

**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.            )

**Case No. GR-2002-356**  
**Tariff No. JG-2003-0902**

**CONCURRENCE OF COMMISSIONER SHEILA LUMPE**

Although I have some disagreement with the result reached by the Commission in this case, I write to explain why I nonetheless voted for it. Faced with two Commissioners opposed to Laclede, two in favor of Laclede and one undecided, I voted to avoid the impasse of Commission non-action, which in this case would have allowed Laclede's proposed tariffs to become effective by operation of law, thereby imposing an even steeper rate increase upon Laclede's residential ratepayers.

I am unable to totally support Laclede in this case because I am concerned about the last-minute, unannounced and unexplained adjustment made by Laclede to the November therms per customer usage figure. I do not accept Patricia Krieger's testimony that she was not aware that the adjustment she made resulted in almost a million dollars of additional revenue to Laclede. I do not believe that Krieger made the adjustment in question without knowledge of its effect. That she may have done so in a sincere belief that Laclede would otherwise experience an under-recovery of that amount in the November billing cycle does not, and cannot, excuse the underhanded manner in which the adjustment was made.

I am also unconvinced that the new weather mitigation rate design will result in any benefit to Laclede's residential ratepayers. According to testimony, the

ratepayers may only experience a slight benefit from the new weather mitigation rate design. I understand that it will benefit Laclede. In Laclede's next rate case, I would hope that detailed information be provided regarding the actual experience of residential customers with the new rate design.

11/14/02  
Date

Sheila Lumpe  
Commissioner Sheila Lumpe