIO (Local 5-6), and Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Local No. 5-194, AFL-CIO (Local 5-194), was filed. Local 5-6 and Local 5-194 state that they represent approximately 1,098 of Laclede's employees in "physical" classifications, and approximately 297 of Laclede's employees in clerical classifications. Local 5-6 and Local 5-194 state that they represent interests which are different from those of the general public. Local 5-6 and Local 5-194 state that they are concerned about the impact of the proposed merger on jobs, layoffs, health insurance coverage, retirement benefits, and

other terms and conditions of employment that could be adversely affected by the proposed restructuring.

The Commission has reviewed the application for intervention filed by Local 5-6 and Local 5-194 and finds that it is in substantial compliance with the Commission rules regarding intervention. The Commission finds that Local 5-6 and Local 5-194 have an interest in this matter that is different from the interest of the general public. Therefore, the Commission will grant the application for intervention.

This matter is now at issue and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are appropriate to ensure its prompt resolution. At the prehearing conference, the parties' representatives should be prepared to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule. Counsel must know, consequently, the nature of any planned discovery and the interval necessary for its completion. The parties' representatives should also be prepared to engage in settlement negotiations. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

The parties shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the prefiling of direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony according to Commission rule, as well as a date for the filing of a joint list of issues, a statement by each party of its position on each issue, and a list of witnesses. The proposed procedural schedule shall also establish dates for the hearing of this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the application for intervention filed by Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Local No. 5-6, AFL-CIO, and Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Local No. 5-194, AFL-CIO, is granted.
- 2. That a prehearing conference shall be held on February 27, 2001, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing will be held at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the prehearing.
- 3. That the parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than March 6, 2001.
- 4. That this order shall become effective on February 23, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION

Ask Hard Roberts

(SEAL)

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Nancy Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 13th of February, 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 13th day of February 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

HAKE HARD Roberts