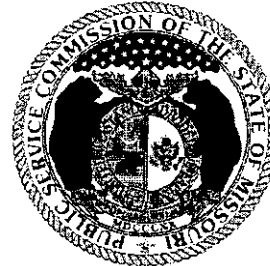


## Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: All Commissioners  
All Parties to Case No. GA-2002-429

FROM: Vicky Ruth  
Senior Regulatory Law Judge

DATE: May 15, 2002



On April 26, 2002, the Missouri Public Service Commission received the attached letter from Darrell J. Revely, 1125 Meadowgrass Drive, Florissant, Missouri 63033-3728. The Commission is currently considering the issues discussed in this document in Case No. GA-2002-429. GA-2002-429 is a contested case. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Although communications from members of the public and members of the legislature are always welcome, those communications must be made known to all parties to a contested case so that those parties have the opportunity to respond. According to the Commission's rules (4 CSR 240-4), when a communication (either oral or written) occurs outside the hearing process, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to each member of the Commission and the parties to the case. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, I submit this report pursuant to the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Director  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
General Counsel

1125 Meadowgrass Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63033-3728  
April 25, 2002

Dale Roberts  
Executive Secretary  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

*do EX-1002*  
**RECEIVED**  
APR 26 2002  
Adjudication Division  
Public Service Commission

Re: GA-2002-429

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The last couple of winters has seen the price of natural gas spiral out of control. Whether the price increases are justified or not doesn't change the fact that many households have seen the family budget shattered. Consumers have had no choice except to forego little luxuries and some necessities in order to keep up with extremely high bills. We know this is no news to you because we all have to heat our homes.

We decided to do what we could to reduce our consumption in order to reduce our natural gas bills.

We did all of the following:

1. Insulated around outside doors.
2. Lowered the thermostat whenever the house is totally unoccupied.
3. Lowered the thermostat during the day (lower than last year) and even lower at night when we sleep.
4. Wear sweaters and sweat shirts inside during the winter.
5. Put up clothes lines in the basement to air dry clothes not needing to be wrinkle-free.
6. Stopped using the gas range oven; use microwave for almost all cooking.

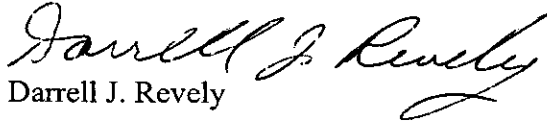
The first month we reduced our natural gas bill by \$30 and the next month by another \$20. That whacked a whopping \$50 off our bill per month! We were really proud of our efforts. Giving up the gas dryer for most clothes and doing without certain baked items was an inconvenience but we felt it was worth it.

After all of our penny pinching and money saving tactics at the end of the heating season we see on the news that----

LACLEDE GAS IS ASKING FOR A RATE INCREASE BECAUSE THE WINTER WAS WARMER THAN USUAL AND WE DIDN'T USE ENOUGH GAS!!!

What kind of ridiculous nonsense is this? What's the point in doing all the cutting back if they are going to penalize us anyway? If we use more the bills are sky high. If we use less they want to raise the rates! If Mother Nature gives us a break with a warmer than normal winter they want to nullify it. We are damned if we do and damned if we don't. What's the use? I hope you will urge the Missouri Public Service Commission to deny this rate increase to allow consumers to recover from the bills of the past two or three heating seasons. We need a break!

Sincerely,

  
Darrell J. Revely