

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

April 3, 2001

CASE NO: GM-2001-342

Office of the Public Counsel

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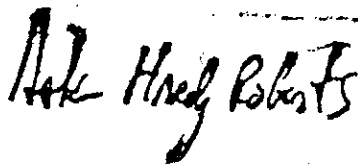
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jan Bond/Sherrie A. Schroder

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

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

Sincerely,

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**

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 APPLICATION TO INTERVENE OUT OF TIME

On February 27, 2001, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, The Doe Run Company, Emerson Electric Company, Lone Star Industries, Inc., River Cement Company, SSM HealthCare, and Unity Health System (collectively known as the "Missouri Energy Group") filed an application to intervene and become a party in this case. Missouri Energy Group's application indicates that each of its members is a large consumer of natural gas supplied by Laclede Gas Company (Laclede). Missouri Energy Group asserts that it has a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding that is different from that of the general public. Missouri Energy Group states that granting its request to intervene would serve the public interest.

Missouri Energy Group filed its application to intervene substantially after January 25, 2001, which was the date established by the Commission for intervention. Missouri Energy Group asserts that its delay in filing for intervention should be excused because it acted "as expeditiously, as possible to request intervention after learning of the existence of this case." Missouri Energy Group asserts that its delay in filing its application to intervene will not

cause or contribute to any delay, nor will it prejudice or harm any party.

On March 8, 2001, Laclede responded to the application to intervene. Laclede objected to Missouri Energy Group's request indicating that Missouri Energy Group has not demonstrated good cause to be granted late-filed intervention, has not demonstrated that it has a direct or immediate interest in the proceeding, and that the Missouri Energy Group's intervention would hinder the progress of the proceeding. Laclede requested that the Commission deny Missouri Energy Group's request for intervention.

On March 19, 2001, Missouri Energy Group replied to Laclede's objection. Missouri Energy Group stated that it had filed its request for intervention immediately upon learning that a prehearing conference had been scheduled, was present at the prehearing conference, and participated in informal discussions with the parties. Missouri Energy Group stated that it does not intend to delay the progress of the case and will abide by the procedural schedule which was proposed by the current parties to the case.

The Commission has reviewed Missouri Energy Group's application to intervene and finds that it is in compliance with Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4) and that Missouri Energy Group has an interest in this matter that is different from that of the general public. The Commission also finds that Missouri Energy Group has shown good cause to permit it to intervene out of time. The Commission concludes that Missouri Energy Group's application for intervention should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Late-Filed Application to Intervene of the Missouri Energy Group is granted.
2. That this order shall become effective on April 6, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION



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

(S E A L)

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 3rd day of April, 2001.

CONTESTED

FYI: To Be Issued By Dele. on

AL/Sec'y: Dyrell Pope

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Date Circulated

Return by 3 p.m.

10:00 a.m.

CASE NO. GM-2001-342

[Signature]
Lumpe, Chair

[Signature]
Draine, Vice Chair

[Signature]
Murray, Commissioner

[Signature]
Schoenberger, Commissioner

[Signature]
Simmons, Commissioner

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 3rd day of April 2001.

[Signature: Dale Hardy Roberts]
Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

