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

In the Matter of the Verified Application and	)	
Petition of Laclede Gas Company to Change its	)	Case No. GO-2008-0351
Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge	)	

## RESPONSE TO ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT AND ESTABLISHING TIME TO RESPOND TO STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**COMES NOW** Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") and files this Response to the above referenced Order issued by the Commission on June 19, 2008, and in support thereof, states as follows:

- 1. On April 25, 2008, Laclede filed its Verified Application and Petition and a Tariff Sheet to increase its Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge ("ISRS"), pursuant to Sections 393.1009, 393.1012 and 393.1015 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri and Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.265 (the "ISRS Rule").
- 2. On June 12, 2008, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), filed its Memorandum and Recommendation in which it recommended that the Commission approve Laclede's ISRS filing, in the amount originally proposed by the Company in its filing ("Staff Recommendation").
- 3. On June 13, 2008, Laclede filed a motion for expedited treatment seeking approval of its ISRS filing and tariff by June 19. On June 19, 2008, Laclede amended its request for expedited treatment to seek a June 24 effective date for such tariff.
- 4. On June 19, 2008, the Commission issued its Order directing any party wishing to respond to Staff's filing to do so by June 23, 2008. However, the Commission declined to make the effective date of its order be the same day as the order itself.

- 5. Laclede appreciates the Commission's position on this issue and its past willingness to provide expedited treatment in Laclede's ISRS cases, consistent with the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement approved by the Commission in Case No. GR-2007-0208. Now that all parties have had an opportunity to respond to Staff's recommendation and confirm that there is no issue or controversy associated with Laclede's filing, Laclede requests that the Commission issue an order approving the Company's ISRS Application and Tariff on June 24, 2008 and further that the Commission make such order effective on June 26, 2008.
- 6. Laclede believes that making the Commission's Order effective on June 26, 2008 is entirely appropriate for several reasons. First, the Commission provided an opportunity for intervention in this case for any party that had an interest in its outcome. All of the parties claiming such an interest have either indicated that they either have no objection to Laclede's filing or have expressed no opposition to filing within the timeframe prescribed by the Commission. Second, Laclede's ISRS filing presents no new or novel issue. To the contrary, it has been calculated in the same manner as its five previous ISRS filings in accordance with detailed provisions set forth in the Commission's rules and prior Laclede cases as to how such calculations are to be performed. Third, since the ISRS Application and Tariff under consideration by the Commission is identical to what was filed 60 days ago, anyone who might conceivably have an interest in the matter has had two months to review it. Indeed, because no substantive changes have been made to the ISRS Tariff as originally filed by the Company, this situation is akin to one where the utility has had a compliance tariff on file for approximately 60 days and the Staff recommendation urging its approval has been on

file for nearly two weeks. Under these specific circumstances, the Company believes that providing a full business day between the date the Commission issues its Order and the date the Order becomes effective is entirely reasonable, lawful and appropriate.

**WHEREFORE**, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede Gas Company respectfully requests that the Commission approve the ISRS Application and Tariff as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than June 24, 2008, with an effective date of June 26, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

## /s/ Michael C. Pendergast

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was served on all parties of record this 24th day of June, 2008 by hand-delivery, fax, electronic mail or by placing a copy of such Application, postage prepaid, in the United States mail.

/s/ Rick Zucker

Rick Zucker