

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

Staff of the Public Service Commission of Missouri,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b><u>Case No. GC-2006-0318</u></b>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

The Office of the Public Counsel,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b><u>Case No. GC-2006-0431</u></b>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER CONSOLIDATING CASES**

Issue Date: May 25, 2006

Effective Date: May 25, 2006

Case Number GC-2006-0318 concerns Staff's complaint against Laclede Gas Company, alleging, in part, that Laclede has violated Commission rules regarding the issuance of estimated bills to customers. A procedural schedule has been established for that complaint, leading to a hearing beginning on September 18, 2006. On May 11, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a new complaint against Laclede. That complaint was assigned Case Number GC-2006-0431. Public Counsel's complaint arises from Staff's complaint, and alleges that Laclede has violated additional regulatory provisions regarding

the issuance of estimated bills. Because its complaint is interrelated with Staff's complaint, Public Counsel requests that the two complaints be consolidated.

On May 15, the Commission issued an order in both cases directing that any party that wished to respond to Public Counsel's motion to consolidate do so no later than May 22. That deadline was subsequently extended to May 24. Laclede filed a response on May 22, indicating that it does not oppose the motion to consolidate. However, Laclede asks that it be allowed to file its answer or other responsive pleading to Public Counsel's complaint by June 11, as previously permitted in that case. Staff filed a response on May 24, indicating that it does not oppose the proposed consolidation.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.110(3) allows the Commission to consolidate pending actions involving related questions of law or fact. The issues in these cases are related and consolidation is appropriate. Case Number GC-2006-0318 will be designated as the lead case and hereafter all pleadings filed in the consolidated case will be filed in GC-2006-0318.

Laclede will be allowed until June 11 to file its answer or other response to Public Counsel's complaint as previously permitted in Case Number GC-2006-0431. The Commission also notes that the procedural schedule established for GC-2006-0318 requires the parties to file direct testimony by June 1. If the parties find that they need to file additional direct testimony concerning the issues raised by Public Counsel in GC-2006-0431, they may file an appropriate motion to amend the procedural schedule.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Case Numbers GC-2006-0318 and GC-2006-0431 are consolidated. GC-2006-0318 is designated as the lead case.

2. This order shall become effective on May 25, 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 )

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 25th day of May, 2006.