

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's     )  
Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules.     )     Case No. GR-2005-0284  
   )

**JOINT MOTION REQUESTING AN ORDER OF THE COMMISSION  
ESTABLISHING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS  
AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

COME NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel"), and the Staff of the Commission ("Staff"), all by counsel, and respectfully request that the Missouri Public Service Commission (the "Commission") issue an order establishing local public hearings, as outlined below. Additionally, the signatory parties, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080(16), request expedited treatment and a ruling on this Joint Motion by September 2, 2005. In support of this Joint Motion, the parties state:

1. Local public hearings were held in the St. Louis area on Wednesday, August 24, 2005. At the time of these hearings, the parties had determined that settlement of the issues in the case was likely, but this "tentative settlement" was subject to further revisions based on comments received at public hearings. The parties were still in the process of developing language to address critical details including, but not limited to, the specific language of the stipulation and agreement and the implementing tariffs.

2. Thereafter, on August 31, 2005, the parties filed a Stipulation and Agreement which disposes of all issues in this case. Laclede has requested consideration and approval of the Stipulation and Agreement in sufficient time for compliance tariffs to be effective on October 1, 2005 or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

3. Based on comments made at the local public hearings on August 24, it appears that additional public hearings may be scheduled in this matter to allow for review of and public comment on the Stipulation and Agreement.

4. To enable the Commission to have adequate time to consider public comments prior to Laclede's requested October 1, 2005 implementation date, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, the signatory parties recommend that the hearings be scheduled on either the 19<sup>th</sup> or the 20th day of September, 2005. The parties also recommend that one hearing be scheduled for noon in St. Louis County. Potential locations for this hearing include the St. Louis County Library headquarters at 1640 South Lindbergh Boulevard, the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The parties recommend that a second public hearing be scheduled at 7:00 p.m in the City of St. Louis. Potential locations for this hearing include Harris-Stowe State University at 3026 Laclede, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, 5600 Oakland, or St. Louis University on Grand Avenue. All of these facilities are well suited for public hearings with ample public parking.

5. As such, the signatory parties hereby request that the Commission issue an order setting two additional public hearings in this case as specified above.

6. To provide the public with proper notice of these hearings, the undersigned parties recommend that Laclede provide individual notice to its customers through a post card mailing, in substantially the form of Exhibit A attached hereto.

7. In order to provide the public with proper and sufficient notice of the hearings, Laclede desires to mail the post card notices between September 6 and September 13, 2005. As such, the signatory parties are requesting expedited treatment and a ruling on this Joint Motion by September 2, 2005.

WHEREFORE, for the good cause shown above, Laclede Gas Company, Public Counsel, and Staff respectfully request that the Missouri Public Service Commission issue an order establishing two additional local public hearings in this matter and approving the form of the notice.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE

**General Counsel**

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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 1st day of September, 2005.

**/s/ David A. Meyer**

## **Exhibit A**

### **NOTICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Laclede Gas Company filed revised tariff sheets with the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to increase its Missouri jurisdictional annual gross revenues. The proposal would have increased the typical residential customer's bill by an average of \$4/month. The parties have now reached a settlement which, if approved by the PSC, would result in an average increase of \$1.05/month or approximately 1% for the typical residential customer. Additionally, the settlement would result in Laclede contributing \$1 million annually to fund a new low-income energy assistance program and expanding its various energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Local public hearings to receive comments on the settlement will be held on September 19, 2005, at \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at 12:00 p.m. and at \_\_\_\_\_ beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be a presentation and an informal question and answer session on the settlement beginning one-half hour before each local public hearing.

Additionally, if you wish to comment or secure information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, telephone number (573) 751-4857.