

LACLEDE GAS COMPANY
720 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63101
(314) 342-0532

MICHAEL C. PENDERGAST
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

December 23, 2002

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

FILED³
DEC 27 2002
Missouri Public
Service Commission

RE: Case No. AO-2002-1156

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing, please find the original and eight copies of Laclede's Application to Intervene in the above-referenced case. Please file-stamp the additional copy of this Application and return the same in the pre-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Pendergast

MCP:kz

cc: All parties of record

FILED³

DEC 27 2002

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Assessment Against)
The Public Utilities in the State of Missouri) Case No. AO-2002-1156
For the Expenses of the Commission for)
The Fiscal Year Commencing July1, 2002)

APPLICATION TO INTERVENE

COMES NOW Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") and, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.075 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, respectfully files this Application to Intervene in the above-captioned proceeding, stating as follows:

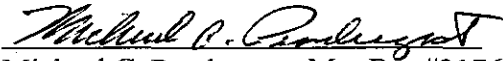
1. Laclede is a gas corporation and a public utility, operating as a distributor and seller of natural gas in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and various other counties in Eastern Missouri, with its principal office located at 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

2. As a public utility, Laclede is subject to the annual utility assessment ordered by the Commission. Because Laclede pays a share of the assessment, Laclede has an interest in this case. At this time, Laclede is unsure of the position it will take in this case.

3. Further, as a public utility subject to the Commission's assessment, Laclede's interest in this case differs from that of the general public. Laclede may be adversely affected by a final order that may be issued in this case. Finally, Laclede asserts that granting the proposed intervention would serve the public interest.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein, Laclede respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order permitting Laclede to intervene in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Application to Intervene has been duly served upon the General Counsel of the Staff of the Public Service Commission, Office of the Public Counsel and all other parties of record in this case via electronic mail, fax, or by placing a copy thereof in the United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 23rd day of December, 2002.

