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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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4	
5	In the Matter of Laclede Gas) Case No.
6	Company's Tariff to Revise) GR-99-315 Natural Gas Rate Schedules.)
7	
8	DEPOSITION OF BARRY COOPER, a witness,
9	produced, sworn and examined on the 14th day of
10	September, 2004, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and
11	6:00 p.m. of that day at the offices of the Missouri
12	Public Service Commission, 1845 Borman Court, Suite
13	101, St. Louis, Missouri, 63146, before
14	
15	CHRISTINE A. SIMPSON, RPR, CRR, CCR, CSR
16	MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES 711 North 11th Street
17	St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (314) 644-2191
18	
19	and Notary Public within and for the State of
20	Missouri, commissioned in St. Louis County, Missouri,
21	in the above-entitled cause, on the part of the
22	Missouri Public Service Commission, pursuant to
23	agreement.
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Page 2 1 2 APPEARANCES 3 FOR AMEREN UE: 4 JAMES B. LOWERY (by telephone) Attorney at Law 5 SMITH LEWIS, LLP 111 South Ninth, Suite 200 Columbia, Missouri 65201-0918 6 (573) 443-3141 7 lowery@smithlewis.com 8 THOMAS BYRNE Attorney at Law 9 1901 Chouteau Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63103 (314) 554-2237 10 11 FOR LACLEDE GAS COMPANY: 1213 MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST RICK ZUCKER 14Attorneys at Law 720 Olive Street 15 St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (314) 342-0533 16 R. LAWRENCE SHERWIN 17 BARRY COOPER 18 GLENN BUCK 19 MIKE SPOTANSKI 20 21 FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL: 22 RUTH O'NEILL (by telephone) 23 Assistant Public Counsel 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 24Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230 (573) 751-4857 25

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1	FOR THE STAFF OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	
2	THOMAS R. SCHWARZ, JR.	
3	Deputy General Counsel 200 Madison Street	
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1	SIGNATURE INSTRUCTIONS:	Tuge T
2	Presentment waived; signature requested.	
3		
4	EXHIBIT INSTRUCTIONS:	
5	None marked.	
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1	Page 5 BARRY COOPER, being sworn, testified as follows:
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHWARZ:
3	Q. Mr. Cooper, I'm Tim Schwarz. I'm
4	attorney for the Staff. I'll be asking you some
5	questions today. If you if you can't hear me or
б	understand me or if you don't understand the
7	question, just let me know and I'll try over again.
8	If you want a break at any time,
9	please let us know and we can accommodate that. Have
10	had you your deposition taken before?
11	A. I have not.
12	Q. Okay. Well, those are the basic
13	ground rules and if you have any questions, other
14	than in response to a question of mine, please feel
15	free to ask.
16	Your testimony indicates that after
17	your college career that you first worked for KPM
18	what is now KPMG Peat Marwick, and then GenAmerica
19	and now Laclede. That's the right order, is it?
20	A. That's correct.
21	Q. And I'm going to call them KPMG just
22	as a shorthand. Were any of your clients regulated
23	utilities?
24	A. They were not.
25	Q. What is GenAmerica?
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		Page 6
1	Α.	GenAmerica is a privately was a
2	privately-held	financial holding company.
3	Q.	And what's its line of business?
4	Α.	Basically insurance and wealth
5	protection pro	ducts.
6	Q.	Is that headquartered here in St.
7	Louis?	
8	Α.	Yes, it's headquartered in St. Louis.
9	Q.	What were your duties at GenAmerica?
10	Α.	Several levels of responsibility, the
11	latest of whic	h was vice president of finance. So I
12	was basically	responsible for all internal and
13	external finan	cial reporting, capital budgeting,
14	business plann	ing let's see treasury and
15	accounting ser	vices, a multitude of special projects,
16	primary contac	t with our external accounting firm.
17	Q.	And I don't want to get into anything
18	that might be	privileged or confidential at
19	GenAmerica, bu	t what kind of capital budgeting? What
20	did that entai	1, what kinds of things?
21	Α.	It basically, as we did our financial
22	planning for t	he year, the requests would come in for
23	the different	business units in terms of the amount
24	of budget they	would be requesting. Those could be
25	things in term	as of, far reaching as from office

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1	Page7 supplies to travel, human capital, or investment in,
2	investment in various business ventures. And so
3	would be involved in review and recommendation for
4	approval or disapproval of those items.
5	Q. My conception of the world is that a
6	regulated utility would have a capital budget that's
7	more focused on construction than, say, an insurance
8	organization might. Is that consistent with your
9	experience?
10	A. That would be a fair statement.
11	Q. And what are your responsibilities at
12	Laclede?
13	A. My responsibilities at Laclede
14	basically range from a full breadth of financial
15	things, treasury, financial reporting, investor
16	investor relations, capital planning, information
17	systems, a multitude of special projects, et cetera.
18	Would also like to add to the prior
19	question, I failed to admit that while I was at
20	GenAmerica I was also responsible for all of the
21	physical facilities. So actually all the buildings
22	that we owned, facilities and staff report up through
23	me.
24	Q. Okay. And to follow-up on that a
25	little bit, would that include responsibility for

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Page 8 1 buildings that GenAmerica might have owned as an 2 investment or would you have separate management firms that would --3 4 Α. That would have reported through a 5 separate division. So the two home office buildings 6 would have reported up through me. 7 Q. Okay. 8 Α. Put it that way. 9 Q. On page two of your testimony, and I'm 10 looking at lines 20 and thereabouts following, you 11 suggest that Staff's method, it makes no attempt to 12 account for costs that will be incurred to retire 13 assets that are currently being used. 14 Is it your impression that the amounts 15 that Staff would include for a cost of removal that 16 would be available to the company for the costs that 17 it incurs -- I don't necessarily want to say next 18 year because I don't know when these rates might, 19 might actually apply -- but, but that the, the funds 20 that Staff is providing for cost of removal would be 21 available next year and the year after and then 22 following years? 23 Α. I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understand 24 the question. 25 0. That's fine.

Page 9 Would you --1 Α. 2 Q. Let me try to rephrase it. 3 Α. Okav. That Staff's method would provide in 4 Q. 5 an ensuing year, in a following year, an amount of 6 cash to cover the expenses, the cash expenses the 7 company incurs in that year, is that your 8 understanding? 9 Α. No, it's not. 10 What is your understanding? **Q**. My understanding is that the method 11 Α. that's currently utilized basically looks at the --12 looks at the recent or looks at the historical cost, 13 14 salvage cost incurred which is not necessarily 15 indicative of the actual cost that's going to be That's why we're proposing the standard 16 incurred. 17 method. 18 Have you been involved in a Laclede 0. 19 rate case? Have you had the opportunity to observe a 20 rate case from the point it's filed to the 21 conclusion? 22 No, I have not. Α. 23 Okay. Well, the -- in its filing the Q. 24 company submits its estimates of the costs that it 25 will need when these future rates are to be in

Page 10 effect, and the other parties in their testimony 1 2 comment and say some expenses are, we agree with the 3 company, others we don't. 4 Let's take for instance postage. The 5 company has an expense in the rate case for postage and it's a given dollar amount. And Staff says, yes, 6 7 we agree with that amount. So in your opinion is 8 the, are the proposals that are being made for 9 postage expense, are those going to be available in 10 the future years to meet the company's future 11 requirements for postage expense? 12 Α. Please ask the question again. 13 0. In the rate case setting --14Α. Okay. 15-- the parties propose various Q. 16 amounts --I understand that. 17Α. 18 -- for revenue requirement, and is it Q. 19 not the understanding that whatever the Commission 20 strikes upon as being the revenue requirement for 21 that particular item is something that will then be 22 made available through rates to the company in future 23 years to meet those particular expenses? 24 That's correct. Α. 25 So if Staff is proposing in a Q. Okay.

1	Page 11
1	rate case setting that the company be provided with a
2	particular dollar amount for cost of removal of
3	retired property, those funds would be available,
4	assuming they're consistent with the Commission's
5	order, those funds would be available to the company
6	in future years to meet those needs?
7	A. In theory that's correct.
8	Q. And that, that's kind of a cash basis
9	approach to things, is it not, as opposed to an
10	accrual? We're not accruing future postage needs of
11	the company, are we?
12	A. No. The postage needs are expensed
13	expensed as the postage is utilized.
14	Q. Okay. In the next portion on that
15	page you suggest that if the Commission's approval of
16	Staff's method would have a detrimental impact on
17	Laclede's financial capabilities. Are you there?
18	A. Yes. I believe that would be line 23?
19	Q. Yeah.
20	A. Okay.
21	Q. Can you quantify those detrimental
22	impacts?
23	A. Yes. I would go back to page 8 of my
24	testimony, please, starting with lines 12 and running
25	through lines 19. And if I may paraphrase, it

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1	Page 12 basically indicates that our capital requirements are
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2	already significantly greater than the cash flows
3	available from the company to pay them. We incur
4	approximately \$50 million annually of capital
5	expenditures, many of which are for mandated
6	programs, and we generate approximately \$22 million
7	of depreciation to support those. So we so cash
8	flow negative, that's what's in the testimony.
9	As a result of the 1999 rate, rate
10	case, the switch from the, switch from the standard
11	method to the method that's currently utilized cost
12	the company approximately \$7 million of cash flow at
13	that point, annually at that point in time.
14	Q. Are you done?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. You talk about the financial
17	capabilities.
18	A. Which page are you on, please?
19	Q. Back on 2.
20	A. Thank you.
21	Q. I'm not sure that I framed my question
22	right as yet. The I guess I'm I'm I'm just
23	talking out loud. I'm thinking of capabilities. It
24	hasn't you haven't had any short term loans
25	refused when I say "you," I mean Laclede, I'm

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Page 13 1 sorry. 2 Laclede hasn't been turned down for 3 any short term construction financing, have they? 4 Α. We have not. 5 Haven't been unable to issue equity, Q. 6 have you? 7 Α. Been no issues -- no issues with regard to our ability to issue equity. 8 9 Q. Okay. 10 No problems issuing equity. Α. So it has -- would it be safe to say 11 Q. that it has increased Laclede's need for external 12 13 financing? 14 Α. That's absolutely correct. To go back 15 to my prior, the prior example that I utilized, had, 16 had the standard method still been in effect our 17 internal, internally generated cash flow would have 18 been the 22 million plus 7 million, or 29 million, 19 which is a nice improvement. 20 But as you explained, you got a shortfall in your funding so you have then utilized 21 22 your internal, your internal funding resources from 23 depreciation cash flow. So then you start looking at 24other sources, one of which would be the external 25 Two primary sources there would be debt or markets.

Page 14 stock issuance, and both of which you obviously go to 1 2 the capital markets with. 3 The issue there is that the customers absorb the cost of those. 4 Correct. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to 5 ο. cut you off. Yeah, the word that had caught my eye 6 7 on page 2 was capabilities, and Laclede is still capable of, of going to the financial markets and 8 9 addressing its cash needs, is it not? 10 We are. The point of distinction we Α. would draw is that as a result of the diminished cash 11 12 flow has led, led, leads to a higher borrowing cost 13 when we go to the market for both debt and also puts us in a, we believe, a less competitive position 14compared to our peers for investment dollars on an 15 16 equity basis with those that are in a better position cash flow-wise, particularly those jurisdictions that 17 18 allow the standard method. 19 Do you know how much or what the Ο. 20 dollar amount is at issue in this case? 21Α. For? 22 Well, this is the only issue that's Q. 23 left, is the difference between the, what people are 24calling the standard method and Staff's approach. Do 25 you know what that issue is worth in this case?

Page 15 For the specifics on that I would 1 Α. 2 refer that to Mr. Sherwin. 3 But suffice it to say that it's not ο. 4 enough to make up the difference between 22 million 5 and 50 million of, of the construction budget; is 6 that correct? 7 Α. That's correct. 19 -- as I stated, at the time the '99 case was settled it was 8 9 approximately \$7 million. So that would be correct. 10 Do you know what portion of cash flow 0. 11 is provided by depreciation, deferred income taxes, 12 and rate of return? 13 Α. What portion of cash flow? 140. Yeah. No. I don't. 15 Α. 16 Do you know what portion of Laclede's 0. 17 revenues is, provide, is net salvage? 18 Strike that. Let me start somewhere 19 -- do you know what portion of Laclede's revenues is 20 attributable to taxes? 21 (Whereupon, Mr. Larry Sherwin entered 22 the deposition room.) 23 Off the top of my head, no. Α. 240. (BY MR. SCHWARZ) Do you know how much 25 is cost of debt?

1	Page 16 A. Off the top of my head, no.
2	Q. And just to be fair, that's not
3	something that you would normally expect to know in
4	
	the regular course of your duties, is that also a
5	fair observation?
6	A. I would agree.
7	Q. Do you know what an infrastructure
8	system replacement wait a minute infrastructure
9	system replacement surcharge is?
10	A. Yes, I do.
11	Q. Would you describe that for me,
12	please?
13	A. ' It's a recently-enacted legislation
14	which now allows us to submit to the Public Service
15	Commission our filing to recover mandated service
16	programs and, and public publicly-required
17	projects in between rate cases for us to receive a
18	rate of return on those.
19	Q. And do you also receive recovered
20	depreciation expense? Let me withdraw the question.
21	Are there other components of the ISRS
22	are there other components of the ISRS besides
23	return on investment?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Do you know how Laclede allocates

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1	common costs in infrastructure replacement or repairs
2	between the cost of removal and the new capital
3	investment? For instance, when Laclede replaces a
4	unit of main, it has to dig a hole, do its business
5	and then fill the hole in.
6	A. Mm-hmm.
7	Q. Do you know how, how the cost of
8	digging and filling the hole is allocated between
9	removing the old pipe and installing the new pipe?
10	A. Familiar with the issue but, no, on a
11	detail level I would refer that to Mr. Sherwin.
12	Q. Has Laclede recognized any removal
13	obligations under SFAS 143?
14	A. We have not. That is we view that
15	as a, basically as a legal issue with terminal, more
16	around terminal rights in termination of the system.
17	And since, as we're an ongoing business, we don't
18	have an intent at this point in time of terminating
19	the system, we believe that issue to be separate and
20	distinct from the depreciation issue, cost of removal
21	that's at hand here.
22	Q. Are you familiar with FERC Order 631?
23	A. Which then gets us to FAS 71?
24	Q. Well, that's one of the places it
25	could lead. But I mean, are you familiar with

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Page 18 1 Order 631? 2 Not in detail. Α. 3 Q. Okay. Do you think Mr. Sherwin --4 Α. (Nonverbal response.) 5 Q. Have you read the Court of Appeals' 6 decision in this case that remanded the case back to 7 the Commission? 8 Α. Only portions. 9 Q. Can you tell me how that opinion 10 reinforces the view that Staff's method is 11 fundamentally flawed? 12 Is there a specific reference from my Α. 13 testimony that you are referring to? 140. No. I mean, on page 4, line 20, you 15 say that the Commission has not yet been able to 16 provide an adequate explanation. 17 The only body that has said that with 18 respect to this remand is the Western District Court 19 of Appeals, and I would -- that's why my question is 20 addressed to, does -- is there a portion of, of that 21 opinion that in your view reinforces the view that 22 Staff's method is fundamentally flawed? 23 Α. Now the testimony that I provided on lines 17 and 18 of page 4 simply is designed to 24 25 indicate that it's my opinion that the Commission,

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Page 19 1 have not seen anything from the Commission to 2 indicate that my opinion that the Staff's method is 3 adequately supported. 4 Are you familiar with the calculation Ο. 5 of depreciation rates that's done in a depreciation 6 study? 7 Α. Very familiar with the calculation of 8 depreciation rates, having been in public accounting 9 practice for 14-some-odd years and the industry 10 finance practice for some 9 years now. 11 Have you reviewed any of the 0. 12 depreciation studies that Mr. Stout has done, for 13 instance, for AmerenUE? 14 For the sole purpose of Ameren? Α. 15 Yeah, I -- yes. In a prior proceeding 0. 16 with AmerenUE he filed a depreciation study. Are you familiar with that? 17 18 Α. I have not reviewed that. 19 Did vou review Mr. White's 0. 20 depreciation study in this case? Strike that. 21 That's misleading. Mr. White didn't file a 22 depreciation. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. 23 MR. SCHWARZ: He filed testimony but 24not a depreciation report. 25 (BY MR. SCHWARZ) Do you know what the 0.

1	Page 20 term Iowa curves refers to?
2	A. I've heard it, but it's not something
3	that I'm intimately familiar with.
4	Q. What's your understanding of a
5	generation of rate payers?
6	A. A generation of rate payers would be a
7	group of our customers that have use of our assets
8	and deliver gas to their home or business. As many
9	of, as many of the assets under use, the mains, for
10	instance, have extremely long lives, they are going
11	to be used by a number of generations of, of
12	customers, many of whose assets are useful lives in
13	the 50-year-plus range.
14	And so you're going to have, you know,
15	if you looked at who lived, for instance, in a
16	residence at a house on a specific street over a
17	period of 50-plus years, there, while you'll find the
18	family that's been there for 50 years on occasion,
19	more than likely you will find that there have been
20	several occupants of that house, so and multi
21	generations of customers.
22	Q. I understand everything that you said
23	but I'm not sure that it actually answered, you know,
24	what, what do you consider a generation? I mean, in
25	the sense of your testimony talks about

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Page 21 1 intergenerational equity, what, what generations are 2 you comparing? 3 Α. What's my definition of 4 intergenerational? 5 0. No. 6 Α. Okay. 7 Well, how do you use -- before you can 0. 8 talk about intergenerational equity you have to have 9 some idea of what a generation is. So, I mean, this 10 generation should bear its cost, the next -- so 11 what's a, a generation? 12 Α. 10 to 20 years. 13 Okay. So it's -- your use of 0. 14 generation is kind of like the term light year. 15 Light year doesn't refer to a measure of time, it's a 16 measure of distance. And so a generation is really a 17 period of years as opposed to any particular 18 characteristic of, of your customer base for that 19 period; is that, is that fair or bizarre? Be it --20 do you understand what I'm driving at? 21 Α. The intergenerational equity is, is 22 really designed such that, under the basic premise 23 that the customer utilizing the asset is the one that -- the customer that's utilizing the asset and 2425 receiving the benefit is also the customer that's

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Page 22 paying for it, which includes, which includes the net 1 2 salvage cost. Thank you. And would you agree that 3 0. 4 then, that there's really a continuum as opposed to 5 distinct generational breaks? Yes, as I illustrated in my previous 6 Α. 7 answer, particularly for the long-lived assets, 8 absolutely. 9 Does Laclede Gas Company do its own Q. 10 financing or does, is, are financings done by the 11 holding company? 12 Α. Generally speaking, the first mortgage 13 bond obligations are done at the Laclede Gas Company level. And the common stock offerings are done at 14 the Laclede group level with the proceeds contributed 15 16 back to the gas company. 17 What about short term debt Q. 18 arrangements? 19 Α. Short term debt arrangements, majority 20 of those are done at the gas company level, a small 21 amount, very small amount at the holding company 22 level. 23 Have you read Mr. Stout's testimony? Ο. 24 Α. The majority of it. 25 Q. Mr. Stout indicates that for property

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1	and service at any particular point in time,
2	eventually the, if the standard method is followed
3	appropriately, that the, eventually the cost in
4	the estimated net salvage costs in any particular
5	year will exceed the net salvage accrual. And as I
6	did with Mr. Baxter, I will show you WMS4-1 just for
7	and I think (Mr. Schwarz hands the witness a
8	document.)
9	(Pause.) Okay. And would you agree
10	at that stage and given the limited hypothetical that
11	it's for a fixed level of plant at that, at the stage
12	when that reverses, the company will have to provide
13	cash from some source other than the net salvage
14	function of depreciation to pay for those costs of
15	removal, will it not?
16	A. Given those qualifications that would
17	be correct.
18	Q. And what will be the source of the
19	cash needed for that? Let me rephrase the question.
20	The source of cash should be someone
21	other than rate payers in rates for net salvage?
22	A. Is your question should we go back to
23	rate payers for the shortfall at this point in time?
24	Q. That's the essence of my question,
25	that's what I'm driving at.
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1	Page 24 A. Okay. And the answer to that is no,
2	that's, that's correct, we should not should not
3	go back at that point in time. That's not
]	
4	contemplated under the standard method.
5	Q. Okay. To do you know if Laclede
6	has in its tariff a policy on line extensions that
7	requires customers to pay for the cost of extending
8	facilities greater than some standard amount?
9	A. I'm sorry, I don't know the answer to
10	that question.
11	Q. I'm sure Mr. Sherwin
12	MR. SCHWARZ: I think that I have
13	completed my questions.
14	Ruth, I think I have finished.
15	MS. O'NEILL (via telephone): Okay.
16	MR. SCHWARZ: Do you have anything?
17	MS. O'NEILL (via telephone): Nah.
18	MR. PENDERGAST: Just a couple, if I
19	could.
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. PENDERGAST:
21	Q. Mr. Cooper, you were asked a number of
22	questions about whether or not implementation of the
23	Staff method over the last several years has had any
24	impact on the company's ability to raise capital. Do
25	you recall those questions?

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1	A. I do. Page 25
2	Q. And can you tell me, is the impact of
3	Staff's method a cumulative impact in terms of its
4	ultimate impact on the company's financial health and
5	ability to attract capital at reasonable prices?
6	A. It is a cumulative impact. The
7	numbers that I referenced earlier, that being the
8	
	approximately seven-million-dollar impact coming out
9	of the 1999 rate case, in other words, had we stuck
10	with the, had been able to retain the standard method
11	we would have received an additional \$7 million of
12	cash flow. That cash flow would have been retained
13	annually thereafter.
14	Q. So, for example, over a seven-year
15	period if you assume all else is equal, what impact
16	would that seven-million-dollar reduction in cash
17	flow have over that seven-year period?
18	A. Well, it would have provided
19	additional cash flow of roughly \$49 million and, all
20	things being equal, would have reduced our required
21	external financings by an equal amount.
22	Q. And is that 49-million-dollar figure
23	you identified roughly equivalent to an entire
24	construction budget for an entire year for Laclede?
25	A. That's approximately equal to our

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1	Page 26 current capital budget, the answer is yes.
2	Q. You indicated that Laclede nonetheless
3	had still been able to raise capital issue equity and
4	that has Laclede since the 1999 rate decision had any
5	adverse developments in its ratings by rating
6	adverse developments in its fatings by fating agencies?
7	
	A. We actually, actually have. We've
8	been downgraded twice in I'm sorry, 2002, rather,
9	we were downgraded, downgraded by Moody's, and in
10	2003 we were downgraded by S & P, both of which
11	result in paying higher rates when you go to the
12	market for financing.
13	Q. And to your knowledge did any of those
14	downgrades have anything to do with Laclede's
15	relative cash flow position?
16	A. Specifically Moody's mentioned the
17	treatment of depreciation as a factor in their
18	downgrade. And there was also a level of the, level
19	of the cash flow discussion of which depreciation is
20	a major component mentioned in the S & P downgrade
21	from 2003.
22	MR. PENDERGAST: That's all I got.
23	Thanks.
24	MR. SCHWARZ: Tom?
25	MR. BYRNE: Nothing, thank you.

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1	Page 27 MR. SCHWARZ: I think we've completed
2	then. Thank you, ma'am oh, maybe not.
3	MR. SCHWARZ: We are done.
4	THE REPORTER: Signature?
5	MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah, please.
6	(Wherein, the taking of the instant
7	deposition ceased.)
8	(Deposition to be read and signed by
9	the witness.)
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Page 28 1 2 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 3 4 5 I, Christine A. Simpson, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and 6 7 for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing 8 9 deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony 10 of said witness was taken by me to the best of my 11 ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under 12 my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related 13 to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action 14 in which this deposition was taken, and further that 15 I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or 16 counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor 17 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action. 18 19 Christine G. Az 20 21 22 Notary Public within and for the State of Missouri 23 24ommission expires March 28, 2008 25

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BARRY COOPER 9/14/2004 Page 30 Missouri 1 STATE OF City CONTRACTOR OF St. Louis 2 3 I, BARRY COOPER, do hereby certify: 4 That I have read the foregoing deposition: 5 That I have made such changes in form and/or 6 substance to the within deposition as might be 7 necessary to render the same true and correct; 8 That having made such changes thereon, I 9 hereby subscribe my name to the deposition. 10 I declare under penalty of perjury that the 11 foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 21 ____ day of September 12 2004, at ST. Louis Missour 13 1415 JOYCE L. JANSEN Notary Public - Notary Seal 16 Notary Public STATE OF MISSOURI ST. CHARLES COUNTY My Commission Expires: July 2, 2005 17 My commission expires: _ 18 19 20 BARRY COOPER 21 22 CAS/BARRY COOPER, 09/14/04 23 RE: Laclede Gas Company/GR-99-315 24 25

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Page 31 1 WITNESS ERRATA SHEET 2 Witness Name: BARRY COOPER Case Name: Laclede Gas Company/GR-99-315 3 Date Taken: 09/14/04 Page # 7 Line # 2 4 Should read: investment in various business ventures. And so it 5 Reason for change: add missing word б 7 Page #_12__ Line #_7___ 8 9 Should read: of depreciation to support those. So we - are cash 10 Reason for change: <u>correct translation error</u> 11 Page #__19 Line #_1___ 12 that I have not seen anything from the Commission 13 Should read: to Reason for change: add missing words 14 15 Page #___9__ Line #_2___ 16 indicate that the Staff's method is 17 Should read: Reason for change: _____ delete superfluous words 18 19 Page # 22 ____ Line # 15 ___ 20 Should read: the Laclede Group level with the proceeds contributed 21 Reason for change: _Capitalize proper noun 22 23 24 25 Witness signature: ____

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