The Laclede Group Names Mark C. Darrell as General Counsel

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ST. LOUIS, April 28 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- The Laclede Group (NYSE: LG) today announced that it has named Mark C. Darrell as its General Counsel, as well as for Laclede Gas Company . Mr. Darrell brings over 21 years of experience in the energy business, including more than 11 years as in-house General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel for several natural gas companies.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20040429/CGTH078)

Mr. Darrell, 46, has been Assistant General Counsel for NiSource, Inc. since November 2002, a position in which he was responsible for providing support for its overall supply chain function, sales and marketing departments of its 11 natural gas and electric local distribution companies, and its environmental, health and safety departments.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to add such a talented and experienced individual as Mark Darrell to The Laclede Group ," said Douglas H. Yaeger, Laclede's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "I am confident that Mark's experience in multiple facets of the natural gas industry will provide additional strength to our management team."

Prior to his most recent position, he was General Counsel for NiSource's Columbia Gas of Virginia subsidiary. He joined that company in 1997 as General Counsel, Assistant Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer, and, when NiSource acquired the company in November 2000, he later was named its Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the transitional year following the acquisition.

He was with New Jersey Resources Corporation from 1992-97, last serving as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel. Mr. Darrell was in a private energy practice in Washington, D.C., from 1987-92, primarily working before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. From 1984-87 he was Counsel to the American Gas Association and from 1982-84 he was an Attorney-Advisor to the United States Department of Energy.

Mr. Darrell holds a degree in political science (1979) from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor degree (1982) from Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the Energy Bar Association, has served on the American Gas Association's Legal Committee, and is Vice Chair of the International Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the American Bar Association.

The Laclede Group is the parent organization of Laclede Gas Company , a regulated core utility, and a non-regulated component consisting primarily of two key wholly owned subsidiaries: SM&P Utility Resources, one of the nation's major underground facilities locating and marking service businesses; and Laclede Energy Resources, a gas marketing and management service.

SOURCE The Laclede Group

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(LG)

CO: Laclede Group
; Laclede Gas Company

ST: Missouri
IN: UTI OIL
SU: PER

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