

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

William Rapp,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<u>Case No. GC-2007-0164</u>
	)	
Laclede Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

ORDER DIRECTING FILING

Issue Date: February 22, 2007

Effective Date: February 22, 2007

William Rapp filed a formal complaint against Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede”) on October 24, 2006. On October 25, 2006, the Commission notified Laclede of the complaint and allowed it thirty days in which to answer as provided by 4 CSR 240-2.070(7). Laclede filed its answer to Mr. Rapp’s complaint on November 24, 2006, and also moved, in the same pleading, for dismissal of the complaint on the ground that Mr. Rapp had already received all of the requested relief to which he is entitled.

On November 28, 2006, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(10), the Commission ordered its Staff to commence an investigation of Mr. Rapp’s formal complaint against Laclede and file a report concerning the results of its investigation on or before January 31, 2007. After Staff performed an investigation, it filed its report on January 30, 2007, in which it recommended that Mr. Rapp’s complaint be dismissed since: (1) Mr. Rapp had already received some of the relief he requested in his complaint; (2) some

of the relief requested by Mr. Rapp was beyond the Commission's power to grant; and (3) Laclede did not violate applicable Commission Rules or its approved tariff in making appropriate billing adjustments to Mr. Rapp's account, including a refund. Nevertheless, Staff also recommended, on the basis of its investigation, that the Commission "direct Laclede to act more promptly on bill adjustments and refunds." Laclede subsequently filed its response to Staff's recommendation on February 2, 2007.

On February 14, 2007, the Commission received for filing a pleading entitled "William Rapp's Response to Laclede Gas Company's Retort to PSC Staff Recommendation Reply." That pleading was signed by a Ronald W. Rapp, who is identified only as an "Attorney."¹ Two days later, Laclede filed a Motion to Reject Filing, in which Laclede requested that the pleading filed by Attorney Rapp on behalf of Complainant Rapp be rejected and that Attorney Rapp be ordered to comply with all applicable Commission Rules governing the practice of law as an attorney before the Commission, including 4 CSR 240-2.040 and 4 CSR 240-2.080.

Because the pleading submitted for filing by Attorney Rapp on February 14, 2007 is clearly deficient in its current form, it will be rejected unless he promptly files a proper entry of appearance on behalf of Complainant Rapp and identifies himself, in an appropriate pleading or pleadings, as a licensed attorney at law who is authorized to practice law as an attorney before the Commission in accordance with all applicable Commission and

¹ The pleading does not describe the relationship between William R. Rapp ("Complainant Rapp") and Ronald W. Rapp ("Attorney Rapp"). Attorney Rapp did not file an entry of appearance and provided neither his state bar number nor his contact information.

Missouri Supreme Court Rules, including 4 CSR 240-2.040, 4 CSR 240-2.080, Rule 6.01(m), and Rule 9.03.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Ronald W. Rapp shall, by no later than March 5, 2007, file a proper entry of appearance on behalf of William R. Rapp and identify himself, in an appropriate pleading or pleadings, as a licensed attorney at law who is authorized to practice law as an attorney before the Commission in accordance with all applicable Commission and Missouri Supreme Court Rules, including 4 CSR 240-2.040, 4 CSR 240-2.080, Rule 6.01(m), and Rule 9.03.

2. This order shall become effective on February 22, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

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

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Benjamin H. Lane, Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
under Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 22nd day of February, 2007.