

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

AREA CODE 314
342-0532

MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

December 21, 2000

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

FILED

DEC 22 2000

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Missouri Public
Service Commission

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

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing, please find the original and eight copies of the Motion for Protective Order in the above-referenced case. Please file-stamp the additional copy of this 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:kz

cc: All parties of record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED

DEC 22 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

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company") and, pursuant to Rules 4 CSR 240-2.080 and 4 CSR 240-2.085 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, respectfully requests that the Commission issue its standard Protective Order in the above captioned case. In support thereof, Laclede states as follows:

1. On November 17, 2000, Laclede made a tariff filing to implement an experimental fixed price plan and other modifications to its gas supply incentive plan. By Order dated December 14, 2000, the Commission suspended the tariff and established an early prehearing conference in accordance with the parties' recommendation.

2. Since Laclede submitted its filing, it has received a number of data information requests which seek highly confidential or proprietary material relating to employee or customer-specific matters, commercially-sensitive business functions and activities, particularly in the gas procurement area, and other non-public matters that could detrimentally affect Laclede and its customers if publicly disclosed.

3. The Commission has previously recognized in a variety of contexts the need to protect such sensitive information and that the issuance of a protective order will serve to minimize any disputes among the parties and ensure that the Commission and the

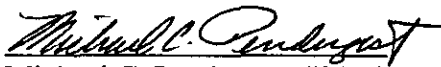
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parties receive useful information in an appropriate manner. *See e.g.* various orders adopting protective order, Case Nos. ER-2001-299, GR-2001-292, TA-2001-289.

Laclede believes that the same considerations warrant the issuance of a protective order in this case.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission issue its standard protective order in this proceeding providing for the protection of highly confidential and proprietary information.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Pendergast #31763
Assistant Vice President and
Associate General Counsel
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-0532
(314) 421-1979

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Michael C. Pendergast, Assistant Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Laclede Gas Company, hereby certifies that the foregoing Motion for Protective Order has been duly served upon the General Counsel of the Staff of the Public Service Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel by placing a copy thereof in the United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 21st day of December, 2000.

Michael C. Pendergast