

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

In the Matter of the Laclede Gas)	
Company's Request for Variance To Make)	
An Accelerated Adjustment To Budget)	Case No. GE-2009-0142
Billing Plan Amounts And Motion For)	
Expedited Treatment.)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission in the above-captioned matter and, in response to the tariff filed by Laclede to make an Accelerated Adjustment to its Budget Billing Plan Amounts and Motion for Expedited Treatment, states:

1. On October 17, 2008, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company) of St. Louis, Missouri filed an application for a variance from certain tariff provisions and expedited treatment of the application.

2. Laclede's Application for Variance (Variance) seeks a one-time variance from its Budget Billing tariff provisions (Tariff Sheet R-39) in order to lower its customers' Budget Billing Plan (BBP) amounts. Laclede's tariff only permits changes to the BBP in January and again in July.

3. The July 2008 BBP calculation was made when prices for natural gas were higher than they are today. Since the proposed variance will result in reduced BBP payment amounts consistent with Laclede's revised projected gas supply cost, Staff supports the Variance and recommends Commission approval on an expedited basis.

4. Staff recommends that good cause exists for approving this tariff sheet on less than thirty (30) days since it is a decrease in customers' rates.

WHEREFORE Staff therefore recommends Commission approval of Laclede's Variance, as filed on October 17, 2008, with an effective date of October 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lera L. Shemwell

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been emailed, mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile to all counsel of record this 22nd day of October, 2008.

/s/ Lera Shemwell