Exhibit No. Issue: Foxfire Rate Base and Customers Witness: Garah F. (Rick) Helms Type of Exhibit: Surrebuttal Sponsoring Party: Foxfire Utility Company File Nos.: WM-2022-0186 Date: October 11, 2022

Missouri Public Service Commission

Surrebuttal Testimony

of

Garah F. (Rick) Helms

On Behalf of

Foxfire Utility Company

October 11, 2022

GARAH F. (RICK) HELMS SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

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SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF GARAH F. (RICK) HELMS FOXFIRE UTILITY COMPANY

1 WITNESS INTRODUCTION

2	Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.
3	A.	My name is Garah F. (Rick) Helms. My business address is 3478 Smyrna Road,
4		Rogersville, Missouri 65742.

5 Q. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION WITHIN FOXFIRE UTILITY COMPANY 6 ("FOXFIRE")?

- 7 A. I hold the offices of Director and President of Foxfire. I am also a Trustee of the
- 8 Rick and Janet Helms Revocable Trust dated 8/29/2014, which holds 100% of the
- 9 shares of Foxfire Utility Company.

10 Q. ARE YOU THE SAME RICK HELMS THAT FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS

- 11 CASE?
- 12 A. Yes, I filed my direct testimony on behalf of Foxfire Utility Company.

13 **PURPOSE**

- 14 Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE REBUTTAL TESTIMONY FILED BY THE STAFF
- 15 OF THE COMMISSION?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. WHAT DOES STAFF RECOMMEND?
- 18 A. Staff witness Robertson recommends the Commission approve Foxfire's19 application.
- 20 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

A. The purpose of my surrebuttal testimony is to respond to the assertions made by
 Staff Witness Keith D. Foster made in his Rebuttal Testimony regarding inclusion
 of certain capital investments in Foxfire's Annual Reports and subsequent Staff
 calculations regarding rate base. I will also respond to some observations made
 by Staff in Schedule JJR-r2 to Staff witness Robertson's Rebuttal Testimony in
 regard to the nature of Foxfire's customer base.

7 RESPONSE TO FOSTER REBUTTAL

Q. IN HIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY (PP. 2-5), STAFF WITNESS KEITH D. FOSTER
ASSERTS THAT THE INVESTMENTS OF \$23,878.37 FOR UPDATING
PRESSURE REGULATION VALVES AND \$78,000 IN VARIOUS OTHER
COSTS YOU CLAIM WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE RATE BASE
CALCULATION USED IN STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION, WERE IN FACT
INCLUDED IN FOXFIRE'S ANNUAL REPORTS AND STAFF'S SUBSEQUENT
RATE BASE CALCULATION. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

A. Upon review of Mr. Foster's reasoning for his assertion, it is my opinion that his
 analysis and conclusions are correct and reflect a better understanding of how
 Staff utilized Foxfire's Annual Reports than I possessed at the time of my Direct
 Testimony.

19 Q. HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS CONCLUSION?

A. My analysis relied upon my Certified Public Accountant's preparation of the
 financial aspects of Foxfire's annual reports, rather than my own thorough

2

investigation. I, unfortunately, made assumptions that were incorrect. I will modify
 my Direct Testimony accordingly, when I appear in this hearing.

3 NATURE OF CUSTOMERS

4 Q. IN SCHEDULE JJR-R2 TO STAFF WITNESS ROBERTSON'S REBUTTAL
5 TESTIMONY (P. 7 OF 20), STAFF DESCRIBES FOXFIRE'S CUSTOMERS
6 ONLY AS BEING 258 CUSTOMERS IN THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN POINT,
7 NEAR BRANSON. WOULD YOU PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL AS TO
8 THOSE CUSTOMERS?

9 A. As indicated in my Direct Testimony, the service area is a condominium
10 development. The Company serves the condominium units, three offices, four
11 swimming pool/hot tub areas and two irrigation systems. The condominiums
12 typically represent second homes, investment properties, or both, for their owners.
13 I estimate that there are fewer than 10 customers that reside in their condominium
14 year around. We also have several customers that own more than one
15 condominium

Q. WOULD YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF SOME OF THE LOCATIONS OF THESE
 CUSTOMERS' PRIMARY HOMES?

A. We mail bills around the country. In addition to customers with primary residences
 in other parts of Missouri, we have customers that live (or business entities that
 are customers that are based) in Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, California,
 Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland,

3

1	Mississippi,	Oregon,	Nebraska,	New	Jersey,	Nevada,	Texas,	Arizona,	Utah,
2	Washington	and Wisc	onsin.						

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION OF THE VALUE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
 4 CONDOMINIUMS WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORY?

5 A. Yes. I like to keep apprised of the listed prices for the condominiums. Asking 6 process are found anywhere from \$250,000 to just shy of \$500,000 for the 7 condominiums, depending on the age, location, and condition of those properties.

8 Q. DO YOU HAVE A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THAT TYPE OF PRICING?

- 9 A. Yes. Attached as <u>Schedule GSH-s1</u> is a pdf of condominiums within the service
- area that were offered for sale as of September 29, 2022. That listing contained 8
 condominiums for sale, having asking prices ranging from \$275,000 to \$420,000.

12 Q. IS THIS LISTING INDICATIVE OF PRICES YOU WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT

- 13 **TO SEE?**
- 14 A. Yes. Although on the high end, I have seen prices as high as \$480,000 this year.
- 15 **CONCLUSION**
- 16 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY?
- 17 A. Yes, it does.



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AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSOURI COUNTY OF Christian)

SS

I, Garah F. (Rick) Helms, state that I am the President of Foxfire Utility Company; that the Surrebuttal Testimony and any schedules attached hereto have been prepared by me or under my direction and supervision; and, that the answers to the questions posed therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief under penalty of perjury, and pursuant to § 509.030, RSMo.

Garah F. (Rick) Helms

10(10(2022 Date