

customer that the meter was in proper working order and that a water leak was the source of her problem.

3. Laclede accepts the customer's allegation that she repaired the plumbing sometime after Laclede's high-bill investigation, but Laclede denies that the customer continued to receive high use bills after the investigation. Specifically, the customer experienced the following usage during the seven month period between November and June:

November to June	Usage in CCF
2004-05	943
2005-06	1237
September 19, 2006	Laclede identifies water leak as source of high gas bills.
2006-07	823

4. Laclede is without information or belief to respond to the customer's allegations as to her age, marital status, or race. Laclede admits that the customer's current balance is \$2136.40. Laclede admits that it encouraged the customer to seek assistance from community action agencies or other charitable organizations. Laclede is without information or belief regarding the substance of the customer's discussions with these organizations.

5. Ms. Hickerson has regularly entered into Cold Weather Rule arrangements, but has not kept up with the payment schedules in the recent past. It is possible that she could benefit from participation in Laclede's Low-Income Program.

6. Laclede denies each and every allegation in the complaint not admitted herein.

WHEREFORE, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission accept Laclede's Answer and find that the Company has violated no laws, or rules, decisions, or orders of the Commission in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rick Zucker

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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer was served on the Complainant, the General Counsel of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel on this 5th day of July, 2007 by United States mail, hand-delivery, email, or facsimile.

/s/ Gerry Lynch