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April 4, 2000

Mr. Dale H. Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED²

APR 04 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**RE: Missouri American Water Company
Case No. WR-2000-281, et al.**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced case please find the original and fourteen copies of the **Office of the Public Counsel's Motion for Order Scheduling Local Public Hearings and Request for Expedited Consideration**. Please "file" stamp the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Shannon E. Cook
Assistant Public Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Counsel of Record

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

FILED²

APR 04 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**In The Matter of Missouri-American)
Water Company's Tariff Sheets Designed)
to Implement General Rate Increases for)
Water and Sewer Service Provided to)
Customers in the Missouri Service Area)
of the Company.)**

Case No. WR-2000-281, et al.

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S MOTION FOR ORDER SCHEDULING
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REQUEST FOR
EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its
Motion for Order Scheduling Local Public Hearings and Request for Expedited

Consideration herein states as follows:

1. On February 1, 2000, the Commission issued its Order Concerning Test Year, True Up, Accounting Authority Order, and Local Public Hearings.
2. The Order stated, in paragraph 5, that "the Commission will schedule and hold Local Public Hearings in Joplin, St. Joseph, Warrensburg, and Mexico, Missouri. The Commission will issue an Order Setting Local Public Hearings when the preparations are complete."
3. Direct testimony, with the exception of rate design testimony, has already been filed in this case. The evidentiary hearing is presently scheduled to begin two months from tomorrow.
4. Due to the rapid progression of this case, Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule dates on which to hold the local public hearings as soon as possible, so as to give the parties and interested members of the public adequate notice.

5. In addition, Public Counsel needs the testimony gathered at the local public hearings well before the evidentiary hearing so as to give it proper consideration while formulating its positions on the issues in this case.

6. In order to ensure that the public has adequate notice of the requested local public hearings, Public Counsel suggests that the Commission order the following:

a. Notice of the time, date and location of the local hearing, along with information regarding the amount of the proposed rate increase and the approximate percentage of the proposed increase, should be given to each affected customer, either by an imprint on the customer's monthly billing or a bill insert, or a separate mailing not more than 45 days or less than ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. Additionally, Public Counsel requests that the Commission order that the following information be included somewhere within the individual customer notices:

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Attn: Shannon Cook
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 573/751-1304

Fax: 573/751-5562

e-mail: mopco@mail.state.mo.us

Public Service Commission
Attn: Water & Sewer Department
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 573/751-3437 or

800/392-4211

Fax: 573/751-1847

b. The newspapers in the relevant service areas, as listed in the current *Official Manual of the State of Missouri*, should be notified of the proposed increase as well as the date, time and location of the public hearing, not less than ten days before the date scheduled for the hearing, and should be requested to publish such notice seven and three days before the hearing in each newspaper's area;

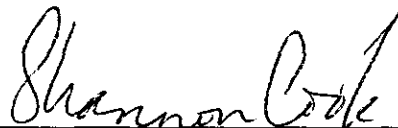
c. Similar notice should be given to any radio and television stations in each area, not less than three days before the public hearing.

7. Public Counsel requests that the Commission give this motion expedited consideration due to the tight procedural schedule that currently exists in this case.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel requests that the Commission issue its Order scheduling local public hearings as set forth in its February 1, 2000 Order, providing adequate notice to the public as requested herein, giving this motion expedited consideration, and for such other and further orders as the Commission deems necessary under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL



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Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true copy of the foregoing has been mailed, hand-delivered or faxed to all counsel of record as shown on the service list below this 4th day of April, 2000.



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Case No. WR-2000-281, et. al
April 4, 2000**

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