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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 27th
day of April, 2000.

In the Matter of Tariffs Filed by Laclede Gas)
Company to be Reviewed in its 1996-97 Actual) Case No. GR-97-222
Cost Adjustment)

**ORDER DENYING REHEARING, GRANTING STAY OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On March 14, 2000, the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) issued its order denying the Motion to Close Case filed by Laclede Gas Company (Laclede). The Commission also directed the parties to file proposed procedural schedules no later than April 3, 2000.

On March 23, 2000, Laclede filed its Application for Rehearing and Motion for Reconsideration. On April 3, 2000, Staff filed its response to Laclede's application for rehearing.

Pursuant to Section 386.500, RSMo 1994, and Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.160(3), the Commission shall grant a rehearing if in its judgment there is sufficient reason to do so. Laclede's application did not raise any new matters that had not been addressed previously by the Commission. The Commission finds that there is not sufficient reason to grant rehearing or reconsideration, and the Commission will deny Laclede's application.

On April 3, 2000, the parties also filed a Joint Recommendation Regarding Procedural Schedule, recommending that the Commission stay the

establishment of a procedural schedule in this case pending the outcome of Case No. GR-98-297, the 1997-1998 PGA/ACA case set for hearing on April 13 and 14, 2000. In their recommendation, the parties indicate that some issues raised are unique to this case. The parties also stated that the outcome of Case No. GR-98-297 could have a significant impact on the future course of this proceeding.

The Commission finds that the outcome of Case No. GR-98-297 could have a significant impact on the future course of this proceeding, and therefore, the Commission will grant the parties' joint request to stay the procedural schedule pending the outcome of the Case No. GR-98-297.

The Commission does not wish to allow any unnecessary delay of this 1996-1997 PGA/ACA case. To ensure that this case continues to move forward toward its conclusion, the Commission will schedule a prehearing conference for the purpose of establishing a procedural schedule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Application for Rehearing and Motion for Reconsideration filed by Laclede Gas Company, on March 23, 2000, is denied.

2. That the parties' joint request to stay the establishment of a procedural schedule is granted and the Commission's previous order directing the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule no later than April 3, 2000 is canceled.

3. That a prehearing conference shall be scheduled for August 1, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will be held in the offices of the Missouri Public Service Commission in Jefferson City, Missouri.

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

4. That this order shall become effective on May 10, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Schemenauer,
and Drainer, CC., concur
Murray, C., not participating

Register, Regulatory Law Judge