

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 3, 1998**

CASE NOS: GA-99-107 & GA-99-236

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

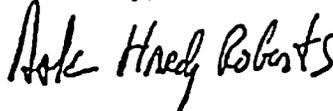
**Ronald K. Evans
Ameren Services Company
P.O. Box 66149
St. Louis, MO 63166-6149**

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

**Thomas M. Byrne/Ellen L. Theroff
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1522
St. Louis, MO 63101**

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

Sincerely,



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

Uncertified Copy:

**To the Mayors of all municipalities located within St. Charles County
To the County Executive and County Council of St. Charles County**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity Authorizing It to Construct,)
Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage,) Case No. GA-99-107
and Maintain Natural Gas Pipeline)
Facilities and a Gas Distribution System)
for the Public in a Portion of St Charles)
County, Missouri, as an Expansion of Its)
Presently Certificated Area.)

In the Matter of the Application of)
Laclede Gas Company for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity)
Authorizing It to Construct, Install,)
Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and) Case No. GA-99-236
Maintain a Gas Distribution System)
for the Public in a Portion of the City)
of Wentzville, Missouri, as an Expansion)
of Its Presently Certificated Area.)

ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE PROCEEDINGS AND PROVIDE NOTICE

On September 15, 1998, Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE (UE) filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to construct, own and operate natural gas pipeline facilities and a gas distribution system for the public in a portion of St. Charles County south of Interstate 70, and southwest of U.S. Highway 40/61. The area UE proposed for certification includes a small portion of the City of Wentzville, and a large portion of unincorporated St. Charles County.

Pursuant to the Order and Notice issued by the Commission in Case No. GA-99-107, Laclede Gas Company (Laclede) filed an application to intervene, in opposition to UE's Application. Laclede was granted leave to intervene in that case by order of the Commission issued on November 3.

On November 24, 1998, Laclede filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to construct, own and operate a gas distribution system for the public in a portion of the City of Wentzville, Missouri. The area, which Laclede seeks to serve, overlaps in part the area for which UE seeks certification.

Along with its Application, Laclede, on November 24, filed a Motion to Consolidate Proceedings which states that Laclede's application and UE's application address the same service territory and that common questions of law and fact are likely to be presented in both proceedings. For those reasons, Laclede requests that the Commission issue an order consolidating these proceedings.

Upon review of these matters, the Commission concludes that common questions of law and fact will likely be presented in these proceedings. The Commission further concludes that consolidation of these proceedings will result in the most efficient use of the Commission's resources and that no party will be prejudiced by consolidation of these proceedings.

Proper parties should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene in this matter. The Records Department of the Commission shall send a copy of this order to the mayors of all municipalities located within St. Charles County, and to

the County Executive and County Council of St. Charles County. The Information Office of the Commission shall send notice of this application to the members of the General Assembly who represent St. Charles County, and to the newspapers that serve St. Charles County as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri.

Anyone wishing to intervene must submit an application to intervene to:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Copies of the application to intervene should be sent to:

Douglas H. Yaeger
President & Chief Operating Officer
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1504
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Gerald T. McNeive, Jr.
Senior Vice President - Finance
and General Counsel
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1522
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Thomas M. Byrne
Associate Counsel
Ellen L. Theroff
Assistant General Counsel
Laclede Gas Company
720 Olive Street, Room 1524
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Ronald K. Evans
Managing Associate General Counsel
Ameren Services Company
P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1310)
St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149

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

The requirement of a hearing has been fulfilled when all those having a desire to be heard are offered an opportunity to be heard. If no proper party is granted intervention and neither the Commission's Staff nor the Office of the Public Counsel requests a hearing, the Commission may determine that a hearing is not necessary and that the Applicant may submit its evidence in support of the application by verified statement. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Case Number GA-99-236 is consolidated with and into Case Number GA-99-107.
2. That the Information Office and the Records Department of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall provide notice as set out herein.
3. That any interested party wishing to intervene in this case shall file an application to do so no later than December 21, 1998. Such applications shall be filed with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, and copies shall be served upon the Applicant's representative as set forth herein.

4. That this order shall become effective December 14,
1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1),
(November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240,
RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 3rd day of December, 1998.

**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 3rd day of December, 1998.**

Dale Hardy Roberts

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