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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 28th
day of January, 1998.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's Purchased)
Gas Adjustment factors to be reviewed in its) Case No. GR-98-297
1997-1998 Actual Cost Adjustment.)

ORDER APPROVING INTERIM RATES

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company), of St. Louis, Missouri, submitted a tariff sheet to the Commission on January 20, 1998, carrying an effective date of February 3, 1998. The tariff sheet was filed to reflect unscheduled changes in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) factors as the result of over-recoveries in the cost of natural gas for the current winter season which are accruing in its Deferred Carrying Cost Balance (DCCB). Additionally, there is a decrease in the Liquid Petroleum (LP) sales classification PGA factor to reflect current decreases in Laclede's cost of propane. The net effect of these changes will decrease the 1997-1998 winter season revenues by approximately \$5.5 million as compared to the 1996-1997 winter season revenues. The winter season includes the months of November through March. The impact on a typical residential space heating customer using 888 Therms of natural gas in the winter season will be a decrease of \$7.51, or 2.0%.

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum stating that the change in Laclede's PGA was calculated in conformance with the Company's approved PGA Clause and recommends that the Commission approve the tariff sheet to become effective on February 3, 1998. Staff stated that Laclede's PGA Clause allows for ten (10) business days notice for filings reflecting PGA changes. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the tariff sheet to become effective February 3, 1998 on an interim basis, subject to refund, pending final

Commission decisions in Laclede's Actual Cost Adjustment Case Nos. GR-96-181, GR-97-222 and GR-98-297.

The Commission has reviewed the tariff sheet and Staff's recommendation and finds that the tariff sheet conforms to the Company's Commission approved PGA Clause and is therefore reasonable. After considering Staff's recommendation, and for good cause shown pursuant to Section 393.140(11), RSMo 1994, the Commission finds that the proposed tariff sheet should be approved to become effective on and after the requested effective date of February 3, 1998, interim subject to refund.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff sheet submitted on January 20, 1998, by Laclede Gas Company, of St. Louis, Missouri, is approved on an interim basis, subject to refund, to become effective on February 3, 1998. The tariff sheet approved is:

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated
One Hundred and Seventy-Third Revised Sheet No. 29 CANCELLING One Hundred and Seventy-Second Revised Sheet No. 29

2. That this order shall become effective on February 3, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Chm., Crumpton, Murray, and
Drainer, CC., Concur.
ALJ: Derque

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JAN 29 1998

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION