

B ✓
TM
RO

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 29th
day of July, 1997.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's tariff)
sheets to be reviewed in its 1996-1997 Actual)
Cost Adjustment.) Case No. GR-97-222

ORDER GRANTING WAIVER AND APPROVING INTERIM RATES

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company) of St. Louis, Missouri, submitted a tariff sheet to the Commission on July 18, 1997, carrying an effective date of August 1, 1997. The tariff sheet was filed to reflect a change in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) factors as the result of an increase in the cost of natural gas, a decrease in the transportation and storage costs, and the implementation of the Price Stabilization Charge. Also, there is a decrease in the L.P. sales classification PGA factor to reflect decreases in Laclede's cost of propane. The effect of these changes will be to decrease annualized revenues by approximately \$4.4 million. The impact on a typical residential space heating customer using 27 therms of natural gas in the month of August will be a decrease of \$0.12, or 0.5%.

Laclede also requested a one time waiver from paragraph A.4. on Tariff Sheet No. 17 of the Company's Commission approved PGA clause. This paragraph provides that no new Current Purchased Gas Adjustment (CPGA) will be submitted unless the aggregate increase or decrease in firm sales revenues generated by the new firm CPGA represents an increase or decrease of more than \$250,000 in revenues from the previous CPGA when applied to the standard firm sales volumes for the month in which the new firm CPGA shall become effective. The proposed CPGA change from this filing will produce a reduction of approximately \$83,000.

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum stating that the requested waiver was reasonable based on the Commission's recent approval of the Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. GO-97-401, which provides for the implementation of a Price Stabilization Charge, and recommended that the requested waiver be granted. With this exception, Staff states that the change in Laclede's PGA was calculated in conformance with the Company's

approved PGA Clause and recommends that the Commission approve the tariff sheet to become effective on August 1, 1997. Staff stated that Laclede's PGA Clause allows for ten (10) business days notice for filings reflecting PGA changes. Staff recommended that the tariff sheet be approved on an interim basis, subject to refund, until the Commission makes its final determinations in Case Nos. GR-97-222 and GR-96-181.

The Commission has reviewed the tariff sheet and Staff's recommendation, and finds that with the exception of the waiver request, the tariff conforms with Laclede's Commission-approved PGA Clause and is therefore reasonable. After considering Staff's recommendation, and for good cause shown pursuant to Section 393.140(11), RSMo 1994, the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed tariff sheet should be approved to become effective on and after the requested effective date of May 21, 1997, interim subject to refund.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

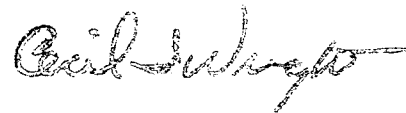
1. That the requested one time waiver of paragraph A.4. on Tariff Sheet No. 17 of the Company's Commission approved PGA clause is hereby granted.

2. That the tariff sheet submitted on July 18, 1997, by Laclede Gas Company of St. Louis, Missouri, is approved on an interim basis, subject to refund, to become effective on August 1, 1997. The tariff sheet approved is:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated
One Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Revised Sheet No. 29 CANCELLING One Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 29

3. That this order shall become effective August 1, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Zobrist, Chm., Crumpton, Drainer,
Murray, and Lumpe, CC., Concur.
ALJ: Derque