

ROBERT E. STUART
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY



STEVE WHITE
PRESIDENT

LOCAL NO. 53
I.B.E.W.

March 3, 2014

Re: Laclede Gas Co. Closing Kansas City Call Center

Dear Labor Leader:

As you may be aware, in 2013, Missouri Gas Energy (“MGE”) was acquired by Laclede Gas Company. As the representative of many dedicated MGE employees, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 53 (“Local 53”) is extremely concerned about the impact Laclede’s purchase of MGE will have on the company’s employees, customers and the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Currently, approximately 225 individuals are employed by MGE at its call center in midtown Kansas City, Missouri. Approximately 87 of those employees are represented by Local 53. The 225 employees employed at the Kansas City call center provide tremendous service to consumers in western Missouri. Moreover, those are 225 good jobs that support the middle class lifestyle that is the engine of the Kansas City and surrounding-area economies.

Local 53’s concerns were amplified when, in September 2013, shortly after its acquisition of MGE, Laclede management announced to MGE employees that it would not be renewing the lease of the current MGE headquarters at 3420 Broadway in midtown Kansas City.

On February 27, 2014, Laclede presented Local 53 with a written proposal to “eliminate the performance of MGE call center work in Kansas City upon the expiration of the current collective bargaining agreement”, which expires on April 30, 2014. On February 28, 2014, Laclede formally provided notice to Local 53 under the WARN Act of its intention to close the Kansas City call center, layoff its employees, and outsource the call center work to an unidentified third party. Laclede also stated that it “expects that... [t]he layoff likely will be permanent.”

Obviously, the decision to lay off these employees and move the call center operations out of Kansas City will have a devastating effect on the employees and their families. We believe the closing of the call center also represents a serious blow to economy of Kansas City, as well as the broader metropolitan area. And, there is no doubt that closing the call center will not improve customer service; it is certain to diminish that service.

Local 53 knows that you share its concerns and its desire to keep good jobs here in Kansas City. We are asking that you support the Union's efforts and call on Laclede Gas to keep these 225 jobs in Kansas City. Local 53 asks that you join us in demanding that Laclede make this commitment to Kansas City. The families of these 225 individuals are counting on your backing.

Please show your support and contact the local Mayors, Councils, State and County Legislators, Congressman and ask for their support in retaining these jobs and families.

Your vigilance and support is appreciated.

For more information go to: <http://keepkcjobs.org/> and <http://facebook.com/keepkcjobs>

Sincerely,

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