

Mel Carnahan Governor

Office of the Public Counsel

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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 1 4 2000

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

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

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Missouri Publi

In the matter of the Laclede Gas Company's Experimental Price Stabilization Fund

Case No. GO-2000-394

## PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel") and for its Response to Order Directing Filing states as follows:

- 1. On or about July 7, 2000, Laclede filed a Verified Application for Authorization to Implement Temporary Revisions to Price Stabilization Program ("Application"). Along with the Application, Laclede filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment.
- On or about July 11, 2000, the Commission issued its Order Directing Filing.
   Ordered paragraph 1 requires all interested parties to respond by July 14, 2000 to Laclede's Application.
- 3. Public Counsel is currently reviewing Laclede's Application and determining the proper course of action Public Counsel should take with respect to that Application. Public Counsel is not at this time prepared to state its position with respect to the Application.
- 4. On July 13, 2000, Public Counsel personnel held a conference call with Laclede personnel in an attempt to get a better understanding of Laclede's Application and to discuss various issues pertaining to the Application. Public Counsel will participate in a meeting on July 14, 2000 with Laclede and the Staff regarding Laclede's Application.
- 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:

Douglas E. Micheel, Esq.

(Bar No. 38371)

Senior Public Counsel

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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 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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Michael C. Pendergast Laclede Gas Company 720 Olive Street, Suite 1520 St. Louis, Missouri 63101