

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

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	Case No. GC-2011-0098
)	
Laclede Gas Company, Laclede Energy Resources, The Laclede Group)	
Respondents.)	

**LACLEDE GAS COMPANY’S REPLY TO
STAFF’S MOTION TO LATE FILE RESPONSE TO AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”), and files this Reply to the Staff’s Motion to Late File its Response to Laclede’s Affirmative Defenses, and in support thereof, states as follows:

1. On December 10, 2010, Laclede filed its answer to Staff’s second amended complaint in this case, along with its motion to dismiss Counts I and V of the complaint, and its counterclaim. Laclede’s answer included affirmative defenses.
2. On January 26, 2011, Staff requested permission to late file, by January 28, its responses to Laclede’s affirmative defenses.
3. While Laclede does not believe that an answer to affirmative defenses is required by Commission rules or the rules of civil procedure, Laclede does not object to Staff filing a responsive pleading. Nor does Laclede oppose Staff’s filing of this pleading by January 28.

WHEREFORE, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission accept this reply to Staff’s motion.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Michael C. Pendergast

Michael C. Pendergast, Mo. Bar #31763
Vice President and Associate General Counsel
Rick Zucker, Mo. Bar #49211
Assistant General Counsel - Regulatory

Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1516
St. Louis, MO 63101
Telephone: (314) 342-0533
Fax: (314) 421-1979
Email: mpendergast@lacledegas.com
rzucker@lacledegas.com

Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on the Staff and on the Office of Public Counsel on this 27th day of January, 2011 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Gerry Lynch