

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

In the Matter of the Application of Ozark Meadows,)	
Aqua Development Company, d/b/a Aqua Missouri,)	
Inc. Request for Increase in Annual Sewer System)	<u>Case No. SR-2010-0023</u>
Operating Revenues MPSC Sewer Utility Small)	
Company Rate Increase Procedures.)	

In the Matter of Aqua RU, Inc. d/b/a Aqua Missouri)	
Request for Increase in Annual Water System)	<u>Case No. WR-2010-0025</u>
Operating Revenues MPSC Water Utility Small)	
Company Rate Increase.)	

In the Matter of Aqua Missouri, Inc. (CU) Request)	
for Increase in Annual Sewer System Operating)	<u>Case No. SR-2010-0026</u>
Revenues MPSC Sewer Utility Small Company Rate)	
Increase.)	

In the Matter of Aqua Missouri, Inc (CU) Request)	
Request for Increase in Annual Water System)	<u>Case No. WR-2010-0027</u>
Operating Revenues MPSC Water Utility Small)	
Company Rate Increase Procedures.)	

**STAFF PLEADING IN RESPONSE TO REPUBLIC, SEDALIA, WARSAW, AND
JEFFERSON CITY LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19) submits its Staff Pleading in Response to Republic, Sedalia, Warsaw, and Jefferson City Local Public Hearings as follows:

1. On February 16, 2010, the Missouri Public Service Commission (the Commission) conducted a local public hearing in Republic, Missouri regarding the rate increase request of Aqua Missouri¹. Similar hearings were conducted by the Commission on February

¹ "Aqua Missouri," as used in this pleading, shall collectively refer to Aqua RU, Inc. d/b/a Aqua Missouri, Inc., Aqua Missouri, Inc., and Aqua Development Company d/b/a Aqua Missouri, Inc.

17, 2010 in Sedalia, Missouri, February 18, 2010 in Warsaw, Missouri, and February 22, 2010 in Jefferson City, Missouri.

2. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240.3.050(19) states that “[i]f a local public hearing is held, the staff shall file a pleading no later than five (5) working days after the hearing indicating whether any material information not previously available was provided at the local public hearing and stating whether that information might result in changes to the utility/staff disposition agreement...”.

3. Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19) Staff hereby states that Staff obtained no material information at either the Republic or Sedalia local public hearings that was not previously available to Staff.

4. As such, Staff obtained no information at the either the Republic or Sedalia local public hearings that might result in any changes to the Company/Staff Disposition Agreements entered into in the above-captioned cases.

5. Furthermore, Staff hereby states that Staff did in fact obtain information at the Warsaw and Jefferson City local public hearings that was not previously available to Staff. Although Staff does not warrant herein that such information is material to the determination of the above-listed cases, Staff would note that several consumers at the Warsaw local public hearing expressed relevant concerns regarding the quality of service delivered by Aqua Missouri to its customers in and around the Warsaw area. Several customers at the Jefferson City local public hearing voiced concerns related to the Company’s general business practices in and around the Jefferson City area. Staff is currently in the process of investigating these issues and will report to the Commission in the event that Staff’s investigation reveals information material to Company/Staff Disposition Agreements filed in the above-captioned cases.

6. Although as stated above Staff views the information obtained at the Warsaw and Jefferson City local public hearings as relevant to the Commission's decision in the these matters, such information does not at this time alter Staff's current position as to its recommended approval of the Company/Staff Disposition Agreements filed in the above-captioned cases.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits this pleading for the Commission's information as required by Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Eric Dearmont

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 23rd day of February, 2010.

/s/ Eric Dearmont