

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

**In the Matter of Laclede Gas
Company's Tariff to Revise Natural
Gas Rate Schedules.**

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Case No. GR-2002-356

FILED²
AUG 28 2002
**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

**LACLEDE GAS COMPANY'S GROUNDS
FOR DESIGNATING TESTIMONY AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

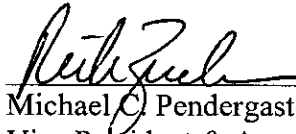
COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), and for its
Grounds for Designating Testimony as Highly Confidential, states as follows:

1. On March 19, 2002, the Commission issued its Order Concerning Test Year and True-Up, Granting Intervention, and Adopting Procedural Schedule and Protective Order in the above referenced case.
2. Paragraph I of the Protective Order provides for parties who assert protection claims on pre-filed testimony to file with the Commission the grounds for such claim.
3. On August 23, 2002, Laclede filed the surrebuttal testimony of witness Steven F. Mathews. Such testimony included information designated as "Highly Confidential" pursuant to the Protective Order.
4. Laclede designated as Highly Confidential portions of pages 2 and 3 of Mr. Mathews' surrebuttal testimony, along with the entire Schedule SFM-1 attached thereto. The information designated concerned strategies employed, to be employed, or under consideration in contract negotiations, as set forth in paragraph A(5) of the Protective Order. The designated portions concerned specific information on Laclede's Risk Management Strategy for gas purchasing. Disclosure of this information could

harm Laclede's position in the marketplace and adversely affect the Company's ability to implement its hedging strategy on the best available terms. This result would be detrimental to both the Company and its customers.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the Protective Order in this case, Laclede files these grounds for designating highly confidential information.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all counsel of record in this case on this 28th day of August, 2002 by hand-delivery or by placing a copy of such document, postage prepaid, in the United States mail.

