

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY
720 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101

AREA CODE 314
342-0532

MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

November 27, 2000

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

RE: Case No. GT-2001-329
Tariff No. 200100572

FILED²
NOV 28 2000
Missouri Public
Service Commission

Dear Mr. Roberts:

On behalf of Laclede Gas Company, I have enclosed for filing the original and eight copies of a Joint Motion to Schedule Early Prehearing Conference in the above case. Please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Please file-stamp the additional copy of this Joint Motion and return the same in the pre-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Pendergast

MCP:af

cc: Office of the Public Counsel

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²
NOV 28 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's)
Tariff Filing to Implement an Experimental)
Fixed Price Plan and Other Modifications)
to its Gas Supply Incentive Plan)

Case No. GT-2001- 329
Tariff No. 200100572

**JOINT MOTION TO SCHEDULE
EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

COMES NOW, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), the Staff ("Staff") of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") and the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel"), and in support of their Joint Motion to Establish Early Prehearing Conference in the above captioned-case, state as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement approved by the Commission in Case No. GO-2000-395, the Company, Staff and Public Counsel agreed to participate in "a good faith effort to negotiate and implement a mandatory fixed rate trigger for gas supply commodity costs, on the understanding that the overall objective [would] be to develop a mutually acceptable and workable multi-year incentive program." See paragraph 4(d) of April 20, 2000, Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. GO-2000-395.
2. To that end, the above-referenced Parties have met on several occasions to discuss proposals and to exchange ideas. Although the Company, Staff and Public Counsel have not been able to reach an agreement as of this date, they intend to continue the negotiation process in the hope that an incentive plan agreeable to all parties can ultimately be reached.

3. The Parties are aware that on November 17, 2000, Laclede made a tariff filing setting forth its proposal in this matter. In doing so, the Company indicated that the filing was made, in part, to ensure the establishment of a proceeding and schedule that would permit a continuation of the Parties' ongoing discussions, while still providing the Commission with sufficient time to hear and resolve any differences that might remain between the Parties upon conclusion of those discussions. Consistent with that objective, the Parties believe it would be appropriate and useful for the Commission to schedule an early prehearing conference in this case at the time it issues its Order suspending Laclede's tariff filing. The purpose of the prehearing conference would be to afford the Parties an additional opportunity to identify, discuss and possibly resolve outstanding issues and, if necessary, to develop a procedural schedule that would permit this matter to be heard and decided by the Commission in advance of the September 30, 2001 scheduled expiration date of the Company's current gas supply incentive plan.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the undersigned Parties respectfully request that the Commission issue its Order scheduling an early prehearing conference in this case for the purpose of providing the Parties with an additional opportunity to identify, discuss and possibly resolve outstanding issues and, if necessary, to develop a procedural schedule that will permit this matter to be heard and decided by the Commission in advance of the September 30, 2001 scheduled expiration date of the Company's current gas supply incentive plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael C. Pendergast

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Michael C. Pendergast, Assistant Vice-President, Associate General Counsel for Laclede Gas Company, hereby certifies that the foregoing Joint Motion has been duly served upon the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Public Counsel by placing a copy thereof in the United States mail, postage prepaid, or by hand delivery, on this 27th day of November, 2000.

Michael C. Pendergast