

TRS

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's	)	
Tariff Revision to be Reviewed in its	)	<u>Case No. GR-98-297</u>
1997-1998 Actual Cost Adjustment.	)	

ORDER ADOPTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On December 21, 1999, the Staff of the Commission (Staff), Laclede Gas Company (Laclede), and the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a motion to adopt a proposed procedural schedule. The parties proposed the following procedural schedule:

Direct testimony of Laclede	January 4, 2000
Rebuttal testimony of Staff and Public Counsel	February 8, 2000
Surrebuttal testimony of Laclede	March 15, 2000
List of issues	March 31, 2000
All parties' position statements	April 6, 2000
Evidentiary hearing	April 13-14, 2000

The Commission will accept this proposal, will schedule a prehearing conference, and will apply the following conditions:

(A) The Commission will require the prefiling of testimony as defined in 4 CSR 240-2.130. All parties shall comply with this rule, including the requirement that testimony be filed on line-numbered pages. The practice of prefiling testimony is designed to give parties notice

of the claims, contentions and evidence in issue and to avoid unnecessary objections and delays caused by allegations of unfair surprise at the hearing.

(B) Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.130(15), testimony and schedules shall not be filed under seal and treated as proprietary or highly confidential unless the Commission has first established a protective order. Any testimony or schedule filed without a protective order first being established shall be considered public information.

(C) The parties shall agree upon and the Staff shall file a list of the issues to be heard, the witnesses to appear on each day of the hearing and the order in which they shall be called, and the order of cross-examination for each witness. Any issue not contained in this list of issues will be viewed as uncontested and not requiring resolution by the Commission.

(D) Each party shall file a statement of its position on each disputed issue. Such statement shall be simple and concise, and shall not contain argument about why the party believes its position to be the correct one.

(E) The Commission's general policy provides for the filing of the transcript within two weeks after the hearing. If any party seeks to expedite the filing of the transcript, such request shall be tendered in writing to the regulatory law judge at least five days prior to the date of the hearing.

(F) All pleadings, briefs and amendments shall be filed in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.080. Briefs shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case and shall set forth and cite the proper portions of the record concerning the remaining unresolved issues that are to be decided by the Commission.

(G) All parties are required to bring an adequate number of copies of exhibits which they intend to offer into evidence at the hearing. If an exhibit has been prefiled, only three copies of the exhibit are necessary for the court reporter. If an exhibit has not been prefiled, the party offering it should bring, in addition to the three copies for the court reporter, copies for the five Commissioners, the regulatory law judge, and all counsel.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

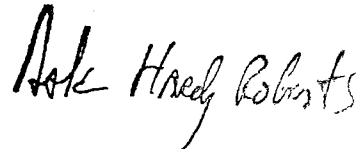
1. That the following procedural schedule is established for this case:

Direct testimony of Laclede	January 4, 2000 3:00 P.M
Rebuttal testimony of Staff and Public Counsel	February 8, 2000 3:00 P.M
Surrebuttal testimony of Laclede	March 15, 2000 3:00 P.M.
Prehearing Conference	March 21, 2000 10:00 A.M.
List of issues, etc.	March 31, 2000
All parties' position statements	April 6, 2000
Evidentiary hearing	April 13-14, 2000 9:00 A.M.

The prehearing conference and hearing will be held on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Any person with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.

2. That this order shall become effective on December 28, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lewis Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1),
(November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240,
RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 28th day of December, 1999.

RECEIVED

DEC 28 1999

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION