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July 14, 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED<sup>3</sup>**  
JUL 14 2000  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

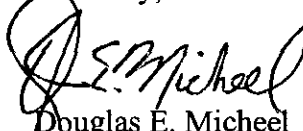
**RE: Laclede Gas Company,  
Case No. GO-2000-394**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 8 copies of **Public Counsel's Response to Order Directing Filing**. Please "file stamp" the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office. I have on this date mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas E. Micheel  
Senior Public Counsel

DEM:kh

cc: Counsel of Record

Enclosure

FILED<sup>3</sup>  
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Service Commission

Case No. GO-2000-394

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

5. Public Counsel requests it be given until July 21, 2000 to file its position with respect to Laclede's Application. Such date is consistent with Ordered paragraph 2 of the

Commission's Order Directing Filing. This delay will allow Public Counsel to better understand Laclede's Application and to formulate Public Counsel's position on the complicated issues presented in this Application.

6. Laclede has indicated that it supports Public Counsel's request to respond no later than July 21, 2000.

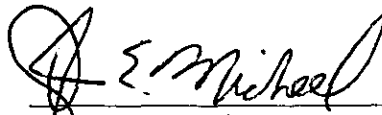
7. If the Commission rejects Public Counsel's request to respond by July 21, 2000, Public Counsel believes it would be appropriate to set this matter for hearing and order the parties to develop an expedited procedural schedule.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel requests it be given until July 21, 2000 to respond to Laclede's Application. In the alternative, Public Counsel requests the Commission set this matter for hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL**

BY:



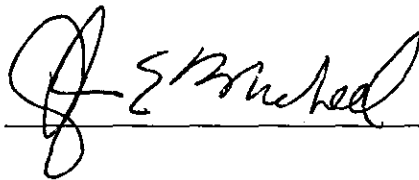
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been faxed, mailed or hand-delivered to the following counsel of record on this 14th day of July, 2000:

Denny Frey  
Assistant General Counsel  
Missouri Public Service Commisison  
P. O. Box 360  
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Michael C. Pendergast  
Laclede Gas Company  
720 Olive Street, Suite 1520  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101



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