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Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102  
573-751-3234  
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)  
<http://www.psc.state.mo.us>

April 6, 2001

BRIAN D. KINKADE  
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Director, Utility Operations

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DALE HARDY ROBERTS  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED<sup>3</sup>

APR 06 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**RE: Case No. GR-2001-387**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce H. Bates  
Associate General Counsel  
(573) 751-7434  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

BHB/lb  
Enclosure  
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>3</sup>

APR 06 2001

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Laclede Gas Company's )  
Purchased Gas Adjustment Tariff )  
Revisions to be Reviewed in Its 2000- )  
2001 Actual Cost Adjustment. )

Case No. GR-2001-387

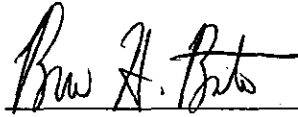
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its  
*Recommendation* states:

In the attached *Memorandum*, which is labeled *Appendix A*, the Staff recommends that  
the Missouri Public Service Commission issue an order approving, interim subject to refund,  
Laclede Gas Company's proposed tariff sheet P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated, One Hundred and  
Eighty -Fifth Revised Sheet No. 29 Canceling One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Revised Sheet  
No. 29, for the reasons stated therein.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE  
General Counsel



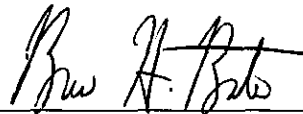
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Bruce H. Bates  
Associate General Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 35442

Attorney for the Staff of the  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-7434 (Telephone)  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)  
[bbates@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:bbates@mail.state.mo.us) (E-Mail)

### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel or parties of record as shown on the attached service list this 6th day of April 2001.



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Bruce H. Bates

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File,  
Case No. GR-2001-387, File No. 200101024, Laclede Gas Company

FROM: <sup>File</sup> Tom Imhoff, Gas Department - Tariffs/Rate Design

Wes Henderson 4-5-01 Thomas R. Schwanz Jr. 4/6/01 BJA 4-5-01  
Utility Operations Division/Date General Counsel's Office/Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for Laclede Gas Company's Scheduled Summer  
Season PGA Filing.

DATE: April 5, 2001

On April 4, 2001, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede or Company) of St. Louis, Missouri filed a tariff sheet proposed to become effective April 18, 2001. 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. Additionally, the L. P. Service factor will decrease.

The net effect of these changes will decrease the firm PGA factor for the summer season to \$0.67739 per therm from a winter season firm PGA factor of \$0.75311 per therm. The PGA factor would decrease by 10% under this proposal. When compared to the current rates, the effect of the proposed decrease on a typical residential customer's natural gas bills for the summer season is a 6% decrease.

Case No. GR-2001-387, under which this change was filed, was established to track the Company's PGA factors to be reviewed in its 2000-2001 Actual Cost Adjustment (ACA) filing. Final Commission decisions in Laclede's ACA Case Nos. GR-99-316, and GR-2000-622 for the 1998-1999, and 1999-2000 ACA periods respectively, are still pending. Interim subject to refund status should be maintained pending final Commission decisions in Case Nos. GR-99-316, GR-2000-622, and GR-2001-387.

The Commission's Gas Department - Tariffs/Rate Design Staff (Staff) has reviewed this filing and has determined that it was calculated in conformance with Laclede's PGA Clause. Staff is of the opinion that good cause for approval of this tariff sheet on less than thirty days notice is demonstrated by Laclede's Commission-approved PGA clause allowing for ten (10) business days notice for PGA change filings. Therefore, Staff recommends that the following tariff sheet be approved, interim subject to refund:

MO PSC Case No. GR-2001-387

OFFICIAL CASE FILE MEMORANDUM

PAGE 2 OF 2

P.S.C. MO. No. 5 Consolidated

One Hundred and Eighty-Fifth Revised Sheet No. 29 CANCELLING One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Revised Sheet No. 29

Copies:     Director - Utility Operations Division  
             Director - Research and Public Affairs Division  
             Director - Utility Services Division  
             General Counsel  
             Manager - Financial Analysis Department  
             Manager - Procurement Analysis Department  
             Manager - Gas Department  
             Douglas Yaeger, President & CEO (Laclede)  
             Mike Cline, Director - Tariff and Rate Administration (Laclede)  
             Mike Pendergast, Attorney (Laclede)  
             Robert Johnson, Attorney (Peper, Martin, Jensen, Maichel, &  
             Hetlage)  
             Office of the Public Counsel

**SUMMER SEASON**  
**Approximate Billing Impact Of 312 Therms per Summer Season**  
**Laclede Gas Company**  
**Residential Heating Customer**

|     | Prior Summer Season<br>(Months)    | Therm<br>Usage | Total Fuel<br>Bill (\$) |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ ▶ | April 2001                         | 96             | 98.47                   |
| • ▶ | May                                | 53             | 60.30                   |
| • ▶ | June                               | 36             | 44.81                   |
| • ▶ | July                               | 28             | 37.52                   |
| • ▶ | August                             | 27             | 36.60                   |
| • ▶ | September                          | 30             | 39.34                   |
| • ▶ | October                            | 42             | 50.27                   |
|     | <b>7 Month Summer Season Total</b> | <b>312</b>     | <b>\$367.31</b>         |

|     | Forecasted Summer Season<br>(Months) | Therm<br>Usage | Total Fuel<br>Bill (\$) |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ ▶ | April 2001                           | 96             | 91.21                   |
| • ▶ | May                                  | 53             | 56.29                   |
| • ▶ | June                                 | 36             | 42.08                   |
| • ▶ | July                                 | 28             | 35.40                   |
| • ▶ | August                               | 27             | 34.56                   |
| • ▶ | September                            | 30             | 37.07                   |
| • ▶ | October                              | 42             | 47.09                   |
|     | <b>7 Month Summer Season Total</b>   | <b>312</b>     | <b>\$343.70</b>         |

**REMARKS**

For a typical residential customer using approximately 312 Therms during the Summer Season (April - October), natural gas rates will decrease by \$23.61 or approximately 6% when comparing the fuel bills for the prior winter season rates ending March 2001. (As of 04/00, on the Laclede System 312 Therms are equivalent to about 305 Ccf.)

Notes:

- (1) Total fuel bill does not include gross receipts or local sales taxes.
- (2) Monthly usage priced at the rates in effect during the appropriate time period.
- (3) As a result of GR-99-315 the factor of \$.28489 per therm was deleted from the Energy Charge and included in the PGA.
- (4) Tariff Sheet No. 2: Customer Charge = \$12.00; Energy Charge for
  - (5) Nov- Apr: First 65 therms = \$.42275/therm; For therms in excess of 65 therms = \$.40206/therm
  - (6) May- Oct: First 65 therms = \$.39690/therm; For therms in excess of 65 therms = \$.37622/therm
  - (7) Nov- Apr: First 65 therms = \$.15818/therm; For therms in excess of 65 therms = \$.12562/therm
  - (8) May- Oct: First 65 therms = \$.13233/therm; For therms in excess of 65 therms = \$.09978/therm
  - (9) Tariff Sheet No. 29: PGA Charge = \$.67739 per therm

**Missouri Public Service Commission**  
**April 2001**

**Service List for**  
**Case No. GR-2001-387**  
**Verified: April 6, 2001 (lb)**

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

**Mark W. Comley**  
**Newman, Comley & Ruth, P.C.**  
**601 Monroe Street, Suite 301**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**Kenneth J. Neises/Michael C. Pendergast**  
**Laclede Gas Company**  
**720 Olive Street**  
**St. Louis, MO 63101**