BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

CHARLES HARTER, )

Petitioner )

In the Matter of a Proposed Amendment to )AX-2023-0287

Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-13.050

Regarding Discontinuance of Service )

PETITIONER’S APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

COMES NOW petitioner/applicant Charles Harter and for his Application for Rehearing states as follows:

1. Applicant is Petitioner, a St. Louis County resident who filed his Proposed Amendment to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-13.050 regarding discontinuance of service to require that notices of discontinuance be sent with USPS postmark to correct his experience, as complained of in three active complaints before the commission, that unexplained mail delays consumed most of the 10 day notice window for St. Louis area residents.
2. On May 3, 2023, the Missouri Public Service Commission by order effective May 13, 2023, stated that “based on the…report submitted by staff” it denied said petition to amend the rule.

Said staff report stated, at page 4 “"1&&0 "0 3$"%$!("

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1. Said Staff Report stated at page 4 “Although Staff was not able to independently verify an exact date of when the USPS made the decision that mail sent using a permit imprint does not require a postmark, it did pose this question to the representative at the Jefferson City post office bulk mailing unit. When speaking with the representative, he stated that he had worked for the USPS for thirty years and the current practice has been in place as long as he can remember.”
2. Said Staff Report stated at page 5 that “In speaking with a tenured representative in the Bulk Mailing Unit at the Jefferson City post office, he also could not recall any complaints about the lack of a postmark on bulk mail.”
3. Said staff report stated at page 6 that “When speaking with Bulk Mailing Unit of the Jefferson City post office, Staff was informed that systems used by the business doing the mailing are typically able to track when documents are mailed. Bulk mail customers who would like their mail postmarked would have to alter their method of sending mail by using a metered postage machine or hand-stamping; which would thereby forfeit the benefits of bulk mailing.”
4. The population of Jefferson City, Missouri is 42,772 and its area is 35.75 square miles of land. The combined area of St. Louis and St. Louis County is 589 square miles and the St. Louis metropolitan population is 2,812,896. There is but one post office in Jefferson City, there are 40 post offices in St. Louis. The petition to amend the rule specifically questioned transfer time of mail between post offices.
5. These cities are not comparable, and where the thrust of applicant’s petition concerned possible slow mail delivery when not postmarked in a large metropolitan area of nearly three million people and 40 post offices, asking a line worker in the post office of a city less than 50,000 residents where there is no transfer between offices, does not provide sufficient information to inform the question for the commission, who erred in relying on this data.

WHEREFORE complainant prays that this Honorable Commission grant this application for rehearing to allow staff to explore data requests both from utilities and from the United States Postal Service in the St. Louis metropolitan area and for such other and further orders as are proper in the premises.

Respectfully submitted this third day of May, 2023 through EFIS

Charles A. Harter mbe 28059

Petitioner, Attorney for Petitioner

[harleycharter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harleycharter@sbcglobal.net)

314-821-1334