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

In the Matter of Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc's Request for a Water Rate Increase

File No. WR-2020-0275

#### ELM HILLS' RESPONSE TO JOINT PROPOSAL FOR VIRTUAL HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

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**COMES NOW** Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. ("Elm Hills" or "Company"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its *Response* states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. On June 8, 2020, Staff filed on behalf of itself, the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") and Elm Hills, a *Joint Proposal for Virtual Hearing and Public Comment.* Elm Hills joined in the filing except for the second sentence of paragraph 2(g) that reads: "If the Parties wish to include hand-outs outlining their positions, Staff and the OPC propose the hand-outs be sent out with the [Company's] notifications."

2. Elm Hills is concerned with the logistics of sending out any handouts that Staff and OPC may have.

3. First, if Elm Hills is required to send out other parties' handouts, such handouts would need to be provided in final form to the Company by no later than June 15, 2020, to be included in the Company's June 22, 2020 mailing of the public hearing notice to customers.

4. Further, if no deadlines or page restrictions are placed on any hand-outs, Elm Hills could be responsible for sending out multiple mailings or unduly large mailings to customers that may have no desire to receive the additional information.

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5. Typically, the customer/attendee has the option at the public hearing of receiving any additional handouts provided by the parties. As such, Elm Hills proposes that the same process outlined in 2(b) be used to determine whether the customer wishes to receive any handouts of the parties. The June 22 customer notice could include information on requesting copies of any such handouts. Handouts could then be sent to the specific customers that indicate they wish to receive the information using the email addresses provided as set out in 2(b).

6. If the Commission orders the process as proposed by Staff and OPC in Paragraph 2(g), Elm Hills respectfully requests the parties be ordered to provide final copies of their respective handout, if any, to the Company no later than June 15, 2020. Elm Hills also requests the Commission limit the length of any handout to one (1) page (front only) to limit the size of customer mailings.

**WHEREFORE**, Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. submits this Response to the Commission and requests the Commission issue an Order regarding public hearing handouts as described herein, and grant such further and other relief as is just and proper in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dean L. Cooper, MBE #36592 Jennifer L. Hernandez #59814 **BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.** 312 E. Capitol Avenue P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65012 (573) 635-7166 telephone (573) 635-0427 facsimile

dcooper@brydonlaw.com jhernandez@brydonlaw.com

### ATTORNEYS FOR ELM HILLS UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, INC.

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020, to all counsel of record.

## /s/ Jennifer L. Hernandez