

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Complaint of)	
Andrew and Naomi Topps,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	<u>Case No. GC-2006-0450</u>
)	
Laclede Gas Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Issue Date: October 30, 2006

Effective Date: October 30, 2006

Andrew and Naomi Topps filed a complaint against Laclede Gas Company on May 26, 2006. Laclede filed its answer on June 30, 2006.

On July 12, 2006, the Commission directed its Staff to investigate the Topps' complaint and report its findings to the Commission on or before August 25, 2006. Due to discovery delays Staff requested and was granted an extension of time to file its report. The Staff timely filed its report on October 6, 2006.

A prehearing conference was held on October 20, 2006, and the parties were directed to file a proposed procedural schedule including an evidentiary hearing. On October 27, 2006, the Staff filed a proposed procedural schedule on behalf of the parties. The procedural schedule contains three unusual exceptions designed to protect the interests of the pro se Complainants. Since all parties, including the Respondent, have agreed to these exceptions, the Commission will adopt them.

In addition, the following procedures shall apply:

(A) The Commission will require that testimony be prefiled as defined in Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.130. As agreed by the parties, Complainants will not be required to prefile testimony. Instead Complainants will be allowed to testify in person, or through their daughter, at the hearing.

(B) Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.130(15), testimony and schedules for which a claim of confidentiality is made shall be filed with a request that a protective order be issued in this case. Any testimony or schedule not so filed will be considered public information.

(C) The parties shall agree upon and Staff shall file a list of the issues to be heard, the witnesses to appear, the order in which they will be called, and the order of cross-examination for each witness. As agreed by the parties, Complainants will not be bound by the issues list.

(D) Each of the parties shall file a statement of position for each issue. As agreed by the parties, Complainants will not be required to file a statement of position, and will not be bound by any other party's statement of position.

(E) All pleadings, briefs, and amendments shall be filed in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080. Briefs shall follow the same list of issues as filed in the case.

(F) The Commission's general policy provides for the filing of the transcript within ten days after the hearing. If any party seeks to expedite the filing of the transcript, such request shall be tendered in writing to the Presiding Judge at least five days prior to the date of the hearing.

(G) All parties are required to bring an adequate number of copies of exhibits that they intend to offer into evidence at the hearing. If an exhibit has been previously filed, and served on the other parties, only a copy of the exhibit for the court reporter is necessary. If an exhibit has not been previously been filed, the party offering it should bring one copy for the court reporter, copies for the five Commissioners, the Presiding Judge, and all counsel.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The procedural schedule is ordered as follows:

Direct Testimony	December 7, 2006
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Issues List, Order of Witnesses, Order of Cross Examination, Statements of Position	December 18, 2006
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Evidentiary Hearing	December 21, 2006 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
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2. The hearing will be held at the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, Room 310, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a facility that meets the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

3. This order shall become effective on October 30, 2006.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen M. Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Cherlyn D. Voss, Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of October, 2006.