

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

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company     )  
Concerning a Natural Gas Incident at     )  
3810 Council Grove Avenue, Pine Lawn,    )  
Missouri.                                         )

**Case No. GS-2011-0245**

**STAFF'S FINAL REPORT**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and, pursuant to the Commission's order of November 1, 2011, files its attached *Gas Incident Report* with respect to an incident that occurred around noon on January 8, 2011, at 3810 Council Grove Avenue in Pine Lawn, Missouri.

The incident was a natural gas explosion that caused significant structural damage to the residence at this address. Natural gas from a fractured steel main belonging to Laclede Gas Company accumulated in the basement at 3810 Council Grove Avenue and was ignited by an unknown source. The resulting explosion caused minor injuries to the occupants of the residence and major damage to the structure.

In addition to the explosion, information provided to the Staff indicates several corrosion leaks have occurred in the natural gas main serving the 3800 and 3900 blocks of Council Grove Avenue and that there were issues with the cathodic protection of this coated steel main. Staff will address these issues in another filing because they did not contribute to this incident.

**Recommendations**

The Staff has developed one recommendation as a result of its investigation and analysis:

1. The Staff recommends that Laclede develop procedures for using soil ventilation (“air-jacking”) during an emergency response and provide training to personnel who would use them during an emergency.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Gas Incident Report* and order Laclede to respond to the recommendation set out therein within 30 days; and grant such other and further relief as the public interest may require.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Kevin A. Thompson  
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Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri  
Public Service Commission.

### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this **22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2011.**

s/ Kevin A. Thompson