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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

May 10, 2002  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Volume 1

In the Matter of Laclede Gas    )  
Company's Tariff to Revise        ) Case No. GR-2002-356  
Natural Gas Rate Schedules.       ) Tariff No. 200200602

KEVIN A. THOMPSON, Presiding,  
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

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11  
12 FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service  
Commission.

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

2 (Written Entries of Appearance filed.)

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good morning. My name is  
4 Kevin Thompson. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge assigned  
5 to preside over this matter, which is in the matter of  
6 Laclede Gas Company's Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate  
7 Schedules. Case No. GR-2002-356.

8 We'll go ahead and take oral entries of  
9 appearance at this time beginning with Laclede.

10 MR. ZUCKER: Rick Zucker, Z-U-C-K-E-R, Laclede  
11 Gas Company, 720 Olive Street, Suite 1524, St. Louis,  
12 Missouri 63101.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.  
14 Staff?

15 MS. SHEMWELL: Lera Shemwell, representing the  
16 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post  
17 Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

19 MS. SHEMWELL: Uh-huh.

20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Office of the Public Counsel?

21 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel, appearing on  
22 behalf of the Office of Public Counsel and the Public,  
23 P. O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-7800.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

25 I received several phone calls and one or

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1 two faxes from counsel for various other parties who  
2 begged to be excused from the prehearing conference  
3 today, pointing out that they did not care when or even  
4 if local public hearings were held and that they didn't  
5 feel their presence would be required. Let the record  
6 reflect that they are all excused.

7 The one issue we have to take up today is the  
8 scheduling of local public hearings. There was a joint  
9 recommendation filed April 24th, which suggested  
10 hearings the week of July 22nd. Unfortunately that  
11 week is a very busy one for the Commissioners.

12 And I would suggest, consequently, that local  
13 public hearings be held the week of August 12th.  
14 That's two weeks prior to the evidentiary hearing in  
15 this case. The transcripts can be expedited if it's  
16 desired to have them available prior to the evidentiary  
17 hearing.

18 That is a week when the Commissioners have  
19 nothing scheduled, and so would be much easier for them  
20 to be make themselves available for the local public  
21 hearings.

22 Mr. Micheel, does that look like it'll work  
23 for you guys?

24 MR. MICHEEL: I -- I think it'll work for us,  
25 Your Honor. I guess the only complication is that -- I

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1     guess that complication fit in with the week of  
2     July 22nd is occasionally at prehearing conferences,  
3     the parties are able to settle and compromise some  
4     differences.

5             And I'm very reticent to settle and compromise  
6     differences from what I've heard from the Public,  
7     because sometimes at the public hearings they do raise  
8     some issues that need to be addressed.

9             JUDGE THOMPSON:   Okay.

10            MR. MICHEEL:   Okay.   But I guess in looking at  
11     the -- the schedule, I -- I believe the -- the  
12     prehearing conference was prior to the July 22nd also.

13            JUDGE THOMPSON:   That is true.

14            MR. MICHEEL:   So --

15            JUDGE THOMPSON:   The prehearing conference is  
16     the week of July 8th.

17            MR. MICHEEL:   So --

18            JUDGE THOMPSON:   Is it too late to set local  
19     public hearings for June?

20            MR. MICHEEL:   Yes.

21            JUDGE THOMPSON:   Would require a separate  
22     mailing at this point; is that correct?

23            MR. ZUCKER:   Yes, definitely.

24            JUDGE THOMPSON:   And the costs in the hundreds  
25     of thousands of dollars?

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1 MR. ZUCKER: Oh, hundreds -- oh, six figures.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Six figures.

3 Well, that's a lot of money to pay just to  
4 move the local public hearing.

5 MR. MICHEEL: Well, flat out -- in general,  
6 that -- that week would be fine --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

8 MR. MICHEEL: -- with the Office of the Public  
9 Counsel.

10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well -- well, I apologize  
11 that -- and -- and for future rate cases we'll make a  
12 point of arranging for the local public hearings to be  
13 held prior to the late prehearing conference, because I  
14 certainly do understand your point of view and the  
15 importance of getting public comment before you begin  
16 compromising issues.

17 I was not aware of that really prior to your  
18 pointing it out, and I thank you for that.

19 Sir?

20 MR. ZUCKER: Could I address the -- the week  
21 of August 12th?

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: You may.

23 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. That week is -- is great  
24 as far as I'm concerned. One issue, though, in terms  
25 of the timing.

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1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

2 MR. ZUCKER: We would -- what we would do is  
3 we would put the notice in our July bill.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

5 MR. ZUCKER: Our July bill is one of the  
6 months that we do an envelope billing.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

8 MR. ZUCKER: And we put in the bill safety  
9 notices and things like that. And we would also put in  
10 a separate page that would cover the prehearing  
11 conference. The July billing cycle starts July 8th and  
12 ends August 7th.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

14 MR. ZUCKER: So --

15 JUDGE THOMPSON: So what you're saying is some  
16 people wouldn't get notice until the week -- just the  
17 week prior to the local --

18 MR. ZUCKER: Right.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- public hearing?

20 MR. ZUCKER: And if we could -- if -- if --  
21 if -- I -- I -- I don't think there's anything wrong  
22 that and -- and, you know Doug -- Doug and Lera could  
23 address that also.

24 But if -- if there's a necessity to, we could  
25 adjust the order to -- to allow a shorter notice --

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1 MS. SHEMWELL: The order.

2 MR. ZUCKER: -- or move it back in the week of

3 August 12th. Obviously Friday -- Friday that week is

4 August 16th.

5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

6 MR. ZUCKER: People on the August 7th bill,

7 then, would get --

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Would have a week's notice.

9 MR. ZUCKER: Right.

10 MS. SHEMWELL: I think Friday would be a poor

11 choice personally, because I -- I think people are not

12 thinking, especially for an evening meeting -- going to

13 an evening meeting on Friday night, but --

14 MR. ZUCKER: That's a good point.

15 MS. SHEMWELL: I -- I'm not --

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Probably Wednesday or

17 Thursday would be my thought.

18 MS. SHEMWELL: Yeah. And -- well, the order

19 says 10 to 45 days' notice.

20 JUDGE THOMPSON: We'd waive that.

21 MS. SHEMWELL: I generally think a week

22 would --

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: I mean, if I was a rate

24 payer, I would -- I would certainly want notice,

25 obviously, but I would also want to avoid a six-figure

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1 unnecessary cost --

2 MS. SHEMWELL: Absolutely.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- in order to provide that  
4 notice in a -- in a special way or -- or outside of the  
5 billing cycle.

6 We will also be directing the public  
7 information officer to pass notice on to the media in  
8 the St. Louis area in the service area, so there will  
9 also be, I hope, some newspaper or perhaps some other  
10 media references to the upcoming meetings.

11 MR. MICHEEL: We have no opposition in this  
12 case to lessening the 10 days, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

14 MR. MICHEEL: That's -- that's order  
15 paragraph 13 of your suspension order.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: We will go ahead -- we'll be  
17 doing an order scheduling local public hearings that  
18 would come out next week -- early next week. And in  
19 there we will waive the minimum 10-day requirement. We  
20 are grateful to the Public Counsel for pointing out  
21 that he has no objection to that.

22 The next question has to do with venues for  
23 the local public hearings. I believe we want to have  
24 at least -- have one in the City of St. Louis and we  
25 want to have one in the county.

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1 Kevin Kelly, the public information officer,  
2 suggested that perhaps one in St. Charles would be  
3 useful as well.

4 What do you all think about that?

5 MS. SHEMWELL: Are you wanting to hold three?

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, I think that's what  
7 Mr. Kelly was -- was contemplating.

8 MR. MICHEEL: I certainly don't -- don't  
9 oppose that. And that would give the customers of  
10 St. Louis, you know, a further out -- an opportunity to  
11 comment also if they so desire, Your Honor.

12 That certainly doesn't trouble me. I am  
13 adamant about seeing one in the City of St. Louis. As  
14 you know, the last -- or maybe you do not know. In the  
15 last rate case we did not have one in the City of  
16 St. Louis and it hurt a number of elected officials. I  
17 believe they did a resolution urging the Commission to  
18 hold one in the City of St. Louis and they also copied  
19 me in on it.

20 And so I've heard an expression from -- from  
21 people in the city who have a public hearing in the  
22 city.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, we certainly intend to  
24 have one in the city during the course of this case and  
25 we will take care of that.

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1           It's my intention at this time to go ahead and  
2   schedule three then.   Probably two on Wednesday, one on  
3   Thursday or -- Thursday is the agenda day, so that'd  
4   probably be the day for just one.   So we're looking at  
5   probably afternoon and evening of the 14th and then the  
6   evening of the 15th, would be my guess.

7           We will set up in the order -- we'll provide  
8   the standard half hour in advance for the public  
9   information officer to make a presentation.   I think  
10   that's been the Commission's practice for the last  
11   several rate cases.

12           Most likely start the hearing at 6, have the  
13   public information presentation 5:30; is that  
14   acceptable?

15           MR. MICHEEL:   With respect to the ones that  
16   are going to be out in the county, I would recommend  
17   that they start a little bit later.   Because if people  
18   are working in the city or have to travel to those  
19   local public hearings, that's rush hour in St. Louis  
20   and I don't know if the Judge is familiar with that.  
21   You can get caught up in traffic.

22           JUDGE THOMPSON:   Okay.

23           MR. MICHEEL:   And -- and a lot of people  
24   aren't gonna want to just fight through traffic to get  
25   to the local public hearings and that is a -- a

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1 complaint that I have heard.

2 I -- I agree --

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Seven o'clock?

4 MR. MICHEEL: I -- I don't want it -- I don't  
5 want it to be too late in the night, but --

6 MS. SHEMWELL: Would 6:30 be better?

7 MR. MICHEEL: Well, 6:30 perhaps to begin the  
8 presentation by -- by the public information officer,  
9 and then the hearings to start at 7. I think that  
10 would give individuals a little more time to get home  
11 from work or -- either travel from work to the  
12 destination.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. That's fine.

14 One of them we'll have to do, I think, over  
15 the lunch hour. And my thought is we would probably do  
16 St. Louis County at the Commission's Chesterfield  
17 office over the lunch hour, proceeding to St. Louis  
18 City for the evening hearing -- I'm talking about  
19 Wednesday.

20 And then on Thursday a St. Charles hearing to  
21 begin at seven o'clock somewhere in St. Charles County.

22 MR. ZUCKER: Let -- let -- let me just suggest  
23 for your consideration -- I'm just throwing this out.  
24 You -- you could maybe make it more concise if you did  
25 an evening -- Wednesday evening, then Thursday

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1     afternoon, Thursday evening.

2             That way you'd have them all done within  
3     a 24-hour stretch. I don't know if that's better for,  
4     you know, the Public and the Staff who have to -- you  
5     know, people who have to go from Jefferson City to  
6     attend this or not.

7             MS. SHEMWELL: That's a good point on the day  
8     you have an agenda.

9             JUDGE THOMPSON: That's the problem is the --

10            MR. ZUCKER: Oh, okay.

11            JUDGE THOMPSON: Tuesday is an agenda --

12            MR. ZUCKER: I see.

13            JUDGE THOMPSON: -- because we want at least  
14     one -- as many Commissioners as are willing to come to  
15     these so they can hear what the Public has to say.

16            MR. ZUCKER: I see. So you want to leave  
17     Thursday day open?

18            JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah.

19            MR. ZUCKER: Got you.

20            JUDGE THOMPSON: So, unfortunately, Thursday  
21     is not going to work on the -- on agenda.

22            MS. SHEMWELL: Although it was a very good  
23     thought.

24            Well, do you want to do Tuesday night and  
25     Wednesday with that thought in mind?

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1 JUDGE THOMPSON: We could do that. Sure.

2 MS. SHEMWELL: Doug.

3 MR. MICHEEL: I -- I --

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: That gives us less than a

5 week's notice, again, for the people who are receiving

6 their billing at the very end of that cycle.

7 MS. SHEMWELL: Hopefully they'll be hearing

8 something, though, on the media or -- it's hard to say.

9 People who get 45 days' notice may forget about it,

10 too, so it's hard to say.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, that's true.

12 MS. SHEMWELL: Sometimes -- and if there's

13 more media notice. So it just depends on the people.

14 Is it 1 -- I guess it's 1/30th of the -- of the Laclede

15 customers who would have less than a week's notice, so

16 it's a --

17 MR. MICHEEL: I -- I -- I -- it's probably

18 less than 1/30th, because of the --

19 MS. SHEMWELL: 1/30th.

20 MR. ZUCKER: And you're at 20 --

21 MS. SHEMWELL: 1/30th.

22 MR. MICHEEL: I'm sorry.

23 MS. SHEMWELL: So 1/15th. And then -- okay.

24 MR. ZUCKER: Well, there are 21 billing

25 cycles.

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1 MS. SHEMWELL: Okay.

2 MR. ZUCKER: So, you know, it may be the last  
3 one -- it's the last -- so it's 1/21st --

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

5 MR. ZUCKER: -- would get notice on that -- of  
6 that setting.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's a pretty small group.

8 MR. MICHEEL: I mean, I -- you know, for  
9 purposes of accommodating everyone, that -- that  
10 doesn't trouble me. I guess it does make a little more  
11 sense in terms of use of time to do one on Tuesday  
12 night and then Wednesday afternoon and then Wednesday  
13 night.

14 But certainly we're available if the -- if the  
15 Commission desires to do Wednesday/Thursday also.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. I guess we'll look at  
17 the Tuesday/Wednesday scheduling then. And now, does  
18 anyone have suggestions for locations?

19 (No response.)

20 JUDGE THOMPSON: We've -- we've gone both  
21 directions in the past. Sometimes the parties will  
22 propose a location. In fact, I've -- I've had cases  
23 where parties have gone so far as to actually make the  
24 formal arrangement and all we have to do is show up.

25 And we've done it the other way where the

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1 Commission searches for a location and makes the  
2 arrangements. So do you have any --

3 MR. MICHEEL: I've only -- I've only done it  
4 when the Commission has determined the locations. And  
5 I would just suggest that there'll be some available  
6 public parking, if possible. That for the night ones,  
7 the area be well lit, if possible. And that it be, you  
8 know, easily accessible to folks.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

10 MR. MICHEEL: And to be at a fairly prominent  
11 place. I don't know if you can use high school  
12 gymnasiums or something that -- that people are -- are  
13 fairly familiar with.

14 MS. SHEMWELL: Someone else had suggested the  
15 possibility of Washington University. The  
16 UMSL location received a lot of negative comment,  
17 because it, I suppose, substituted for the city one.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

19 MS. SHEMWELL: And it's quite north, I  
20 understand.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

22 MS. SHEMWELL: I don't know St. Louis that  
23 well.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: I was thinking about maybe  
25 the City Hall. I know we've used City Hall in St. Joe

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1 and we've had a lot of meetings. It's the size of this  
2 room and it --

3 MS. SHEMWELL: Clayton has a -- what's the  
4 Clayton location?

5 MR. MICHEEL: Well, that's the county  
6 building where we --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah.

8 MR. MICHEEL: -- usually do it in the county  
9 in Clayton -- in the county building. City hall  
10 would -- obviously, that's a landmark that most --

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, it's central in  
12 St. Louis City.

13 MR. MICHEEL: -- people should know, and I'm  
14 sure it's probably well lit. And -- I mean, one thing  
15 if -- if at night, I'm sensitive to this, you know, the  
16 safety concerns for customers coming out.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: We may make a request to the  
18 police department to let them know that it's gonna be  
19 held and suggest that they might want to have someone  
20 there.

21 MS. SHEMWELL: You might wish to check to see,  
22 too, if there's a ball game that week right downtown.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, that's a good idea.

24 MR. ZUCKER: I'll tell you that.

25 MR. MICHEEL: Now, there's a good Cardinal

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1 fan.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: See, now, the more we get  
3 into this, the more I think that we really just need  
4 somebody on Staff to make all these arrangements.

5 MS. SHEMWELL: Actually this has always  
6 been --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: I meant in the communication  
8 division. I wasn't trying to pawn this off on you.

9 MR. MICHEEL: Well, what's it pay? I might  
10 want that job.

11 MR. ZUCKER: As long as we don't hold them in  
12 Pittsburg, we'll be all right.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: The Staff can -- so for the  
14 county, the city county building.

15 MR. MICHEEL: That's where we've done it --

16 MS. SHEMWELL: City -- City Hall.

17 MR. MICHEEL: -- in -- in other times is the  
18 city county building in Clayton.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: In Clayton, rather than the  
20 Commission's Chesterfield office?

21 MR. MICHEEL: Yes.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

23 MR. MICHEEL: But, you know, the Chesterfield  
24 is fairly easy to find. It's a little tricky with  
25 the -- the on and off roads there.

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1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

2 And then St. Louis City, I'll have them check  
3 into the possibility of City Hall. And anybody have  
4 any suggestions for St. Charles?

5 MS. SHEMWELL: There's a City Hall that's just  
6 north of Mid Rivers Mall. Kevin Kelly --

7 MR. ZUCKER: St. -- St. Peters?

8 MS. SHEMWELL: It may be St. Peters City Hall.  
9 It is a very nice building with lots of well-lit  
10 parking, and, I think, pretty easy access. And Kevin  
11 Kelly has been there and knows where it is.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: The voice of the Jays.

13 MS. SHEMWELL: That's right.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. I'll get the voice of  
15 the Jays to work on that one.

16 MS. SHEMWELL: They have a -- a number of  
17 rooms there to accommodate different-sized groups.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Great. Well, that sounds  
19 like a -- a likely choice.

20 Anything else at this time?

21 MS. ZUCKER: Yes.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Sir?

23 MR. ZUCKER: One other issue for me. If we --  
24 I think we put in the April 24th pleading that it was  
25 out interpretation that this could be done all in one

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1 notice.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

3 MR. ZUCKER: The July notice would take care  
4 of the public hearing, the evidentiary hearing and the  
5 true-up hearing. I just want to confirm that that's  
6 acceptable to you.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Are you outside the 45-day  
8 line on the evidentiary hearing?

9 MR. ZUCKER: Let's see. We're --

10 JUDGE THOMPSON: I don't --

11 MR. ZUCKER: -- really close.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: I don't see how you could be,  
13 since August 7th is very close. It's just --

14 MR. ZUCKER: Right. It would be the --

15 MR. MICHEEL: That's -- that's 19 days away  
16 from the hearing.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

18 MR. ZUCKER: Yeah, on that side we're fine.  
19 The -- the -- of course, the first people that get the  
20 bill will be July 8th.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right. Right.

22 MR. ZUCKER: And that's maybe slightly outside  
23 the 45. The true-up hearing meanwhile is  
24 October 8th --

25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

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1           MR. ZUCKER:  -- which -- which puts us a  
2   little farther out.  I would note that I took a look at  
3   the 2001 rate case and that -- and -- and that was done  
4   all in one notice.

5           And, in fact, left a -- a gap of as much as  
6   three-and-a-half months between the -- between the  
7   first -- the -- the people that first got their billing  
8   and the first day of the evidentiary hearing.

9           Here, obviously, that wouldn't be the case for  
10  the evidentiary hearing.  And even the true-up hearing  
11  is basically two to three months out.

12          JUDGE THOMPSON:  I -- I personally have no  
13  problem with doing it all in one notice.  I don't know  
14  how Mr. Micheel feels about that.  Certainly you could  
15  put a reference to the true-up hearing in the following  
16  bill, too, could you not?

17          MR. ZUCKER:  Well, again, we --

18          JUDGE THOMPSON:  Print it on it or --

19          MR. ZUCKER:  Well, we hit the issue of cost  
20  there.

21          JUDGE THOMPSON:  I see.

22          MR. ZUCKER:  If -- if we have to do an insert,  
23  then we're -- if we're going from the postcard bill to  
24  the envelope bill and --

25          JUDGE THOMPSON:  Well, let's say -- because

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1 your following bill is a postcard?

2 MR. ZUCKER: Yes.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Now, can you not just  
4 print a notice on the postcard bill?

5 MR. ZUCKER: If -- if -- if it's short enough.  
6 Obviously, the postcard bill is small.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

8 MR. ZUCKER: The issue with that is we've  
9 already ordered our bill stock for the summer.

10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Oh, I see.

11 MR. ZUCKER: We would have to re-order bill  
12 stock.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. I understand.

14 MR. ZUCKER: The cost of that would not be  
15 nearly as great as what we're talking -- you know, and  
16 having to do a full envelope mailing.

17 MR. MICHEEL: On this case, Your Honor, we  
18 won't have a problem allowing the company to just do  
19 one notification as long as that notification indicates  
20 that there's going to be a local public hearing and  
21 when the evidentiary hearings are.

22 MS. SHEMWELL: And where.

23 MR. MICHEEL: And where.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

25 MR. ZUCKER: And to put the true-up hearing on

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1     that also?

2             MR. MICHEEL:  Certainly.  I mean, that's just  
3     one more line.

4             MR. ZUCKER:  Right.  Right.

5             MR. MICHEEL:  I wouldn't think --

6             MR. ZUCKER:  I just wanted to clarify because  
7     you just said evidentiary, but --

8             JUDGE THOMPSON:  Put all three.  Put all --

9             MR. ZUCKER:  When you said evidentiary, you  
10    mean including the true-up?

11            MR. MICHEEL:  Well, hopefully there will be  
12    evidence at the true-up hearing also -- maybe not, and  
13    we win because you have the burden of proof.

14            I don't want to tell you how to run your road  
15    or anything.

16            MR. ZUCKER:  I -- I -- I appreciate  
17    Mr. Micheel's position on that and I'm glad to put  
18    everything on one bill.

19            JUDGE THOMPSON:  Everything on one bill will  
20    work.

21            MR. ZUCKER:  Okay.  That's great.

22            JUDGE THOMPSON:  Let's keep the cost to the  
23    rate payers contained as far as costs.

24            Anything else then?

25            (No response.)

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1           JUDGE THOMPSON: Very well. I appreciate your  
2 coming down today. I'm glad that we got this -- this  
3 all settled in the fine spirit of cooperation.

4           If there is nothing further, we will be  
5 adjourned. Thank you. Have a safe trip back to  
6 St. Louis.

7           MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, Judge.

8           MR. MICHEEL: Thank you, Judge.

9           MS. SHEMWELL: Thank you.

10          WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of the  
11 prehearing conference was concluded.

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