

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 12th day of
April, 2016.

Beatrice OKorie,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	<u>File No. GC-2016-0167</u>
)	
Missouri Gas Energy (Laclede),)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Issue Date: April 12, 2016

Effective Date: May 12, 2016

Ms. OKorie filed a complaint with the Missouri Public Service Commission against Missouri Gas Energy ("MGE") expressing dissatisfaction with the billing. MGE filed *Missouri Gas Energy's Conditional Answer and Motion for a More Definite Statement*. On February 9, 2016, Ms. OKorie filed additional information stating that she decided to move. However, Ms. OKorie did not provide any further contact information. The Staff of the Commission filed *Staff's Report and Recommendation* stating that its attempts to contact Ms. OKorie were unsuccessful.¹

On March 21, the Commission issued an order setting a prehearing conference for April 6 and directed all parties to participate, either in-person or telephonically. The order

¹ EFIS Item No. 9; *Staff Report and Recommendation*, ¶ 5. Staff requested an email address or phone number where Ms. OKorie could be reached and sent the request via certified mail. No response was received.

was mailed to the address on record for Ms. OKorie. A toll-free number was provided for the prehearing conference. Ms. OKorie did not attend the prehearing conference, nor did she inform counsel for Staff or MGE that she would be unable to participate at the appointed time.²

The Commission's regulations provide:

A party may be dismissed from a case for failure to comply with any order issued by the commission.³

Because Ms. OKorie did not comply with the Commission's order to appear at the prehearing conference, the Commission will dismiss the complaint without prejudice. Since this complaint is not being dismissed on the merits of the complaint, but rather on procedural grounds, Ms. OKoire may refile the complaint; in which case, it will be assigned a different case number.

Therefore, the Commission will dismiss the complaint without prejudice.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. This complaint is dismissed without prejudice.
2. The Commission's data center shall mail a copy of this order to Complainant.
3. This order shall become effective on May 12, 2016.

² Counsel for MGE attended the pre-hearing conference telephonically. Counsel for Staff appeared in-person. The law judge waited thirty minutes before concluding the hearing in order to provide sufficient time for Ms. OKorie to call.

³ 4 CSR 240-2.116(3).

4. This file shall be closed on May 13, 2016.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, and Rupp, CC., concur;
Coleman, C., absent

Burton, Senior Regulatory Law Judge.