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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Public Hearing
February 9, 2004
Marshall, Missouri
Volume 8

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

VICKY RUTH, Presiding,
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

STEVE GAW, Chair
COMMISSIONER

REPORTED BY: KIMBERLY G. ROBERTS

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A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Public MR. ROBERT V. FRANSON
Service Commission: Public Service Commission
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200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

For the Public: MR. DOUGLAS E. MICHEEL
Department of Economic
Development
Office of the Public Counsel
Governor Office Building
Suite 650
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

For the Company: MR. DEAN L. COOPER
Brydon, Swearngen & England
312 East Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Proceedings commenced at 12:30 p.m.)

JUDGE RUTH: Let's go ahead and go on the record. If you can't hear me wave. If you can hear me nod, all right. My name is Vicky Ruth, and we are here for a local public hearing in case number GR-2004-0072. Today is Monday, February 9th, and the on the record portion of this public hearing is beginning at 12:30.

There was a question and answer session that began at twelve o'clock; however, it appears that there are no witnesses here today.

CHAIR GAW: We may have one.

JUDGE RUTH: Let's take a five-minute break.

(Off the record.)

(Back on the record.)

JUDGE RUTH: As I was saying, we are here for a local public hearing in the Aquila natural gas rate case. The purpose of today's hearing is to allow the public an opportunity to make comments regarding Aquila's proposed rate increase which is approximately 5.6 million dollars for Aquila Networks MPS and .8 million

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1 dollars for Aquila Networks L&P.

2 As I stated before, my name is Vicky Ruth
3 and I am the regulatory law judge assigned to this
4 case. Also present today is the commission chair,
5 Steve Gaw, to my right. We have a staff attorney
6 present, Mr. Robert Franson. He works for the
7 Missouri Public Service Commission. Dean Cooper
8 is here representing Aquila. Mr. Cooper, thank
9 you, too, and Mr. Douglas Micheel is here
10 representing the Office of the Public Counsel. It
11 is the public counsel's job to represent the
12 public in matters before the Commission.

13 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
14 Public Service Commission, and that means we have
15 a reporter present. Anyone who wants to speak
16 will need to be sworn in and a transcript will be
17 made of the entire proceedings so that the other
18 commissioners may read that.

19 In addition to today's local public hearing
20 we have one this evening in Sedalia, and the
21 Commission has also conducted local public
22 hearings in Maryville, Platte City, Nevada and
23 Rolla.

24 The trial type of evidentiary hearing will
25 be held in late March and early April 2004 at the

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1 Commission's office in Jefferson City, Missouri.
2 The hearing is open to the public, and the company
3 will have the burden of showing that the proposed
4 rate increase is necessary.

5 The procedure for today is as follows. If
6 anyone signs the witness sheet, I will call their
7 name. They will come forward to the microphone.
8 I will ask you your name and address and then give
9 you an opportunity to make your statement. After
10 you make your statement there could be a few
11 questions from either the chairman or one of the
12 other parties.

13 At this time is there anyone in the
14 audience who wants to make a comment or statement?

15 (No response)

16 JUDGE RUTH: Okay. At this time
17 then we do not have any witnesses signed up.
18 Chairman Gaw, would you like to make a few
19 remarks?

20 CHAIR GAW: I thank everybody
21 for coming. We would like to hear from people
22 though if they want to say something. That's the
23 purpose of these things. It's not formal. It's
24 just a question of whether anyone wants to add
25 something. I'm not going to get anything, am I?

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1 JUDGE RUTH: It doesn't look
2 like it.

3 CHAIR GAW: It's my fault that
4 we are here which really makes me feel bad. I
5 don't have anything else.

6 JUDGE RUTH: While we are on the
7 record I would like to do entries of appearance
8 from counsel. Aquila, would you go first.

9 MR. COOPER: Dean Cooper from
10 the law firm of Brydon, Swearingen & England, PC,
11 P.O. Box 465, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
12 appearing on behalf of Aquila, Inc., doing
13 business as Aquila Networks MPS and Aquila
14 Networks L&P.

15 JUDGE RUTH: Thank you. And
16 staff.

17 MR. FRANSON: Robert Franson
18 representing the staff of the Missouri Public
19 Service Commission, P. O. Box 360, Jefferson City,
20 Missouri 65102.

21 JUDGE RUTH: Thank you. Public
22 counsel.

23 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel
24 appearing on behalf of the Office of Public
25 Counsel and the public, Box 2230, Jefferson City,

1 Missouri 65102-2230.

2 JUDGE RUTH: Thank you. And I
3 will make one last offer if anyone wants to make
4 some comments. Okay. Seeing none this local
5 public hearing is adjourned. Thank you for your
6 time.

7 (Proceedings concluded at 12:35 p.m.)

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