



Missouri Public Service Commission

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July 27, 2001

FILED<sup>3</sup>

JUL 27 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: Case No. GR-2001-629**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **JOINT RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE, TEST YEAR AND TRUE-UP.**

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Lera L. Shemwell  
Associate General Counsel  
(573) 751-7431  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

LLS:sw  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

FILED<sup>3</sup>

JUL 27 2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's )  
Tariff to Revise Natural Gas Rate ) Case No. GR-2001-629  
Schedules. )

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE,  
TEST YEAR AND TRUE-UP**

COME NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede" or "Company"), Missouri Public Service Commission Staff ("Staff"), the Office of Public Counsel ("Public Counsel"), the Missouri Energy Group,<sup>1</sup> the Paper Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers Local No. 5-6, AFL-CIO, Union Electric Company, d/b/a AmerenUE, and the Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers<sup>2</sup> (collectively the "Parties") and pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080(16) file this Joint Recommendation regarding the procedural schedule, the test year and true-up audit and hearing in the above captioned case. In support thereof, the Parties state as follows:

1. On June 20, 2001, the Staff filed its Suggestions to the Commission Regarding Scheduling Motion ("Motion") requesting the Commission reconsider the hearing dates it set for this proceeding. In its Motion, the Staff proposed two alternatives to the Commission for its consideration in this proceeding.

2. On July 16, 2001, the Commission held a pre-hearing conference for the purpose of establishing a procedural schedule in this case. The Parties to this case have agreed to and

<sup>1</sup> Barnes-Jewish Hospital, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Emerson Electric Company, SSM HealthCare, and St. John's Mercy Health Care.

<sup>2</sup> Adam's Mark Hotel, Alcoa Foil Products, Anheuser-Busch, The Boeing Company, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Hussman Refrigeration, Mallinckrodt, Inc., MEMC Electronic Materials, Monsanto Company, Procter & Gamble Manufacturing and Ralston Purina.

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respectfully request that the Commission adopt this procedural schedule:

PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

October 11, 2001	Staff and other Parties file Direct Testimony regarding Revenue Requirement
October 16, 2001	Staff and other Parties file Direct Testimony regarding Rate Design
October 17 or 18, 2001	Public Hearings
October 22-26, 2001	Prehearing Conference
November 14, 2001	All Parties file Rebuttal Testimony
November 27, 2001	Joint Statement of Issues filed
December 6, 2001	All Parties file Surrebuttal Testimony
December 11, 2001	Parties file statements of positions
December 17-21, 2001	Evidentiary Hearings
January 3-4, 2002	Evidentiary Hearings (if needed)
January 30, 2002	All Parties file Initial Briefs
February 11, 2002	True-Up Hearing
February 19, 2002	All Parties file Reply Briefs ( Reply Briefs will address any issues regarding True Up

3. In an effort to resolve other outstanding scheduling matters, the Parties discussed the Company's recommendations, as set forth in Laclede's June 21, 2001 *Recommendation Concerning Test Year* and June 21, 2001 *Motion for True-Up Audit and Hearing*, and agree that:

(a) a test year ending February 28, 2001, will be used in this proceeding, and that such test year will be updated through July 31, 2001;

(b) a true up audit will be conducted in this proceeding in order to permit certain items that will be known and measurable through December 31, 2001, to be recognized in rates;<sup>3</sup> and

(c) that the items to be considered for true-up as a result of such audit include, but are not limited to:

- (i) revenues associated with customer additions;
- (ii) rate base components and associated depreciation;
- (iii) property taxes;
- (iv) changes in wages, salaries and benefits, including employee levels;
- (v) rate case expense;
- (vi) changes in the gas safety deferrals associated with the accounting authorization granted to Laclede in Case No. GR-99-315;
- (vii) insurance expenses; and
- (viii) changes in capital structure.

4. The Parties further recommend that the public hearings in this case be held, as in previous cases, in the Wainwright State Office Building, 111 North Seventh St., St. Louis, MO., and the St. Louis County Council Chambers, 41 South Central Avenue, Clayton, Mo.

5. All the Parties concur with the above outlined procedural schedule and in Laclede's test year and true-up recommendations as set forth in its previous motions and outlined above, provided that the necessary information is made available in a timely manner to

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<sup>3</sup> In its Motion for True-Up Audit and Hearing, the Company proposed that the items set forth in its Motion be True-Up through November 30, 2001, or such later date as could be accommodated by the schedule established in this proceeding. Based on the schedule proposed by this Joint Recommendation and the timely provision of true-up information by the Company, the parties have agreed that a true-up ending date of December 31, 2001, could be accommodated.

accommodate a true-up through December 31, 2001. The Parties accordingly request that the Commission adopt such recommendations, in addition to the procedural schedule as set forth above.

6. Nothing herein shall prejudice any party's right to propose or impair the Commission's ability to make modifications to the procedural schedule in this case based on the outcome of the Commission's determinations in Case No. GT-2001-662.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Parties respectfully request the Commission issue its order:

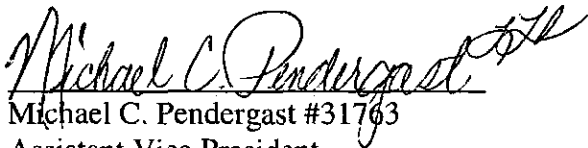
(a) granting the proposed procedural schedule, including the scheduling of evidentiary hearings for December 17-21, 2001 and, if needed, January 3-4, 2002, and scheduling a true-up hearing for February 11, 2002;

(b) granting the recommendation that a test year ending February 28, 2001, be adopted in this proceeding, and that such test year be updated through July 31, 2001;

(c) granting the recommendation that a true-up audit be conducted in this proceeding in order to permit certain items that will be known and measurable through December 31, 2001, to be considered for recognition in rates, subject to the timely availability of the necessary information ; and

(d) granting the recommendation that the items set forth in Laclede's June 21, 2001 *Motion for True-Up Audit and Hearing* be considered for true up as a part of such true-up audit.

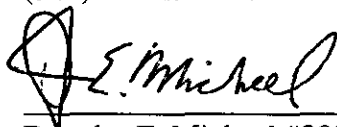
Respectfully submitted,



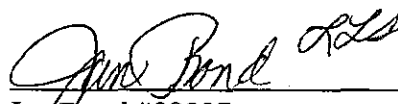
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**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 27th day of July.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Shumwell".

**Service List for  
Case No. GR-2001-629  
Revised: July 27, 2001 (SW)**

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