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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 26th
day of May, 1998.

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Tariff Sheets Designed to Extend for an) **Case No. GO-98-484**
Additional Period the Experimental Price)
Stabilization Fund.)

**ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER, APPROVING TARIFFS, AND SCHEDULING
PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On April 28, 1998, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") filed a tariff sheet designed to extend for an additional term the experimental price stabilization program ("Program"), an Application to Extend Experimental Price Stabilization Fund and Request for Prehearing Conference, and a Motion for Protective Order.

Laclede requests a protective order because the Application itself "contains certain information which Laclede considers to be confidential." This is a rather brief explanation of the need for a protective order. Typically, a description of the type of information sought to be protected, as well as an explanation of the potential harm that might occur from the public disclosure of the information, is required before a protective order is issued. However, the Commission has reviewed the application and determines that the portions designated as highly confidential do contain information relating to market-specific information and procurement strategies that could competitively disadvantage Laclede were such information publicly disclosed. The Commission recognizes the need to

protect sensitive information, and the issuance of a protective order in this case will allow Laclede to provide such information to the Commission and appropriate parties with the assurance that it will be treated according to the terms of the protective order. Therefore, the Commission will establish a protective order in this case.

The Commission originally approved the Program in Case No. GO-97-401. The tariff approved in that case provides that the Program shall be terminated July 31, 1998 unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. In this filing Laclede seeks to extend that fund for another term and modify it in several respects.

Laclede proposes to change the parameters within which it uses financial instruments in two respects. First, it proposes a new authorized price range for financial instruments. Second, it proposes a new restriction on the timing of the sale of exchange traded financial instruments.

Laclede also proposes to modify the tariff approved in Case No. GO-97-401 in two respects to clarify procedures to be followed at the end of the term of the experiment. First, the tariff provides that the Price Stabilization Charge shall be terminated on the effective date of the 1999 summer PGA filing. Second, the tariff provides that any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the term shall be charged or returned to customers through the ACA factors established in the applicable winter PGA filing.

Laclede requests an early prehearing conference to discuss a change in the restriction on the timing of the disposition of financial instruments that it favors. An early prehearing conference should be scheduled to afford the parties the opportunity to discuss and possibly

resolve the modification Laclede proposes. The Commission will also set a date for the filing of a proposed procedural schedule or a stipulation and agreement in order to ensure that this case progresses.

On May 20, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") filed its Memorandum in which it recommends approval of the tariff sheet. Staff believes that the Program has significant potential for limiting ratepayers' exposure to short-term price peaks at a cost that is a small percentage of Laclede's total gas cost. Staff recommends holding a prehearing conference in late June or July so that it will have the opportunity to conduct another round of discovery if necessary. The Commission believes that the early prehearing conference should be held at the earliest reasonable date to allow the parties to begin discussing and defining issues, and does not accept Staff's suggestion to delay it until late June or July.

No party intervened in Case No. GO-97-401 in which the Staff and Laclede filed a Stipulation and Agreement recommending the creation of the Program. The Office of the Public Counsel did not oppose that Stipulation and Agreement, and has not filed a response to the Application in this case.

The Commission determines that extending the Program for an additional term, with the modifications proposed, has the potential to shield Laclede's customers from price volatility and that the Application should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Motion For Protective Order filed by Laclede is granted, and the protective order attached to this order as Attachment A is adopted.

2. That the following revised tariff sheets, filed April 28, 1998, by Laclede, are hereby approved for service on or after May 29, 1998:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 5 Consolidated

First Revised Sheet No. 28.e Canceling Original Sheet No. 28.e

3. That an early prehearing conference will be held on June 11, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

4. That anyone with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days before the prehearing or hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline - 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline - 1-800-829-7541.

5. That the parties shall file a stipulation and agreement or proposed procedural schedule no later than June 23, 1998.

6. That this order shall become effective on May 29, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Murray and Drainer, CC., concur.
Crumpton and Schemenauer, CC., absent.

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

PROTECTIVE ORDER

- A. The following definitions shall apply to information which a party claims should not be made public.

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL: Information concerning (1) material or documents that contain information relating directly to specific customers; (2) employee-sensitive information; (3) marketing analyses or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others; (4) reports, work papers or other documentation related to work produced by internal or external auditors or consultants; (5) strategies employed, to be employed, or under consideration in contract negotiations.

PROPRIETARY: Information concerning trade secrets, as well as confidential or private technical, financial and business information.

- B. During the course of discovery a party may designate information as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY (hereinafter, "designated information") and shall make such designated information available to the party seeking discovery, if such information is not objectionable on any other ground, under the restrictions set out in paragraphs C and D. The party designating the information as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY shall provide to counsel for the requesting party, at the time the designation is made, the ground or grounds for the designation. The requesting party may then file a motion challenging the designation. The party designating the information confidential shall have five (5) days after the filing of the challenge to file a response. No other filings are authorized.

- C. Materials or information designated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL may at the option of the furnishing party, be made available only on the furnishing party's premises and may be reviewed only by attorneys or outside experts

who have been retained for the purpose of this case, unless good cause can be shown for disclosure of the information off-premises and the designated information is delivered to the custody of the requesting party's attorney. Outside expert witnesses shall not be employees, officers or directors of any of the parties in this proceeding. No copies of such material or information shall be made and only limited notes may be taken, and such notes shall be treated as the HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL information from which notes were taken.

D. Disclosure of PROPRIETARY information shall be made only to attorneys, and to such employees who are working as consultants to such attorney or intend to file testimony in these proceedings, or to persons designated by a party as outside experts. Employees to whom such disclosure is to be made must be identified to the other party by name, title and job classification prior to disclosure. Information designated as PROPRIETARY shall be served on the attorney(s) for the requesting party. On-premises inspection shall not be required for PROPRIETARY information, except in the case of voluminous documents (see paragraph K). Any employees of the party who wish to review such PROPRIETARY materials shall first read this order and certify in writing that (s)he has reviewed same and consented to its terms. The acknowledgement so executed shall contain the signatory's full name, permanent address, title or position, date signed, and an affirmation that the signer is acting on behalf of his/her employer. Such acknowledgement shall be delivered to counsel for the party furnishing the information or documents before disclosure is made.

E. Attorneys, in-house experts or outside experts who have been provided access to material or information designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or

PROPRIETARY shall be subject to the nondisclosure requirements set forth in paragraphs C or D, whichever is applicable, and S.

- F. If material or information to be disclosed in response to a data request contains material or information concerning another party which the other party has indicated is confidential, the furnishing party shall notify the other party of the intent to disclose the information. The other party may then choose to designate the material or information as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY under the provisions of this Protective Order.
- G. Any party may use material or information designated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY in prefiled or oral testimony at hearing provided that the same level of confidentiality assigned by the furnishing party is maintained, unless otherwise classified by the Commission. In filing testimony all parties shall designate as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY only those portions of their testimony which contain information so designated by the furnishing party. If any party plans to use information and testimony which has been obtained outside this proceeding, it must ascertain from the furnishing party if any of such information is claimed to be HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY prior to filing.
- H. A party may designate prefiled or live testimony, or portions thereof, submitted in this case as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY (hereinafter, "designated testimony"). Prefiled testimony designated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY shall be filed under seal and served upon all attorneys of record. Only those portions of the prefiled testimony designated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY should be filed under seal, and should be marked in a manner which clearly indicates which materials are considered HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL and which are considered PROPRIETARY.

- I. Within five (5) days of the filing of designated testimony, the party asserting the claim shall file with the Commission the specific ground or grounds for each claim. Such filing shall show the nature of the information sought to be protected and specifically state the alleged harm of disclosure. Such filing shall be filed under seal only if it contains either PROPRIETARY or HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL information and shall be served upon all attorneys of record.
- J. Attorneys upon whom prefiled testimony designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL or PROPRIETARY has been served shall make such testimony available only to those persons authorized to review such testimony under the restrictions in Paragraphs C or D, whichever is applicable.
- K. If a response to a discovery request requires the duplication of voluminous material or material not easily copied because of its binding or size, the furnishing party may require the voluminous material be reviewed on its own premises. Voluminous material shall mean a single document, book or paper which consists of more than 150 pages.
- L. Attorneys of record in this case shall require that the in-house or outside expert read this Protective Order and certify in a written nondisclosure agreement that the person has reviewed the Protective Order and consented to be bound by its terms. The nondisclosure agreement shall contain the signatory's full name, permanent address, employer and the name of the party with whom the signatory is associated. Such agreement shall be filed with the Commission. Attached hereto as Appendix "A" and incorporated by reference herein is a form for use in complying with the terms of this paragraph.
- M. In the event a witness discloses the contents of designated prefiled testimony in his or her own prefiled testimony, such testimony shall also

be designated in the same manner as the designated prefiled testimony and handled in accordance with this order.

- N. Unless good cause is shown, challenges to the confidential nature of prefiled designated testimony shall be filed with the Commission no later than ten (10) days after the grounds supporting the designations are filed or at the hearing, whichever occurs first. The party making the designation shall have five (5) days to respond to the challenge or may respond at the hearing, whichever occurs first.
- O. The Commission or Regulatory Law Judge may rule on the challenge to the designations prior to the hearing, or at the hearings.
- P. In the event no party challenges prefiled designated testimony, or in the event the Commission or its Regulatory Law Judge rules that testimony was properly designated, then such testimony shall be received into evidence, subject to any other objections being made and ruled upon, and kept under seal.
- Q. In addition, all live testimony, including cross-examination and oral argument which reveals the content of prefiled designated testimony or which is otherwise held to be confidential, including any argument as to whether certain testimony is properly designated, shall be made only after the hearing room is cleared of all persons besides the Commission, its Regulatory Law Judges, court reporters, attorneys of record and witnesses to whom the designated information is available pursuant to the terms of this Protective Order. The transcript of such live testimony or oral argument shall be kept under seal and copies shall only be provided to the Commission, its Regulatory Law Judges, and attorneys of record. Such attorneys shall not disclose the contents of such transcripts to anyone other than those who may have access to the designated information under

the terms of this Protective Order. Persons who have access to the designated information under the terms of this Protective Order shall treat the contents of such transcript as any other designated information under the terms of this Protective Order.

- R. References to designated testimony, whether prefiled or live and transcribed, in any pleadings before the Commission, shall be by citation only and not by quotation. Subject to the jurisdiction of any reviewing court, references to designated testimony in pleadings or oral arguments made to such reviewing court shall also be by citation only.
- S. All persons who are afforded access to information under the terms of this Protective Order shall neither use nor disclose such information for purposes of business or competition or any other purpose other than the purpose of preparation for and conduct of this proceeding and then solely as contemplated herein, and shall keep the information secure and in accordance with the purposes and intent of this order.
- T. Subject to the jurisdiction of any reviewing court, designated testimony constituting part of the record before the Commission shall be delivered to any reviewing court under seal upon service of the appropriate writ of review.
- U. The Commission may modify this order on motion of a party or on its own motion upon reasonable notice to the parties and opportunity for hearing.
- V. Within ninety (90) days after the completion of this proceeding, including judicial review thereof, all designated information, testimony, exhibits, transcripts or briefs in the possession of any party other than Staff or the Public Counsel shall be returned to the party claiming a confidential interest in such information and any notes pertaining to such information shall be destroyed.

- W. The provisions of paragraph C, D, J and L of this Protective Order do not apply to Staff or Public Counsel. Staff and Public Counsel are subject to the nondisclosure provisions of Section 386.480, R.S.Mo. 1986. Staff and Public Counsel shall provide a list of the names of their employees who will have access to the designated information.
- X. Outside experts of Staff or Public Counsel who have been contracted to be witnesses in this proceeding shall have access to designated information and testimony on the same basis as Staff and Public Counsel except the outside expert shall read this order and sign the nondisclosure agreement attached as Appendix "A" hereto.
- Y. Outside experts of Staff and Public Counsel who have not been contracted to be witnesses in this proceeding are subject to the provisions of this Protective Order.
- Z. Prefiled testimony and exhibits, whether filed or offered at the hearing, shall be prepared in the manner described in Appendix "B".

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

I, _____, have
been presented a copy of this Protective Order issued in Case No. _____ on the
_____ day of _____, 19____.

I have requested review of the confidential information produced in Case
No. _____ on behalf of _____
_____.

I hereby certify that I have read the above-mentioned Protective Order and
agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Signature and Title

Employer

Party

Address

Telephone

1. If prefiled testimony contains parts which are classified as Proprietary or Highly Confidential, it shall be filed with the Commission's Executive Secretary's Office as follows:
 - A. An original plus eight (8) copies of prefiled testimony with the Proprietary or Highly Confidential portions obliterated or removed shall be filed.
 - B. One (1) copy of those pages which contain information which has been designated as Proprietary, with any Highly Confidential portions obliterated or removed, shall be filed in a separate envelope. The portions which are Proprietary shall be indicated as described in D, below.
 - C. One (1) copy of those pages which have been designated as Highly Confidential shall be filed in a separate envelope. The portions which are Highly Confidential shall be indicated as described in D, below.
 - D. Six (6) copies of the complete prefiled testimony to be filed under seal for the Regulatory Law Judge and Commissioners. The Proprietary pages shall be stamped "P" and the Proprietary information indicated by two asterisks before and after the information, ****Proprietary****. The Highly Confidential pages shall be stamped "HC" with the Highly Confidential information indicated by two asterisks and underlining before and after the Highly Confidential information, ****Highly Confidential****.

Any deviations from this format must be approved by the Regulatory Law Judge.

2. Three (3) copies of exhibits, whether testimony or other, shall be filed at the hearing with the information separated as described in 1.A, 1.B and 1.C above with each copy of the Proprietary and Highly Confidential portions placed into separate envelopes to be marked as Exhibit __, Exhibit __P and Exhibit __HC.

RECEIVED

MAY 26 1998

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION