

**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.	)	

**ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION TO INTERVENE**

Issue Date: March 1, 2006

Effective Date: March 1, 2006

On February 10, 2006, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied-Industrial and Service Workers International Union, Local No. 11-6, filed an application to intervene in Staff's complaint against Laclede Gas Company. Laclede filed a pleading on February 21 opposing Local 11-6's request to intervene.

Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4) provides that the Commission may grant an application to intervene if the proposed intervenor has an interest that is different than that of the general public, and that interest may be adversely affected by the Commission's final order. The rule also provides that the Commission may allow the intervention if doing so would serve the public interest.

Local 11-6 contends that its interests differ from that of the general public because its members are particularly concerned with their own safety as providers of natural gas service to the public. Local 11-6 also indicates that it is concerned about the possible

impact on the jobs of its members resulting from any relief granted as a result of this complaint.

Laclede's response to Local 11-6's application to intervene challenges the union's claim to have an interest different than that of the general public. Laclede contends that Local 11-6 is merely seeking to intervene in Commission cases solely to harass the company for the purpose of gaining leverage in collective bargaining.

In considering Local 11-6's application to intervene, the Commission notes that Staff's complaint against Laclede contains two counts. The first count alleges that Laclede has failed to properly notify its customers about their rights concerning issuance of bills based on estimated rather than actual meter readings. The second count alleges that Laclede has not acted quickly enough to investigate situations where Laclede has shut off service to a location but gas usage has continued to register on the meter.

The union representing Laclede's employees, including those employees that read meters for the company, has an interest in the meter reading activities of the company that is different than that of the general public. Certainly it also has an interest in the safety of its members who may have to investigate the flow of gas into an unknown situation after service to a location has been disconnected. Therefore, the Commission concludes that Local 11-6 has an interest in this complaint that is different than that of the general public, and that further, the union's interest may be adversely affected by the Commission's final order in this case. In addition, Local 11-6's application to intervene is appropriate because the union's inclusion may allow the Commission to benefit from the expertise of its members, thus serving the public interest.

In accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(4), the Commission will grant Local 11-6's application to intervene.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Application to Intervene of United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied-Industrial and Service Workers International Union, Local No. 11-6 is granted.
2. This order shall become effective on March 1, 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 L. Woodruff, Deputy Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 1st day of March, 2006.