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Director of Administration

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November 2, 2016

Mike Downing, Director
Department of Economic Development
301 W. High Street
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

RE: 4 CSR 240-4.040 Communications that are not Ex Parte or Extra-Record Communications

Dear Mr. Downing:

The Public Service Commission proposes the rule 4 CSR 240-4.040, Communications that are not Ex Parte or Extra-Record Communications. This rule will identify examples of communications that are not ex parte or extra-record communications.

The proposed rule does not implicate the takings clause of the U.S. Constitution, because the proposed rule does not involve the taking of real property.

The Commission has performed the small business analysis required by Section 536.300, RSMo Supp. 2013, and includes the small business impact statement with this filing. Proposed Rule 4 CSR 240-4.040 does not impose any requirement that "will cause direct and significant economic burden upon a small business, or that is directly related to the formation, operation, or expansion of a small business." The Commission certifies that it has determined that the proposed rule will not have an economic impact on small businesses.

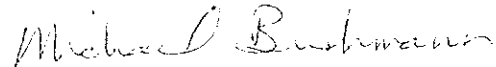
Please find enclosed a copy of the Proposed Rule, a Small Business Impact Statement and, for your signature, a Public Entity Cost Affidavit. Please review and sign the Affidavit at

Mr. Mike Downing
November 2, 2016
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your earliest convenience so that the Commission may proceed with publishing the proposed rule.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Bushmann".

Michael Bushmann
Senior Regulatory Law Judge
(573) 751-4393 (telephone)
(573) 526-6010 (facsimile)
Michael.bushmann@psc.mo.gov (e-mail)

Enclosure

**Title 4—DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Division 240—Public Service
Commission
Chapter 4—Standards of Conduct**

4 CSR 240-4.040 Communications that are not Ex Parte or Extra-Record Communications

PURPOSE: To identify examples of communications that are not ex parte or extra-record communications.

(1) Pursuant to section 386.210.3, no communication shall be prohibited by or subject to the disclosure and notice requirements of section 4 CSR 240-4.020 or 4 CSR 240-4.030, if those communications are made before an evidentiary hearing has been scheduled in the case and are--

(A) Made at a public agenda meeting of the commission where such matter has been posted in advance as an item for discussion or decision; or

(B) Made at a forum where representatives of the public utility affected thereby, the office of the public counsel, and any other party to the case are present.

AFFIDAVIT

PUBLIC COST

STATE OF MISSOURI)

1000

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Mike Downing, Director of the Department of Economic Development, first being duly sworn, on my oath, state that it is my opinion that the cost of proposed rule, 4 CSR 240-4.040, is less than five hundred dollars in the aggregate to this agency, any other agency of state government or any political subdivision thereof.

Mike Downing
Director
Department of Economic Development

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2016, I am
commissioned as a notary public within the County of _____, State of
Missouri, and my commission expires on _____.

Notary Public

Small Business Regulator Fairness Board Small Business Impact Statement

Date: 10/27/2016

Rule Number: 4 CSR 240-4.040

Name of Agency Preparing Statement: Public Service Commission

Name of Person Preparing Statement: Michael Bushmann, Reg. Law Judge

Phone Number: 751-4393 Email: Michael.Bushmann@psc.mo.gov

Name of Person Approving Statement: Morris Woodruff, Secretary

Please describe the methods your agency considered or used to reduce the impact on small businesses *(examples: consolidation, simplification, differing compliance, differing reporting requirements, less stringent deadlines, performance rather than design standards, exemption, or any other mitigating technique).*

None. There is little impact on small businesses other than a requirement to comply with this ethics rule.

Please explain how your agency has involved small businesses in the development of the proposed rule.

Involvement of small businesses or entities regulated by the Commission was not necessary for the development of this proposed rule.

Please list the probable monetary costs and benefits to your agency and any other agencies affected. Please include the estimated total amount your agency expects to collect from additionally imposed fees and how the moneys will be used.

None.

Please describe small businesses that will be required to comply with the proposed rule and how they may be adversely affected.

Small businesses such as water and sewer companies, manufactured housing dealers and installers, and law firms will have to comply with this ethics rule. No adverse effect is anticipated.

Please list direct and indirect costs (in dollars amounts) associated with compliance.

None.

Please list types of business that will be directly affected by, bear the cost of, or directly benefit from the proposed rule.

Small businesses such as water and sewer companies, manufactured housing dealers and installers, and law firms will have to comply with this ethics rule. No monetary cost or benefit is anticipated by the rule.

Does the proposed rule include provisions that are more stringent than those mandated by comparable or related federal, state, or county standards?

Yes ____ No XX

If yes, please explain the reason for imposing a more stringent standard.

For further guidance in the completion of this statement, please see §536.300, RSMo.