

In the matter of Laclede Gas Company's )  
application to establish depreciation rates for ) **Case No. GO-2012- 0363**  
Enterprise Computer Software Systems )

**COMES NOW** Laclede Gas Company (“Laclede” or “Company”) and files this response to the Staff’s May 14, 2012 motion to establish a procedural schedule in this case (“Staff’s Motion”), and in support thereof, respectfully states as follows:

2. On May 4, 2012, Laclede filed its Notice of Intended Case Filing and Request for Waiver of 60 Day Notice Before Filing (the “Notice”), commencing the above referenced case, and attached its Application to the Notice.

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depreciation rate in a subsequent Laclede rate case, and would remain in place only until further order of the Commission.

4. Although Staff's Motion did not directly address the waiver request, its recitation that the Application was filed on May 4, 2012, and its request to set an early prehearing conference, is not only consistent with, but assumes that the waiver should be granted. As Public Counsel has also joined in the Staff's Motion, Laclede asks that, in addition to setting an early prehearing conference, the Commission issue an order confirming that the 60 day notice period is waived and that the Application is deemed to be filed as of May 4, 2012.

5. Laclede has already provided a great deal of information to Staff and Public Counsel related to its EIMS program, and is prepared to respond to further data requests. The parties have made progress in addressing their issues, and Laclede continues to hope that it can reach an agreement with Staff and Public Counsel on the merits of the requested depreciation rate. Meanwhile, Laclede again welcomes the willingness of Staff and Public Counsel to move the case efficiently along to a timely conclusion.

**WHEREFORE**, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 60 day notice period, deem the Application as filed on May 4, 2012, and set an early prehearing conference where the parties may further address issues and develop a proposed procedural schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael C. Pendergast

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing pleading has been duly served upon the General Counsel of the Staff and on the Office of the Public Counsel by hand delivery, email, fax, or United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 15th day of May, 2012.

**/s/ Gerry Lynch**

Gerry Lynch