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September 19, 2003

Secretary  
Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
SEP 19 2003  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

**RE: Case No. GR-2004-0072**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find an original and eight copies of Aquila Networks - MPS's Suggestions Concerning Local Public Hearings and an original and eight copies of Aquila's Response to Order Directing Filing. Please stamp the enclosed copies filed and return same to me.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:

  
Dean L. Cooper

DLC//lv  
Enclosures  
cc: Parties of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>2</sup>  
SEP 19 2003  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of Aquila, Inc. d/b/a )  
Aquila Networks - L&P and Aquila ) Case No. GR-2004-0072  
Networks - MPS to Implement a )  
General Rate Increase in Natural Gas Rates )

**AQUILA'S SUGGESTIONS**  
**CONCERNING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

COMES NOW Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - MPS and Aquila Networks - L&P ("Aquila" or "Company") and, as its suggestions concerning the local public hearings in this case, states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission"):

1. In its Suspension Order and Notice, the Commission, among other things, directed that "the parties and intervenors, if any, shall file recommendations as to the dates and locations for local public hearings in this case on or before September 15, 2003." By order, the Commission later extended this deadline until September 19, 2003.

2. Aquila recommends that the Commission establish the following local public hearings: Sedalia; Rolla; and, Maryville. These local public hearings could take place between January 6 and January 26, 2004. Using that time period would allow the hearing to be conducted at a time when the parties positions as to revenue requirement are known. It would also allow the hearings to be completed prior to the prehearing and allow the parties to discuss the issues with knowledge of the public input.

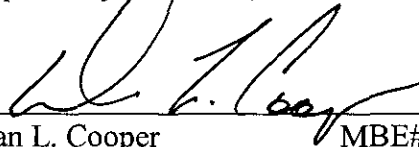
3. Aquila is aware that the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") has recommended six local public hearings. Aquila is sensitive to the OPC's desire to take the hearing to the towns of as many Aquila natural gas customers as practical. Aquila also understands that the rural nature of

much of its service territory makes it difficult to find locations that are closely located to many of its customers.

4. However, this having been said, Aquila would encourage the Commission to attempt to strike a balance between the interest in providing maximum opportunity with the realities of the limited resources and availability of the Commission, its Staff, the OPC, Aquila and the other parties. Aquila believes that this balance is better struck by its recommendation. Utilizing Sedalia, Rolla and Maryville as local public hearing locations will provide good geographic diversity and convenient location for a substantial number of customers, as well as provide the Commission with the opportunity for meaningful public input.

WHEREFORE, Aquila respectfully requests the Commission issue its order setting the local public hearings as suggested by Aquila.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEYS FOR AQUILA, INC. D/B/A  
AQUILA NETWORKS - MPS AND  
AQUILA NETWORKS - L&P

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was hand-delivered on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, to the following:

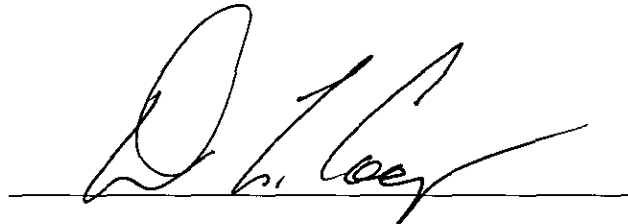
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Comley", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.