BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Propriety of the Rate Schedules for Steam Service of Veolia Energy Kansas City, Inc.

File No. HR-2018-0232

ORDER OPENING RATE CASE, DIRECTING NOTICE, ESTABLISHING TIME TO INTERVENE, AND REQUIRING COMPANY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ITS RATES SHOULD NOT BE ADJUSTED

Issue Date: February 22, 2018 Effective Date: February 22, 2018

The Commission's Staff filed a motion on February 22, 2018, asking the Commission to open a rate case to consider the rates charged by Veolia Energy Kansas City, Inc. for steam service. Staff's motion explains that Veolia's existing rate schedules may no longer be just and reasonable in light of the recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent.

Staff asks the Commission to order Veolia to show cause why the Commission should not order it to promptly file tariffs to reduce its rates for every class and category of service to reflect the percentage reduction in its federal-state effective income tax rate. In addition, Staff asks the Commission to direct Veolia to quantify and track all steam rate impacts resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Staff also asks the Commission to order Veolia to quantify and track its excess protected and unprotected Accumulated Deferred Income Tax (ADIT) for possible future flow-back to ratepayers, and to advise the Commission how such flow-back may best be accomplished. Further, Staff asks the Commission to direct Veolia to state its position on whether the court decisions in *State ex*

*rel. Midwest Gas Users' Association v. Public Service Commission*¹ and *State ex rel. Hotel Continental v. Burton*² would allow the Commission to order a reduction in utility rates without considering all relevant factors in an extended general rate case.

Finally, Staff raises one additional matter. In AW-2018-0174, the working case opened to address the effect of the tax cuts, the Commission directed Missouri's electrical corporations, gas corporations and Missouri-American Water Company to respond to five questions. That earlier order did not address Veolia's steam operations. Staff now asks the Commission to direct Veolia to answer those five questions for its steam operations.

The Commission will open this file and direct Veolia to respond as requested by Staff.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. No later than March 19, 2018, Veolia shall show cause, if any, why the Commission should not order it to promptly file tariffs reducing its rates for every class and category of steam service to reflect the percentage reduction in its federal-state effective income tax rate.

2. Veolia shall quantify and track all impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 potentially affecting steam service rates from January 1, 2018, going forward.

3. Veolia shall quantify and track its excess protected and unprotected ADIT for possible future flow back to ratepayers, and shall advise the Commission how best such flow-back may be accomplished.

4. Veolia shall, as part of its response to this order to show cause, advise the Commission as to its position on whether the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

¹ 976 S.W.2d 470 (Mo. App. W.D. 1998).

is like the gross receipts tax analyzed in *Hotel Continental* and the natural gas commodity costs considered in *Midwest Gas Users' Association*, such that the Commission may order a reduction in utility rates without considering all relevant factors in an extended general rate case.

5. Veolia shall, as part of its response to this order to show cause, identify and quantify all other impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on its steam rates not otherwise addressed in this order.

6. Veolia shall file its response to the following questions regarding its steam operations no later than March 5, 2018:

(a) What is the appropriate avenue for effectuating change to utility rates as a result of the federal income tax reductions?

(b) Is a different avenue appropriate for regulated corporations and Commission-regulated pass-through entities such as S Corporations, LLCs, and partnerships?

(c) What is the appropriate mechanism(s) for effectuating change to utility rates as a result of the federal income tax reductions?

(d) How does the change to the federal income tax affect pending rate cases? Can the change be considered in the pending rate cases?

(e) Please calculate the first-year approximate annual Missouri jurisdictional change in cost of service for your utility that is projected to result from implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (all other things being equal) and provide supporting workpapers for this calculation.

² 334 S.W.2d 75 (Mo. 1960).

7. The Commission's Data Center shall send a copy of this notice and order to each party to Veolia's most recent general steam rate case – HR-2014-0066 - and to the county commission of each county within Veolia's steam service area. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall make notice of this order available to the members of the General Assembly representing Veolia's steam service area and the news media serving Veolia's steam service area.

8. Any party wishing to apply to intervene shall file an appropriate motion no later than March 5, 2018, by transmitting it to:

Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

or by using the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System.

9. This order shall be effective when issued.

BY THE COMMISSION



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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 22nd day of February, 2018.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 22nd day of February 2018.



Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 22, 2018

File/Case No. HR-2018-0232

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Truman Medical Center, Inc. Legal Department 2301 Holmes Kansas City, MO 64108

Veolia Energy Kansas City, Inc

Legal Department 115 Grand Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64106

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely.

~ ood w/

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.