

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

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| In the matter of the Joint Application of Fidelity |) | |
| Natural Gas, Inc. and Laclede Gas Company |) | |
| for an order authorizing the sale and transfer |) | |
| of certain assets of Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. |) | |
| located in Missouri to Laclede Gas Company |) | Case No. GM-2006-_____ |
| and either authorizing the transfer of existing |) | |
| Certificates of Public Convenience and |) | |
| Necessity or granting a New Certificate of Public |) | |
| Convenience and Necessity to Laclede Gas |) | |
| Company in conjunction with same. |) | |

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COME NOW Fidelity Natural Gas, Inc. ("Fidelity") and Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") (collectively "Joint Applicants"), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080(16), by and through its undersigned counsel, and respectfully requests expedited treatment in the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") review and approval of the Application filed in this matter concurrently herewith. In support of their Motion, Joint Applicants respectfully state:

1. As specifically set forth in the Application filed in this matter (the allegations and statements contained in the Application are incorporated herein by reference), the Joint Applicants respectfully request that the Commission act expeditiously to grant the authority and relief requested in the Application as soon as practicable, to be effective no later than January 1, 2006, if possible.

2. If requisite regulatory approvals are obtained by January 1, 2006, Laclede and Fidelity intend to complete the transaction proposed in the Application to be effective on January 1, 2006, or as soon thereafter as possible.

3. There is good cause for granting such approval on an expedited basis. First, this is a relatively small and simple transaction involving the acquisition of the assets necessary to serve a customer base that is comparable in size to a large suburban subdivision. Accordingly, it is the kind of transaction that should permit expedited processing. Second, current customers of Fidelity would receive a modest and immediate reduction in the rates they pay for distribution services by virtue of the fact that they would be taking service under the tariffed rates of Laclede, which are slightly lower than Fidelity's. Third, depending on the market price of gas this winter, Fidelity customers may also receive a significant and immediate benefit in the form of lower gas costs once the transaction is completed. And over the long term, it is likely that Fidelity's customers will benefit from reduced gas costs as well, given Laclede's relatively greater size as a purchaser in the wholesale market for natural gas, its broader array of storage, transportation and other gas supply assets, and its superior access to more diverse supply sources. The larger number of Laclede service personnel and facilities available in the areas around Sullivan, Missouri, will also allow Laclede to meet or exceed quality of service expectations for those customers located in Fidelity's current service area.

4. This Motion was filed as soon as it could have been since it is being filed concurrently with the original Application that requested approval of the proposed merger.

WHEREFORE, the Joint Applicants respectfully request the Commission to grant its Motion for Expedited Treatment and to grant the authority and relief requested in the Application as soon as practicable, effective no later than January 1, 2006, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James M. Fischer

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ATTORNEYS FOR
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, this 21st day of October, 2005, to:

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