

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

In the Matter of Missouri Gas Energy’s)
Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate Schedules) Case No. GR-2014-0007

DIVISION OF ENERGY’S NOTICE OF SUPPORT

COMES NOW the Missouri Department of Economic Development – Division of Energy (“DE”) before the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) and for its *Notice of Support* of Missouri Gas Energy’s (“MGE” or “Company”) *Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days’ Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment* states:

1. On October 25, MGE, an operating unit of Laclede Gas Company, filed its *Motion to Approve Tariff Filing on Less than Thirty Days’ Notice and Motion for Expedited Treatment* (“Motions”) on behalf of itself and the Office of the Public Counsel. The Motions seek approval for a tariff which would reduce the upfront payment required of customers reconnecting under the “Cold Weather Rule” from 80 percent of a customer’s arrearages to 50 percent of that balance, with the Company providing a credit equal to 30 percent of the customer’s arrearages. The Motions also request an effective date of November 4.

2. The Temporary Low-Income Energy Affordability Program (“Program”) proposed by the Company will benefit all customers. First, it will meaningfully reduce the up-front cost for customers to restore heating services, providing immediate relief due to the delay in receipt of Energy Crises Intervention Program funds.

3. The Program will also benefit other customers by bringing more customers back onto the system, resulting in the spread of fixed cost recovery over more customers.

4. Furthermore, the Program encourages disconnected customers to restore service for their primary heat source rather than resorting to more hazardous alternatives for home heating. Additional safety concerns are addressed because the Company provides a safety check upon reconnection, so faulty and potentially dangerous equipment can also be identified and referred to the Red Tag Program.

5. Customers participating in the Program will be encouraged to participate in budget billing and enter into payment arrangements to reduce arrears, potentially enhancing their ability to make timely payments. They will also be referred to other energy efficiency programs for which they may be eligible, reducing overall energy costs in the future for these customers.

6. Lastly, the Program improves the comfort and well-being of participating customers, especially those most vulnerable to temperature sensitivity due to age, disease, or medication.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, DE respectfully files its *Notice of Support* and requests that the Motions of MGE be approved by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alexander Antal

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been served electronically on all counsel of record this 25th day of October, 2016.

/s/ Alexander Antal

Alexander Antal