

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

Sheila Bruton,)	
)	
Complainants,)	
v.)	Case No. GC-2006-0502
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
Respondent.)	

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY’S ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”), pursuant to the Commission’s June 27, 2006 Notice of Complaint in the above captioned case, and submits its Answer to the Complaint filed against Laclede by Sheila Bruton. In support thereof, Laclede states as follows:

1. The essence of Ms. Bruton’s complaint is that Laclede should not be permitted to adjust her account to bill for undercharges that occurred prior to September 2005.

2. In response, Laclede states that Ms. Bruton received estimated bills from April 2004 through August 2005. Laclede obtained an actual reading on September 3, 2005 which indicated that Ms. Bruton’s account had been undercharged. Pursuant to its tariffs, Laclede issued a billing adjustment going back to the billing period beginning on September 20, 2004.

3. Ms. Bruton’s issues with her account have been exacerbated by the fact that she made no payments between August 2005 and February 2006, or during the past 60 days. Nevertheless, Laclede will make every effort to fully communicate its billing

adjustment to Ms. Bruton and to work with her to establish a payment schedule that is feasible for both parties.

WHEREFORE, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission accept Laclede's Answer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rick Zucker

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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer was served on the Complainants, the General Counsel of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel on this 27th day of July, 2006 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Gerry Lynch