

BV
RS
RW

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 15th
day of April, 1998.

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's Purchased)
Gas Adjustment factors to be audited 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 April 3, 1998, carrying an effective date of April 17, 1998. The tariff sheet was filed to reflect scheduled changes in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) factors as the result of changes in the cost of natural gas for the upcoming summer season. The summer season includes the months of April through October. The filed changes will increase the summer season firm PGA factor to \$0.01663 per therm from a winter season firm PGA factor of \$(0.00939) per therm. Computing this change by including the imbedded firm cost of gas of \$0.28489 per therm currently in base rates will represent an approximate 9.4% increase in gas costs to customers.

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 April 17, 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 April 17, 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 April 17, 1998, interim subject to refund.

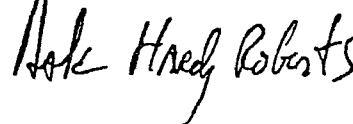
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff sheet submitted on April 3, 1998, by Laclede Gas Company, of St. Louis, Missouri, is approved on an interim basis, subject to refund, to become effective on April 17, 1998. The tariff sheet approved is:

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

2. That this order shall become effective on April 17, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,
Schemenauer, and Drainer, CC., concur.

Dipple, Regulatory Law Judge

RECEIVED

APR 15 1998

COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION