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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
Local Public Hearing  
March 21, 2018  
Butler, Missouri  
Volume 4  
In the Matter of Liberty Utilities )  
(Midstates Natural Gas) Corp, d/b/a )  
Liberty Utilities' Tariff Revisions ) FILE NO.  
Designed to Implement a General Rate ) GR-2018-0013  
Increase for Natural Gas Service in )  
the Missouri Service Areas of the )  
Company )

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding  
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE  
WILLIAM P. KENNEY, COMMISSIONER

REPORTED BY:  
Mary Lynn Cushing, CCR  
Alaris Litigation Services  
1608 Locust Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
(816)221-1160

1 (Hearing commenced at 6:00 p.m.)

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Welcome to the Local  
3 Public Hearing. My name is Morris Woodruff. I'm the  
4 Presiding Officer this evening. I'm the  
5 Administrative Law Judge for the Public Service  
6 Commission. To my left is Commissioner Bill Kenney.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'd just like to  
8 welcome you. I'm one of five commissioners and this  
9 is just one part of the case. We have had similar  
10 public hearings around the State and the other  
11 commissioners -- we try to have one commissioner  
12 every public hearing, but any questions or any  
13 statements you make today the other commissioners, it  
14 will become part of record and they can read it.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for coming.  
16 In a moment I will have you come forward, actually  
17 come up to the podium here, and that way it's easier  
18 for the court reporter to hear you. I'll swear you  
19 in if you want to make a statement. You mentioned  
20 you have some questions. We really can't answer  
21 questions for you unless you make rhetorical  
22 questions if you want to. And go ahead and tell us  
23 whatever you want to tell the Commission.

24 Before I do that I need to take entry  
25 of appearance from the attorneys here. First of all,

1 for staff?

2 MS. PAYNE: Whitney Payne for Staff of  
3 the Missouri Public Service Commission.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For the company?

5 MR. FISCHER: My name is James  
6 Fischer, F-i-s-c-h-e-r, and our law firm's name is  
7 Fischer & Dority, P.C., and my address is 101 Madison  
8 Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101, and I'm  
9 appearing on behalf of the company today.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Office of Public  
11 Counsel?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Hampton Williams for  
13 the Office of Public Counsel and I provided my  
14 contact information to the reporter.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Then  
16 Mr. Mertz, you are the star of the show now. If you  
17 want to come up to the podium and I'll swear you in.

18 JOHN MERTZ,  
19 (after having been sworn in testified as follows:)

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Tell us your name.

21 MR. MERTZ: John Mertz.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Spell the last name.

23 MR. MERTZ: M-e-r-t-z.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. What  
25 would you like to tell us?

1                   MR. MERTZ: What I would like to say  
2 is I'm on a fixed income. I want to know what  
3 they're going to do about that. Why they have to --  
4 well, it's obvious why they want to raise their  
5 rates. Talking to them I know that this fact sheet  
6 is different. They said they were going to raise the  
7 rates in August. They still don't tell you exactly  
8 how much they're going to raise the rates because the  
9 investigation is not done yet, and I'm speaking for  
10 the people who are on fixed incomes. It just keeps  
11 getting higher and higher and higher and it's to the  
12 point we can't afford it. It's getting ridiculous.  
13 But business is business and time will go on and it's  
14 just a never ending thing, and I'd like to have the  
15 counsel consider different options for the people who  
16 are on fixed incomes of paying a reduced price.  
17 Whether they can do that or not, different ideas, I  
18 have no idea. But basically that's all I have to  
19 say. If my wife was here she would really say  
20 something.

21                   JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

22                   COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Mertz, we appreciate it.

24                   JUDGE WOODRUFF: I can explain one  
25 thing for you. You mentioned that the company

1 doesn't know how much the rates are going to go up at  
2 this point. That's because we haven't had a hearing  
3 yet.

4 MR. MERTZ: Correct.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And maybe the  
6 Commission will hear all the evidence and it's the  
7 Commission that will decide how much they can raise  
8 the rates. So that's why this process is going on is  
9 to go out and hear comments from the members of the  
10 public.

11 MR. MERTZ: Hopefully, I spoke for  
12 more than me.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We appreciate that.

14 MR. MERTZ: Thank you for your time.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any parties have any  
16 questions for Mr. Mertz?

17 MR. BEATTY: Thank you for your  
18 attendance.

19 MS. SCHWARTZ: Thank you for coming.

20 MR. MERTZ: Glad to be here.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

22 MR. MERTZ: Is that it?

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's it unless  
24 there is something else you want to say.

25 MR. MERTZ: No, there's nothing else I

1 want to say. Good evening.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening. Is  
3 there anyone else in the room that would like to  
4 testify? All right. I don't see anybody else  
5 responding. There's a lot of people here, but it's  
6 mostly people from the company. So with that then we  
7 are adjourned and thank you all for coming.

8 (WHEREIN, the Public Service  
9 Commission hearing was concluded at: 6:30 p.m.)

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I N D E X

AUDIENCE MEMBER JOHN MERTZ: PAGE 3

(No Exhibits were marked.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI) ) ss.  
CITY OF BUTLER )

I, Mary Lynn Cushing, a Certified Court Reporter (MO), and a Notary Public within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

*Mary Lynn Cushing*

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Mary Lynn Cushing, CCR #1077



**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 3/21/2018**

<p align="center"><b>A</b></p> <p>ability 8:8  action 8:11,15  address 3:7  adjourned 6:7  <b>Administrative</b>  2:5  afford 4:12  ahead 2:22  Alaris 1:22  answer 2:20  anybody 6:4  appearance  2:25  appearing 3:9  appreciate 4:23  5:13  Areas 1:12  attendance  5:18  attorney 8:13  attorneys 2:25  <b>AUDIENCE</b> 7:5  August 4:7</p>	<p>5:19 6:7  commenced 2:1  comments 5:9  <b>Commission</b> 1:2  2:6,23 3:3 5:6  5:7 6:9  <b>commissioner</b>  1:15 2:6,7,11  4:22  <b>commissioners</b>  2:8,11,13  <b>company</b> 1:12  3:4,9 4:25 6:6  concluded 6:9  consider 4:15  contact 3:14  <b>Corp</b> 1:10  <b>Correct</b> 5:4  <b>counsel</b> 3:11,13  4:15 8:9,13  court 2:18 8:5  <b>Cushing</b> 1:21  8:4,18</p>	<p>explain 4:24</p> <p align="center"><b>F</b></p> <p><b>F-i-s-c-h-e-r</b> 3:6  fact 4:5  <b>FILE</b> 1:10  <b>financially</b> 8:14  <b>firm's</b> 3:6  <b>First</b> 2:25  <b>Fischer</b> 3:5,6,7  <b>five</b> 2:8  <b>fixed</b> 4:2,10,16  <b>follows</b> 3:19  <b>foregoing</b> 8:7  <b>forward</b> 2:16  <b>further</b> 8:12</p>	<p>3:14  interested 8:14  <b>investigation</b>  4:9</p> <p align="center"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>James</b> 3:5  <b>Jefferson</b> 3:8  <b>John</b> 3:18,21 7:5  <b>Judge</b> 1:14 2:2  2:5,15 3:4,10  3:15,20,22,24  4:21,24 5:5,13  5:15,21,23 6:2</p>	<p>5:22,25 7:5  <b>Midstates</b> 1:10  <b>Missouri</b> 1:1,6,12  1:23 3:3,8 8:2  8:6  <b>MO</b> 8:5  <b>moment</b> 2:16  <b>Morris</b> 1:14 2:3</p>
<p align="center"><b>B</b></p> <p>basically 4:18  <b>BEATTY</b> 5:17  <b>behalf</b> 3:9  <b>best</b> 8:7  <b>Bill</b> 2:6  <b>business</b> 4:13  4:13  <b>Butler</b> 1:6 8:3</p>	<p align="center"><b>D</b></p> <p><b>D</b> 7:1  <b>d/b/a</b> 1:10  <b>decide</b> 5:7  <b>deposition</b> 8:11  <b>Designed</b> 1:11  <b>different</b> 4:6,15  4:17  <b>direction</b> 8:9  <b>Dority</b> 3:7</p>	<p align="center"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>Gas</b> 1:10,11  <b>General</b> 1:11  <b>getting</b> 4:11,12  <b>Glad</b> 5:20  <b>go</b> 2:22 4:13 5:1  5:9  <b>going</b> 4:3,6,8  5:1,8  <b>Good</b> 6:1,2  <b>GR-2018-0013</b>  1:11</p>	<p align="center"><b>K</b></p> <p><b>Kansas</b> 1:23  <b>keeps</b> 4:10  <b>Kenney</b> 1:15 2:6  2:7 4:22  <b>know</b> 4:2,5 5:1</p>	<p align="center"><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b> 7:1  <b>name</b> 2:3 3:5,6  3:20,22  <b>Natural</b> 1:10,11  <b>need</b> 2:24  <b>neither</b> 8:9  <b>never</b> 4:14  <b>Notary</b> 8:5</p>
<p align="center"><b>C</b></p> <p>case 2:9  <b>CCR</b> 1:21 8:18  <b>CERTIFICATE</b>  8:1  <b>Certified</b> 8:4  <b>certify</b> 8:6  <b>CHIEF</b> 1:14  <b>City</b> 1:23 3:8 8:3  <b>come</b> 2:16,17  3:17  <b>coming</b> 2:15</p>	<p align="center"><b>E</b></p> <p><b>E</b> 7:1  <b>easier</b> 2:17  <b>employed</b> 8:10  8:13  <b>employee</b> 8:12  <b>entry</b> 2:24  <b>evening</b> 2:4 6:1  6:2  <b>evidence</b> 5:6  <b>exactly</b> 4:7  <b>Exhibits</b> 7:7</p>	<p align="center"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>Hampton</b> 3:12  <b>hear</b> 2:18 5:6,9  <b>hearing</b> 1:4 2:1,3  2:12 5:2 6:9  <b>hearings</b> 2:10  <b>higher</b> 4:11,11,11  <b>Hopefully</b> 5:11</p>	<p align="center"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>L</b> 1:14  <b>law</b> 1:14 2:5 3:6  <b>left</b> 2:6  <b>Liberty</b> 1:9,10  <b>Litigation</b> 1:22  <b>Local</b> 1:4 2:2  <b>Locust</b> 1:22  <b>lot</b> 6:5  <b>Lynn</b> 1:21 8:4,18</p>	<p align="center"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>obvious</b> 4:4  <b>Office</b> 3:10,13  <b>Officer</b> 2:4  <b>options</b> 4:15  <b>outcome</b> 8:15</p>
<p align="center"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>idea</b> 4:18  <b>ideas</b> 4:17  <b>Implement</b> 1:11  <b>income</b> 4:2  <b>incomes</b> 4:10,16  <b>Increase</b> 1:11  <b>information</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>P</b> 1:15  <b>P.C</b> 3:7  <b>p.m</b> 2:1 6:9  <b>PAGE</b> 7:5  <b>part</b> 2:9,14  <b>parties</b> 5:15  8:10,13  <b>paying</b> 4:16  <b>Payne</b> 3:2,2  <b>people</b> 4:10,15  6:5,6  <b>podium</b> 2:17  3:17  <b>point</b> 4:12 5:2  <b>Presiding</b> 1:14  2:4  <b>price</b> 4:16  <b>PROCEEDINGS</b>  1:3  <b>process</b> 5:8</p>			

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 3/21/2018

<p>provided 3:13 public 1:2,4 2:3 2:5,10,12 3:3 3:10,13 5:10 6:8 8:5</p> <hr/> <p><b>Q</b></p> <p>questions 2:12 2:20,21,22 5:16</p> <hr/> <p><b>R</b></p> <p>raise 4:4,6,8 5:7 Rate 1:11 rates 4:5,7,8 5:1 5:8 read 2:14 really 2:20 4:19 record 2:14 reduced 4:16 8:8 REGULATORY 1:14 related 8:10 relative 8:12 REPORTED 1:20 reporter 2:18 3:14 8:1,5 responding 6:5 Revisions 1:10 rhetorical 2:21 ridiculous 4:12 right 3:15,24 6:4 room 6:3</p> <hr/> <p><b>S</b></p> <p>SCHWARTZ 5:19 see 6:4 Service 1:2,11,12 2:5 3:3 6:8 Services 1:22 sheet 4:5 show 3:16</p>	<p>similar 2:9 speaking 4:9 Spell 3:22 spoke 5:11 ss 8:2 staff 3:1,2 star 3:16 State 1:1 2:10 8:2,6 statement 2:19 statements 2:13 Street 1:22 3:8 swear 2:18 3:17 sworn 3:19</p> <hr/> <p><b>T</b></p> <p>take 2:24 taken 8:7,11 Talking 4:5 Tariff 1:10 tell 2:22,23 3:20,25 4:7 testified 3:19 testify 6:4 thank 2:15 4:21 4:22 5:14,17 5:19,21 6:7 thereto 8:13 thing 4:14,25 time 4:13 5:14 today 2:13 3:9 transcript 1:3 8:7 try 2:11 typewriting 8:8</p> <hr/> <p><b>U</b></p> <p>Utilities 1:9 Utilities' 1:10</p> <hr/> <p><b>V</b></p> <p>Volume 1:8</p> <hr/> <p><b>W</b></p> <p>want 2:19,22,23 3:17 4:2,4 5:24 6:1</p>	<p>way 2:17 welcome 2:2,8 Whitney 3:2 wife 4:19 WILLIAM 1:15 Williams 3:12,12 Woodruff 1:14 2:2,3,15 3:4,10 3:15,20,22,24 4:21,24 5:5,13 5:15,21,23 6:2</p> <hr/> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>X 7:1</p> <hr/> <p><b>Y</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Z</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>0</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>101 3:7 1077 8:18 1608 1:22</p> <hr/> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>2018 1:5 211:5</p> <hr/> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>3 7:5</p> <hr/> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>4 1:8</p> <hr/> <p><b>5</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00 2:1 6:30 6:9 64108 1:23 65101 3:8</p> <hr/> <p><b>7</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>816)221-1160 1:23</p>		
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