

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company)	
Concerning a Natural Gas Incident at)	
3810 Council Grove Avenue, Pine Lawn,)	File No. GS-2011-0245
Missouri.)	

STAFF'S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and in response to the Commission's June 6, 2011, *Order Setting Filing Date* by the Staff of its final report or status report not later than August 8, 2011, files this Status Report.

The Staff filed an Initial Report on June 6, 2011. The Staff continues to actively investigate this incident, which occurred at about noon on January 8, 2011, at 3810 Council Grove Avenue in Pine Lawn, Missouri. The incident was the result of a natural gas explosion that caused structural damage to the residence at this address.

Status of the Investigation

As noted in the Initial Report, the Staff has determined that the incident occurred when natural gas emanating from a steel main fracture accumulated in the basement area of 3810 Council Grove Avenue and was ignited. The occupants of the house were on the first floor and reported minor injuries that did not involve hospitalization. The steel main fracture occurred at a location where previous excavation damage caused a dent in the steel main.

The Initial Report noted the Staff has sent information requests and has received extensive information and documentation from Laclede relevant to the investigation of the incident and the corrosion leaks that have occurred in the incident area. It was further noted that Laclede's response to the last information request was received on May 20, 2011, and responses to some follow-up questions regarding the information requests were still pending. Obtaining

responses to the follow-up questions has taken longer than the Staff expected and the last few response items were just obtained on July 21, 2011. As a result, the Staff is still in the process of reviewing this information and determining what type of recommendations should be made and what actions should be taken.

The Staff is in the final stage of reviewing, compiling, and analyzing the information and will begin preparing its final report. The Final Report concerning this incident will be filed no later than October 31, 2011.

WHEREFORE, the Staff requests that the Commission accept this Status Report concerning its investigation of the natural gas explosion at 3810 Council Grove Avenue in Pine Lawn, Missouri, with the understanding that the Staff will file its Final Report no later than October 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Kevin A. Thompson

KEVIN A. THOMPSON

Missouri Bar Number 36288

Chief Staff Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65102

573-751-6514 (Voice)

573-526-6969 (Fax)

kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri
Public Service Commission.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 8th day of August 2011.

s/ Kevin A. Thompson