

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Julian J. Harvatin,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2007-0167</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER DIRECTING FILING AND SETTING
PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Issue Date: December 15, 2006

Effective Date: December 15, 2006

On October 26, 2006, Julian Harvatin filed a formal complaint against Laclede Gas Company alleging an overcharge for his natural gas service. On December 4, 2006, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a report indicating that Staff believes Laclede billed Mr. Harvatin appropriately without any violation of Commission rules or the applicable tariff. Laclede also filed an answer to the complaint attempting to explain the method used for calculating Mr. Harvatin's bill.

On December 11, 2006, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a response stating that it believed Staff's response and Laclede's answer lacked sufficient information to explain the charges in full. Specifically, Public Counsel requests that the Commission direct Staff and Laclede to "explain the method by which Laclede determined the amount of usage for the twelve (12) month [undercharge] period." In addition, Public Counsel requests that the order require the company to explain when it last obtained an actual

reading on Mr. Harvatin's meter prior to the reconciling bill, and for Staff and Laclede to explain the discrepancy in the Staff's statement that the "catch-up bill" was for the period of March 15, 2005 to March 15, 2006, while Laclede's answer states that the billing goes back twelve months from the date of discovery of the undercharge.

The Commission finds Public Counsel's request to be reasonable. Therefore, the Commission shall direct Staff and Laclede to provide a detailed explanation of how the bill adjustment was calculated. In addition, since there appear to be facts in dispute, the Commission will set this matter for a prehearing conference. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss possible settlement of the issues and, if not resolved, to set out a procedural schedule for a formal hearing on this matter. The parties will be allowed to appear by telephone at the conference.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. No later than December 29, 2006, Laclede Gas Company and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file a clarifying pleading fully explaining how the bill adjustment was calculated, as set out above.

2. The parties shall meet for a prehearing conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. on January 5, 2007. The prehearing conference will be held at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Room 305, Jefferson City, Missouri. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone needing additional accommodations to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

3. Any party wishing to appear at the prehearing conference by telephone shall notify the Regulatory Law Judge no later than January 3, 2007, by calling 573-751-4393 and giving the Judge a phone number at which that party may be reached at the time of the conference.

4. This order shall become effective on December 15, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 15th day of December, 2006.