

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 28th
day of January, 1992.

Application of Tri-States Utility Company for authority)
to sell a portion of its assets to the City of Branson,)
Missouri, and to cease operating within its service) Case No. WM-92-91
area in Branson, Missouri.)
)

ORDER APPROVING SALE OF PORTION OF WATER SYSTEM

On November 5, 1991, Tri-States Utility Company (Company or Applicant) applied for a Commission order authorizing the sale of a portion of its water system to the City of Branson, Missouri (City).

On November 26, 1991, the Commission issued its order and notice of the proposed sale to each of Company's present customers, the County Clerk of Taney County, Missouri, the Board of Aldermen of Branson, Missouri, to members of the General Assembly and to area newspapers.

The Commission's notice established a 30-day intervention period and directed inquiries and questions to the Office of Public Counsel. None sought to intervene or requested a hearing; nor has the Office of Public Counsel advised the Commission of any pending or unresolved inquiries or requests regarding this matter.

On January 14, 1992, the Commission Staff filed its recommendation. Staff recommends that the Commission approve Company's application and expedite said approval. Staff states that City's water rates are 25 percent less than Applicant's and that Applicant presently serves 922 residential and 102 commercial customers. The sale herein authorized will shift to the City Company's obligation to serve 23 commercial and 13 residential customers in the portion to be transferred to the City.

Having considered Company's application and Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that Company will have a sufficient number of customers left to maintain safe and adequate service, that City is qualified and able to provide service to the 36 customers affected by this sale, and that it is in the public interest to approve Company's application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Tri-States Utility Company is hereby authorized to sell that portion of its certificated water system to the City of Branson, Missouri, as described by "Exhibit A" attached to the verified application filed by Applicant.

2. That Tri-States Utility Company shall, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this order, file revised tariff sheets which reflect the sale of that part of its water system herein approved.

3. That nothing in this order shall be considered as a finding by the Commission of the value for ratemaking purposes of the properties herein involved, nor as an acquiescence in the value placed upon said properties by Tri-States Utility Company. Furthermore, the Commission reserves the right to consider the ratemaking treatment to be afforded this financial transaction, and its resulting cost of capital, in any later proceeding.

4. That this order shall become effective on the 7th day of February, 1992.

BY THE COMMISSION

Brent Stewart

Brent Stewart
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

McClure, Chm., Rauch, Perkins
and Kincheloe, CC., concur.
Mueller, C., absent.