

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 10th
day of August, 1993.

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| In the matter of the application of St. Louis |) | |
| County Water Company for approval of an |) | |
| agreement with the St. Louis Metropolitan |) | <u>Case No. WO-93-349</u> |
| Sewer District providing for the disclosure |) | |
| of customer water usage information. |) | |

ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT AND TARIFF

On June 23, 1993, the St. Louis County Water Company (Company) filed an Application requesting approval of an Agreement attached thereto as Exhibit A with the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer district (MSD) providing for the disclosure of customer water usage information. This case was preceded by a similar Application filed in Case No. WO-93-335. MSD proposes to use the information to develop a new billing procedure for residential sewer service based on water usage rather than a flat rate which is currently used. Company makes this Application pursuant to Sections 393.140 and 393.150 RSMo 1986 which give the Commission general jurisdiction over and access to the Company books and records. Company requested an extension of the proposed original tariff on July 22, 1993, to August 15, 1993.

On June 30, 1993, the Commission issued an Order and Notice ordering interested parties to intervene on or before August 2, 1993, and to send notice to newspapers and members of the General Assembly from St. Louis County, Missouri.

Company states that as part of the negotiated Agreement, it would be allowed to collect a fee for providing meter reading information to MSD to allow MSD to bill its customers based on the quantity of water used during the winter months. The rate to be charged for the service is \$1.24 per residential

customer. As part of this Application, Company has filed an original tariff sheet to implement this rate.

On August 5, 1993, the Commission's Staff filed its recommendation that the Commission authorize the Company to enter into this Agreement whereby the Company will provide certain customer water usage information to MSD to allow MSD to implement the new billing system. Staff also recommends that the original tariff sheet filed by Company to implement this Agreement be approved. Staff states that the data furnished by the Company shows that the rate requested is based on one half the cost of providing two meter readings for a residential customer. Staff believes that this data can be confirmed in Company's next rate case. Staff also states that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has encouraged MSD to change its billing practices in conjunction with DNR's State Revolving Loan Fund for waste-water systems.

The Commission determines that there have been no intervenors and no party has requested a hearing; therefore, pursuant to *State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission*, 776 S.W.2d 494 (Mo. App. 1989), the Commission will consider the case based upon the verified Application and attachments. The Commission also determines that Case No. WO-93-335 should be incorporated into this case, as it was filed in anticipation of the Company and MSD reaching the Agreement submitted in this case, and is thereby superseded by the case herein.

Based upon the Application with attachments and Staff's recommendation, the Commission determines that it would be appropriate to authorize Company to enter into the Agreement attached as Exhibit A to the Application and to approve the original tariff sheet as attached to the Application also as Exhibit A. The Commission is of the opinion that the revenue generated for Company from the proposed original tariff will offset Company's own costs of meter reading, and will to that extent, benefit Company's customers. Therefore, the Commission

finds the proposed original tariff to be just and reasonable. Also, approval for the Company to enter into the said Agreement will facilitate the purposes encouraged by DNR.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Case No. WO-93-335 be incorporated with this case.
2. That St. Louis County Water Company be hereby authorized to enter into the Agreement with St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District which is attached to the Application filed herein as Exhibit A.
3. That the following proposed original tariff filed by St. Louis County Water Company on June 23, 1993, be hereby approved for water service rendered on and after August 15, 1993:

Form No. 13 P.S.C. Mo. No. 6 Original Sheet No. RT 14.0

4. That this order shall become effective on August 15, 1993.

BY THE COMMISSION

Brent Stewart

Brent Stewart
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

McClure, Perkins, and
Kincheloe, CC., Concur.
Mueller, Chm., and
Crumpton, C., Absent.