

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 24th
day of February, 1995.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company regarding)
regarding the incident at 7930 Hildesheim Avenue,) CASE NO. GS-93-220
Affton, Missouri on December 24, 1992.)

ORDER APPROVING PROGRAM AND CLOSING DOCKET

On May 19, 1993, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a gas incident report in this case. The report detailed a natural gas incident at 7930 Hildesheim Avenue in Affton, Missouri. Within the report, Staff made four recommendations to Laclede Gas Company (Laclede).

On July 2, 1993, Laclede filed a response to Staff's recommendations. On October 20, 1993, Staff filed a memorandum regarding the incident and Laclede's response. Staff indicated that Laclede's responses to three of its recommendations were satisfactory. Concerning the remaining recommendation, Laclede had proposed to conduct a pilot program to inspect approximately 2,000 curb valves. On October 27, 1993, the Commission ordered Laclede to begin the pilot program by November 1, 1993 and file a report on the results by February 28, 1994.

On February 25, 1994, Laclede submitted the results of the pilot program to Staff for review. According to Laclede, approximately 1,908 curb valves were inspected, with 1,134 valves readily located. Of the 1,134 valves that were readily located, 363 valves needed some type of remedial action. Laclede stated that locating the curb valves took an average of 2.1 minutes and making the valves accessible took an average of

30 minutes. Laclede indicated there were approximately 180,000 curb valves in its distribution system and approximately 18,000 curb valves would have to be inspected annually, even with a ten-year inspection program. Laclede estimated that the cost of inspecting 10 percent of the valves annually would be approximately \$900,000 per year for manpower alone.

On December 15, 1994, Laclede submitted an alternative program to Staff which provides that when Laclede makes an inside leak repair on an inside high pressure meter set, Laclede will also survey the curb valve for ease of location and accessibility, and will repair as necessary. Laclede indicated that such a program would result in its inspecting approximately 2,500 - 3,000 curb valves a year. Laclede's alternative program would begin no later than April 1, 1995.

On January 27, 1995, Staff filed a memorandum regarding Laclede's alternative program. Staff stated that Laclede's proposal was satisfactory and recommended that the Commission direct Laclede to institute it no later than April 1, 1995. Staff also indicated that Laclede had addressed all of the recommendations in Staff's incident report to Staff's satisfaction and recommended that the Commission close this docket.

Upon review of the filings in this case, the Commission finds that Laclede's alternative proposal constitutes a prudent inspection program which would benefit public safety. Thus, the Commission determines that Laclede's alternative program should be approved.

In addition, the Commission finds that Laclede has satisfactorily addressed all of the recommendations contained in Staff's incident report. Thus, the Commission determines that this docket should be closed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

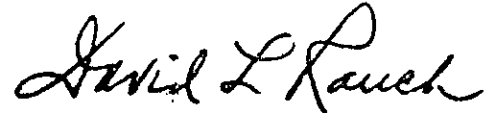
1. That the program proposed by Laclede Gas Company regarding the inspection of curb valves is hereby approved.

2. That the program approved in Ordered Paragraph 1 shall begin no later than April 1, 1995.

3. That Docket No. GS-93-220 is hereby closed.

4. That this Order shall become effective on March 7, 1995.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Perkins, Kincheloe, and
Crumpton, CC., Concur.
Mueller, Chm., and McClure, C.,
Absent.