

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 17th
day of March, 1995.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company)
regarding the incident at 1118 Surrey) Case No. GS-93-173
Hills Drive, Richmond Heights,)
Missouri, on November 14, 1992.)

ORDER CLOSING DOCKET

On December 15, 1992, the Commission opened this docket at the request of the Staff and as the result of a gas incident which occurred on November 14, 1992. The Staff initiated a formal investigation into the incident, which occurred at 1118 Surrey Hills Drive, Richmond Heights, Missouri. On the above date an explosion occurred at the Surrey Hills address at approximately 11:50 a.m., apparently involving natural gas. Laclede Gas Company serves this address. No personal injuries were reported, but the residence at which the explosion occurred was destroyed.

On April 14, 1993, the Staff filed its gas incident report followed, on June 4, 1993, by the response of Laclede. In that report it was found that the probable cause of the incident was the explosion of natural gas which escaped and migrated into the residence from a circumferential break in a copper service sleeve inside a bare steel casing located within the foundation wall. A contributing factor was the high pressure of the gas caused by corrosion inside the pipe. The Staff noted no violations of Public Service Commission regulations by Laclede.

On August 25, 1993, the Commission issued its order continuing this docket pending the completion of an agreed-upon 12 month program by Laclede to survey and investigate leaks occurring in unprotected steel casing and carrier piping which enter foundation walls. The instant

report was filed by Laclede on February 6, 1995. It was understood that, due to the fewer than expected installations that met the criteria for the study, the Laclede report and Staff follow-up continued longer than originally expected.

On March 10, 1995, the Staff filed its final report in this matter. In that report the Staff stated that, after the completion of the Laclede study, the Staff conducted an on-site inspection of the Laclede laboratory to observe pipe samples, records, and photographs of the pipe specimens collected during the study. The Staff reported that it was satisfied that the number of samples actually collected (78) was sufficient for the purpose of evaluation. The Staff concluded that Laclede successfully completed the study and adequately addressed the concerns as the result of the Surrey incident. The Staff recommended that this docket be closed and that no further action in this matter be taken.

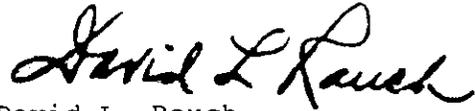
The Commission has examined the incident report, study report by Laclede, the final Staff recommendation, and other relevant material in this case and finds, as the study and Staff conclude, that no other samples replicate the condition of the pipe involved in the explosion on Surrey. The Commission finds that safety concerns, as the result of the Surrey incident, have been adequately addressed by Laclede and the Staff and will accept the Staff's recommendation to close this docket.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That this docket is hereby closed.

2. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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