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March 5, 2001

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Director, Administration

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DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: Case No. GC-2001-137**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **JOINT MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT AND CLOSE CASE**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce H. Bates  
Associate General Counsel  
(573) 751-7434  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

BHB/lb  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

FILED<sup>2</sup>

MAR - 5 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>2</sup>

MAR - 5 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Missouri Public Service )  
Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
v. )  
Laclede Gas Company, )  
Respondent. )

Case No. GC-2001-137

**JOINT MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT AND CLOSE CASE**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and for by and through its Office of the General Counsel, and in conjunction with Laclede Gas Company, and the Office of the Public Counsel submits a *Joint Motion To Dismiss Complaint And Close Case* which respectfully states as follows:

1. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) have been negotiating a resolution of this complaint. The Commission extended the proposed procedural schedule filing date from February 2, 2001, to March 5, 2001, to allow the said parties additional time to resolve this complaint. During this time extension, Staff was able to observe Laclede training its applicable employees on procedural changes directly related to Staff recommendations that were reported in Case GS-2000-673.

2. A Gas Incident Report (*Report*) was filed by Staff in Case No. GS-2000-673 on September 7, 2000. The *Report* detailed an ignition of natural gas and ensuing fire at 416 Boyce Avenue in Farmington, Missouri, on March 25, 2000. As a result of the Staff's incident investigation, it was requested that the Office of the General Counsel cause a complaint to be filed with the Commission regarding two violations noted in the *Report*, which was closed on January 7, 2001. This

case, Case No. GC-2001-137 (Complaint), was filed with the Commission simultaneously with the *Report* on September 7, 2000.

2. The violations noted in the *Report* relate to internal incident/emergency reporting procedures and conducting emergency procedures in a timely manner. In connection with this *Report*, Staff filed a *Staff Response To Answer of Laclede Gas Company* on November 2, 2000. In this filing, Staff stated that it "believes that the issues of prompt, effective response to emergencies have been addressed by Laclede in the *Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* in Case No. GC-2001-19 filed on November 2, 2000. Also, Staff has not seen the finalized procedures, training on the revised procedures or implementation of the revised procedures. To meet its objective pertaining to incident notifications, Staff believes revised procedures should be finalized, implemented, and all employees that would encounter a possible incident during their course of work be provided training that incorporates these revised procedures."

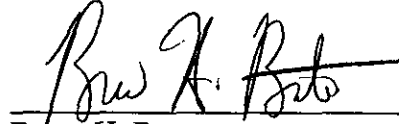
3. Staff and Laclede jointly developed revised Company procedures specific to the events associated with the *Report* and concerns contained within the *Complaint*. As indicated above, aside from witnessing Laclede instructing its employees on the finalized revised procedures, Staff believed that Laclede had met the conditions and concerns of both the *Report* and the *Complaint*. On January 25 and 26, 2001, Staff observed training being provided to Company employees working out of Laclede's St. Louis operations, as well as employees working out of the Missouri Natural Division operations. In part, these training sessions incorporated Company procedural revisions specific to reporting emergencies/incidents to appropriate Company personnel and to conducting emergency procedures in a timely manner. The Staff believes the training witnessed on January 25 and 26, is adequate, and thereby satisfies the only remaining concern of the *Complaint* (i.e., employee training on revised procedures). Accordingly, Staff believes that the issues of prompt, effective response to

emergencies, and internal reporting of emergencies to appropriate Company personnel who are responsible for evaluating the conditions of the emergency and notifying Staff of incidents have been adequately addressed by Laclede.

4. WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Staff, Laclede, and Public Counsel, respectfully request that the Commission issue an order (a) dismissing this complaint filed by Staff against Laclede, and (b) closing this case (GC-2001-137).

Respectfully submitted,

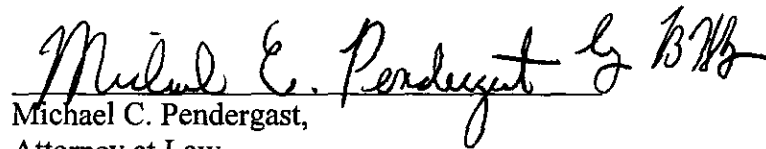
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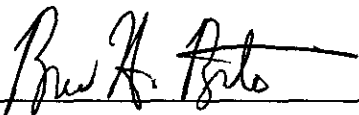
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2001.

  
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**Service List for  
Case No. GC-2001-137  
March 5, 2001 (lb)**

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