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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

September 6, 2007
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

Susan Smith,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) Case No. GC-2007-0469
)
Laclede Gas Company,)
)
Respondent.)

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:
PAMELA FICK, RMR, RPR, CCR #447, CSR
MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

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APPEARANCES:

RICK ZUCKER, Assistant General Counsel
720 Olive Street, Room 1520
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

FOR: Laclede Gas Company.

SUSAN SMITH, Pro Se
4056 Taft,
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FOR: Herself.

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FOR: Office of the Public Counsel
and the Public.

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FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public
Service Commission.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Good
3 morning. We're on the record. This is the
4 prehearing conference in Case Number GC-2007-0469,
5 Susan Smith versus Laclede Gas Company. I'm Ron
6 Pridgin. I'm the regulatory law judge assigned to
7 preside over this prehearing conference that's being
8 held beginning approximately 10:05 in the morning on
9 September 6th, 2007.

10 We are in the Governor Office Building
11 in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Ms. Smith and
12 Mr. Zucker from Laclede Gas Company are joining us
13 via telephone.

14 I would like to get entries of
15 appearance from counsel, please, beginning with
16 Staff.

17 MS. KLIETHERMES: Sarah Kliethermes for
18 the Staff. Governor's Office Building, P.O. Box 360,
19 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Kliethermes, thank
21 you.

22 For the Office of the Public Counsel,
23 please.

24 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston appearing for
25 the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230,

1 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you.
3 On behalf of Laclede Gas Company.

4 MR. ZUCKER: This is Rick Zucker
5 representing Laclede Gas Company, 720 Olive Street,
6 St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Zucker, thank you.
8 And Ms. Smith, would you enter your
9 appearance, please.

10 MS. SMITH: Susan Smith, 4056 Taft,
11 St. Louis, Missouri 6310 -- 16.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Smith,
13 thank you. I'm unaware of any other parties to this
14 case. Is there anybody else wishing to enter an
15 appearance?

16 (NO RESPONSE.)

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Hearing
18 none, I don't see any pending motions or anything
19 that needs my attention. Is there anything that the
20 parties have for me?

21 MS. SMITH: No.

22 MR. ZUCKER: Not from me.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.
24 Just real briefly, Ms. Smith, a couple of questions.
25 Did I understand your complaint is that Laclede Gas

1 has over-billed you from January to March of this
2 year?

3 MS. SMITH: Yes.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Do you know about
5 how much you've been over-billed?

6 MS. SMITH: Well, at least \$280 when I
7 had no gas.

8 THE COURT: So you've been over-billed
9 at least \$280?

10 MS. SMITH: Yes.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And the reason I'm
12 asking is -- or one of the reasons is if this case
13 goes to hearing, that's something that the
14 commissioners would ask you.

15 They would, I'm sure at some point, say
16 how much have you been over-billed and try to narrow
17 this down to a dollar amount, and so the parties kind
18 of have an idea of what the dispute is and so the
19 Commission would know.

20 And if this goes to hearing, you would
21 need to be prepared to put on evidence that you were
22 over-billed that amount just to kind of let you know
23 kind of a framework of how this might proceed if this
24 goes to hearing.

25 MS. SMITH: Okay.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. And I think after
2 going through the complaint and the answer and
3 Staff's report, I have a pretty good handle on the
4 parties' positions.

5 Is there anything else from counsel
6 before I adjourn the on-the-record portion of the
7 prehearing conference?

8 (NO RESPONSE.)

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. I'm hearing
10 nothing. What I will do, then, is go off the record
11 and I will not disconnect the call, you'll be free to
12 talk. This port is open until noon. You have access
13 to this room the rest of the day.

14 I'm up on the ninth floor. If anybody
15 has any questions or needs to look at a hearing
16 calendar, I should be available.

17 Anything further from the parties before
18 we go off the record?

19 MS. SMITH: No, sir.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right.

21 MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Very good.
23 Hearing nothing further, we will go off the record.
24 This concludes the on-the-record portion of the
25 prehearing conference in Case Number GC-2007-0649.

1 Thank you. We are off the record.

2 (WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the
3 prehearing conference was concluded.)

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