

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 19th
day of April, 2017.

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Request to Increase Its Revenues for)
Gas Service)

File No. GR-2017-0215
Tariff No. YG-2017-0195

**NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE AND
ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY**

Issue Date: April 19, 2017

Effective Date: April 19, 2017

The Missouri Public Service Commission is suspending Laclede Gas Company's rate increase tariff, giving notice of a contested case, and delegating authority. Laclede filed its tariff on April 11, 2017, seeking a revenue increase in the amount of \$58.1 million, exclusive of associated taxes, of which approximately \$29.5 million is already being recovered through its Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge (ISRS). The tariff bears an effective date of May 11, 2017.

A. Suspension

The tariff effective date allows insufficient time for the Commission to determine whether the tariff is just and reasonable, as the law requires,¹ so the Commission will suspend the tariff.² The Commission may suspend a tariff for 120 days beyond the tariff's effective date.³ If that period is not enough time to conclude a full hearing on the tariff's propriety, the Commission may extend the suspension for a further six

¹ Section 393.190.1, RSMo Supp. 2013.

² Section 393.150, RSMo 2000.

³ Section 393.150.1, RSMo 2000.

months.⁴ The Commission's experience demonstrates that it cannot conclude a full hearing on the tariff's propriety in 120 days, so the Commission will order the additional six-month extension of the tariff suspension.

B. Notice of Contested Case

Suspension of the tariff may occur only pending a "full" hearing and decision on the tariff's propriety.⁵ The provision for a full pre-decision hearing signifies that this action is now a "contested case."⁶ A contested case is a formal hearing procedure, but it allows for waiver of procedural formalities⁷ and a decision without a hearing,⁸ including by stipulation and agreement.⁹

This order and notice does not require any party to file an answer. Further, the Commission's discovery regulations may be found at Commission regulation 4 CSR 240-2.090.

C. Delegation as to Discovery

The Commission may delegate any adjudicative authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action.¹⁰ To ensure that all discovery disputes are ruled upon expeditiously, the Commission will delegate its authority to the regulatory law judge assigned to this action to rule on discovery disputes raised at the discovery conferences and to rule on all motions to compel discovery. The Commission will set forth further provisions for discovery by separate order.

⁴ Section 393.150.2, RSMo 2000.

⁵ Section 393.150.1, RSMo 2000.

⁶ Section 536.010(4), RSMo Supp. 2013.

⁷ Section 536.060(3), RSMo 2000.

⁸ 4 CSR 240-2.115.

⁹ Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

¹⁰ Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The tariff assigned Tracking No. YG-2017-0195 is suspended from May 11, 2017, for 120 days, plus six months, to March 8, 2018.
2. The regulatory law judge assigned to this action shall have full authority to rule on any discovery dispute, including any motion to compel, and may make any such ruling at a discovery conference.
3. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney
Rupp, and Coleman, CC., concur.

Dippell, Senior Regular Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission,
at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 19th day of April 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 19, 2017

File/Case No. GR-2017-0215

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.