BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Lincoln County Sewer & Water, LLC for Approval of a Rate Increase

File No. SR-2013-0321 Tracking Nos. YW-2015-0035 and YS-2015-0036

LCSW'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COUNSEL REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

COMES NOW Lincoln County Sewer & Water, LLC (LCSW or Company), and, in response to The Office of the Public Counsel's (Public Counsel) Request for Clarification, states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission):

1. On July 30, 2014, the Public Counsel filed its Request for Clarification wherein it asked the Commission to "clarify its July 23, 214, Order [Regarding Motion to Establish Rate Case Expense] to provide guidance to the parties as to whether the Commission intended the parties to utilize the FY 2014 PSC Assessment applicable at the time of the evidentiary hearing or the current FY 2015 PSC Assessment applicable at the time of the July 23, 2014, Order in the calculation of rates."

2. Also on July 30, 2014, LCSW filed tariff sheets in accordance with the Commission's Report and Order and the Order Regarding Motion to Establish Rate Case Expense. LCSW has also filed a Motion for Expedited Treatment, requesting that its proposed tariff sheets become effective on August 19, 2014. On August 6, 2014, Staff filed its recommendation suggesting that LCSW's proposed tariffs are in compliance with the Commission's orders and are in all other respects just, reasonable and compliant with applicable statutes and regulations."

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3. Staff previously filed its response to the Public Counsel Request on July 31, 2014, wherein it stated in relevant part as follows:

Because it would constitute a violation of the matching principle, Staff recommends that the FY2015 PSC Assessment *not* be used in the calculation of rates in this case. No other account is being updated in that manner.

4. LCSW agrees with the Staff that nothing remains for the Commission to address in regard to the issue raised by the Public Counsel and suggests that the Request for Clarification be denied.

5. However, if there is a desire to update categories of expense and investment that have not previously been at issue, LCSW would ask that, at a minimum, two additional items be considered:

- a. First, as Mr. Kallash mentioned during the last hearing, the cost of LCSW's licensed operator has increased. This increase results in an additional \$90 cost per month, as of June, 2014. This is a significant increase for a small utility. Before and after copies of the provider's invoices, along with a letter explaining the increase, are attached as **Appendix A**; and,
- b. Most significantly, on June 21, 2014, the well at Rockport was struck by lightning. The resulting damage required the replacement of the pump motor and associated materials. The cost of this replacement to LCSW was \$11,916.19. See <u>Appendix B</u>. Because of the timing, this investment is also not addressed in the rates found in the tariff sheets LCSW filed on July 30, 2014.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, LCSW respectfully requests the Commission deny Public Counsel's Request for Clarification and approve its tariff

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sheets filed on July 30, 2014, for service on and after August 19, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Lincoln County Sewer & Water, LLC

Certificate of Service

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been sent by electronic mail this 7th day of August, 2014, to:

Kevin Thompson Missouri Public Service Commission kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov Christina Baker Office of the Public Counsel <u>christina.baker@ded.mo.gov</u>

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