

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
February 20, 2001**

CASE NO: GR-2001-387

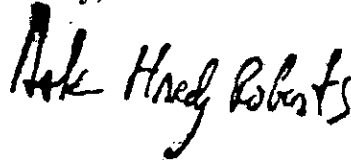
Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kenneth J. Neises
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 20th
day of February, 2001.

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's Purchased)	<u>Case No. GR-2001-387</u>
Gas Adjustment Tariff Revisions to be Reviewed)	<u>Tariff No. 200100831</u>
in Its 2000-2001 Actual Cost Adjustment)	

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR WAIVER AND APPROVING
INTERIM RATES**

Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) submitted a tariff sheet to the Commission on February 14, 2001, carrying an effective date of March 1, 2001. The proposed tariff sheet was filed to reflect unscheduled changes in Laclede's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) factors as the result of falling wholesale prices of natural gas since Laclede made its first unscheduled winter PGA filing on January 12, 2001. The net effect of the changes proposed by Laclede will decrease the firm PGA factor for the remainder of the 2000-2001 winter season to \$0.75311 per therm from the current firm PGA factor of \$0.91311 per therm.

Laclede's PGA tariff provides that Laclede is permitted to make only one unscheduled PGA filing during the winter period. Laclede made that filing on January 12, 2001 when it sought authority to increase its rates. In order to make this second PGA filing to reduce its rates, Laclede filed a Motion for Waiver to Make a Second Unscheduled Winter Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing. In that motion, Laclede also sought authority to flow through to its customers on an expedited basis certain financial benefits achieved by Laclede as a result of the hedging program previously approved by the Commission.

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum and recommendation on February 15, 2001, stating that the changes in Laclede's PGA were calculated in conformance with the Company's approved PGA Clause, and that Laclede's tariff permits the filing of proposed PGA tariffs on ten days' notice. Staff also recommends that the Commission grant Laclede's Motion for Waiver to Make a Second Unscheduled Winter Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the tariff sheet to become effective March 1, 2001, on an interim basis, subject to refund.

The Commission has reviewed the proposed tariff sheet and Staff's recommendation and memorandum, and finds that the tariff sheet conforms to Laclede's Commission-approved PGA Clause and is therefore reasonable. While the tariff carries an effective date of March 1, the cover letter from Laclede that accompanied the tariff indicates that "in light of the large increases in gas bills that has (sic) occurred this winter season as a result of both extraordinarily high wellhead natural gas prices and colder than normal weather, the Commission may wish to approve an earlier effective date to expedite the rate relief provided by this filing." Laclede's letter further indicates that it is prepared to implement the rate decrease at an earlier date so long as the Commission provides at least two days' notice to accommodate Laclede's internal billing procedures. Missouri statutes, specifically Section 393.140(11), RSMo 2000, permit the Commission to approve a tariff on less than thirty days' notice for good cause shown. Expediting rate relief to Laclede's customers is certainly good cause. Therefore, the Commission will approve Laclede's proposed tariff for service rendered on and after February 23, 2001, on an interim basis, subject to refund.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Laclede Gas Company's Motion for Waiver to Make a Second Unscheduled Winter Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing is granted.

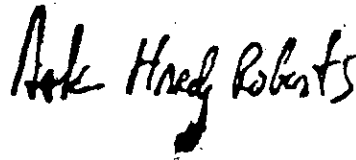
2. That the tariff sheet submitted on February 14, 2001, by Laclede Gas Company, is approved on an interim basis, subject to refund, to become effective on February 23, 2001. The tariff sheet approved is:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 5 Consolidated

**One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Revised Sheet No. 29, CANCELING One
Hundred and Eighty-Third Revised Sheet No. 29**

3. That this order shall become effective on February 23, 2001.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Drainer, Murray, and Simmons, CC., concur
Schemenauer, C., absent

Woodruff, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

Att/Sec'y:

Wanda F. Burke

Date Circulated

2-16

CASE NO.

GR. 2001-387

JS
Lumpke, Chair

JS
Drainer, Vice Chair

JS
Murray, Commissioner

JS
Schemmner, Commissioner

KS
Simmons, Commissioner

Agenda Date

2-20

Action taken:

4-045

Must Vote Not Later Than

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 20th day of February 2001.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

