

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 14, 2000**

CASE NO: GT-2001-329

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Michael C. Pendergast
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 14th
day of December, 2000.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's Tariff)	
Filing to Implement an Experimental Fixed)	<u>Case No. GT-2001-329</u>
Price Plan and Other Modifications to Its Gas)	Tariff No. 200100572
Supply Incentive Plan.)	

**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF AND SETTING
EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On November 17, 2000, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company) filed a proposed tariff which proposed a number of modifications to Laclede's Gas Supply Incentive Program currently scheduled to expire on September 30, 2001. The proposed tariff bears an effective date of December 18, 2000.

On November 28, 2000, Laclede, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a Joint Motion to Schedule Early Prehearing Conference. The motion states that 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." Although the parties have not been able to reach an agreement, they indicate that they intend to continue negotiating in the hope that an incentive plan agreeable to all parties can be reached. The parties further state that it would be appropriate and useful for the Commission to

schedule an early prehearing conference.

On December 11, 2000, the Staff filed a Motion to Suspend Tariff, requesting the Commission to suspend the tariff sheets and schedule an early prehearing conference to facilitate further discussions among the parties.

The Commission has reviewed the tariff sheets, the Joint Motion to Schedule Early Prehearing Conference, and Staff's Motion to Suspend Tariff, and finds that significant questions have been raised regarding the tariff such that the tariff should be suspended for further consideration. Therefore, the tariff will be suspended for a period of 120 days.

In order to expedite the consideration of these issues, a prehearing conference will be held on January 19, 2001, at the office of the Public Service Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff's Motion to Suspend Tariff is granted.
2. That the tariff filed by Laclede Gas Company on November 17, 2000, Tariff File No. 200100572, is suspended for 120 days beyond December 18, 2000, to April 17, 2001, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. The sheets suspended are:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 5 Consolidated

**Fifth Revised Sheet No. 28-a, Cancelling Fourth Revised Sheet No. 28-a
Third Revised Sheet No. 28-b, Cancelling Second Revised Sheet No. 28-b
Original Sheet No. 28-b.1
Original Sheet No. 28-b.2**

3. That an early prehearing conference shall be held on January 19, 2001, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this prehearing, please call the Public Service Commission's

Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the conference.

4. That this order shall become effective on December 14, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Drainer, Schemenauer,
and Simmons, CC., concur.
Murray, C., absent.

Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge

ALJ/Sec'y: Ruth / Pope

12-13 GT-2001-329
Date Circulated CASE NO.

18
Lampe, Chair

200
Drainer, Vice Chair

11/13
Murray, Commissioner

KS
Schenckauer, Commissioner

KS
Simmons, Commissioner

12-14
Agenda Date

Action taken: 4-DAS

Must Vote Not Later Than 12-14

STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and

I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 14th day of December 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

