

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

In the Matter of a Working Case to                    )  
Consider Policies to Improve                        )  
Electric Utility Regulation                         )        **File No. EW-2016-0313**

**INITIAL COMMENTS OF LACLEDE GAS COMPANY**

Pursuant to the Commission’s June 8, 2016 *Order Opening a Working Case To Consider Policies To Improve Electric Utility Regulation*, Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”) submits the following Initial Comments in this proceeding.

Laclede is a public utility and gas corporation subject to the Commission’s regulatory jurisdiction. Through its operating units, Laclede Gas and Missouri Gas Energy, Laclede currently provides natural gas distribution services to over 1.1 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in Missouri.

Laclede commends the Commission for opening this docket to receive and consider recommendations for improving its regulation of electric corporations. Based on its experience in Missouri and Alabama, as well as familiarity with regulatory approaches in other states, Laclede believes appropriately structured alternative regulatory approaches may produce improved outcomes for both customers and utilities, electric as well as natural gas.

Laclede recognizes the principal focus of this proceeding is on how the regulatory process for electric utilities and their customers could be enhanced. However, the Company also understands any recommendations adopted by the Commission as a result of this proceeding could have implications for the Commission’s future regulation of natural gas utilities like Laclede, though such structures may need to be tailored to the unique industry requirements of electric and gas. Laclede therefore intends to monitor and participate in the workshops

scheduled in this proceeding, evaluate the comments and recommendations submitted by other stakeholders and, where appropriate, contribute its own views for the Commission's consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

**/s/ Rick Zucker**

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