

Martha S. Hogerty Public Counsel

State of Missouri

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Bob Holden

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December 26, 2001

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

## Re: Missouri-American Water Company Case No. WO-2002-273

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced case please find the original and eight copies of **Response** to **Proposed Procedural Schedule**. Please "file" stamp the extra-enclosed copy and return it to this office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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M. Ruth O'Neill Assistant Public Counsel

MRO:jb

cc: Counsel of Record

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

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In the Matter of the Joint Application of Missouri-American Water Company, St. Louis Water Company, d/b/a Missouri-American Water Company and Jefferson City Water Works, d/b/a Missouri-American Water Company for an accounting authority order relating to security costs.

Case No.' WO-2002-273

#### **RESPONSE TO PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel), and respectfully responds to the Proposed Procedural Schedule submitted by counsel on behalf of Missouri-American Water Company, St. Louis County Water Company, d/b/a Missouri-American Water Company, and Jefferson City Water Works, d/b/a Missouri-American Water Company (together, the Applicants or the Companies). Public Counsel concurs with the Applicants' decision to withdraw their request that the Commission grant this application expedited treatment.

Public Counsel has reviewed the proposed procedural schedule submitted by the Applicants and, subject to the following proposed modifications, has no objections to the Commission adopting the Applicants' proposed procedural schedule:

January 31, 2001	Applicants file direct testimony
February 28, 2002	All other parties (who wish to do so) file rebuttal testimony
March 21, 2002	Surrebuttal and Cross-Surrebuttal testimony (all parties wishing to file)
March 28, 2002	Statement of Issues
April 4, 2002	Statement of Positions

April 30-May 1 (if dates are available)	Evidentiary Hearing
May 16 (or 15 days after the conclusion of the hear	ing) Initial Briefs
May 30 (or 15 days after the filing of initial briefs)	<b>Reply Briefs</b>

Public Counsel expects that the discovery process will continue throughout January and February 2002, and will be ongoing throughout the course of this proceeding, as necessary. Depending on the dates on which the hearing is scheduled, the above schedule should enable the Commission to reach a decision on this matter in June 2002. Public Counsel believes that the Staff of the Commission is also amenable to this or a similar schedule.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Commission allow the Applicants to withdraw their request for expedited treatment in this case, and to order the procedural schedule as set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL Bv:

M. Ruth O'Neill (#49456) Assistant Public Counsel

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to the following this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001:

GENERAL COUNSEL

Missouri Public Service Commission P O Box 360 Jefferson City MO 65102

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Brydon Swearengen England PC P O Box 456 Jefferson City MO 65102 Attorneys for MAWC & AWWC

### **STUART CONRAD**

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