

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 19, 2000**

CASE NO: SR-2000-556


Office of the Public Counsel
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Jefferson City, MO 65102

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

Uncertified Copies:
To County Commission of Camden
To Mayors of municipalities of Camden County

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 19th
day of December, 2000.

In the Matter of Osage Water Company's)	
Request for a Rate Increase for Sewer)	<u>Case No. SR-2000-556</u>
Service Pursuant to the Public Service)	Tariff File No. 200000346
Commission's Small Company Rate Increase)	
Procedure.)	

**ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF AND
SCHEDULING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to the Commission's informal rate procedure, on November 14, 2000, Osage Water Company (Osage) filed revised tariff sheets designed to increase its rates for sewer service by approximately 8.8 percent. Those tariff sheets bear an effective date of December 29, 2000. Osage also filed a letter requesting that its revised tariff sheets be approved, and an *Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Company Rate Increase Request* that it had entered into with the Staff of the Commission.

On November 30, 2000, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed a request for a local public hearing, alleging that it has been receiving numerous complaints from Osage customers for over a year. Public Counsel asks that, in addition to the notice typically provided by the Commission about local public hearings, Osage be required to provide notice directly to each of its customers.

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The Commission will schedule a local public hearing to allow affected customers the opportunity to comment on the proposed increase and related matters. The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission will be available one hour before the beginning of the local public hearing in order to provide neutral information about the issues to be considered by the Commission in this proceeding. The local public hearing will be held concurrently with a local public hearing in Case No. WR-2000-557, Osage's request for an increase in rates for water service.

The Records Department of the Commission will be directed to send a copy of this order to the mayors of all municipalities located within Camden County and to the county commission of Camden County. The Information Office of the Commission will be directed to send notice to the members of the General Assembly who represent Camden County, and to the newspapers, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current **Official Manual of the State of Missouri**, that serve Camden County.

In addition, Osage will be ordered to provide to each affected customer, either by an imprint on the customer's monthly billing or a bill insert, or a separate mailing not less than ten days prior to the date of the public hearing, notice of the time, date and location of the hearing, along with information regarding the amount of the proposed rate increase and the approximate percentage of the proposed increase. The notice shall also contain the contact information for Public Counsel and the Commission as set out in Public Counsel's request for local public hearing.

In order to allow time for the local public hearing, for the Commission to consider the statements of the public made at the hearing, and for Public Counsel to advise the Commission whether it agrees or disagrees with the tariff sheets, the tariff sheets will be suspended.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a local public hearing shall be held on January 9, 2001, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in Salon C at Tan-Tar-A Lodge in Camden County, a building that meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2. That notice shall be given by the Records Department and the Information Officer of the Public Service Commission as discussed herein.

3. That Osage Water Company shall provide notice to each of its customers as discussed herein.

4. That the tariff sheets filed by Osage Water Company on November 14, 2000, and assigned Tariff No. 200000346, and subsequently docketed as Case No. SR-2000-556, are suspended for a period of 60 days beyond December 29, 2000, to February 27, 2001, or until otherwise ordered by this Commission.

5. That this order shall become effective on December 29, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Murray, Schemenauer, and Simmons, CC., concur
Drainer, C., absent

Mills, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Att/Sec'y: Mills/Boyd
Date Circulated 12-14 SR-2000-556
CASE NO.
Lumpke, Chair AL
Drainet, Vice Chair AL
Murray, Commissioner AL
Schenenauer, Commissioner AL
Simmons, Commissioner KS
Agenda Date 12-19
Action taken: 4 8-0 AS
Must Vote Not Later Than _____

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

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 19th day of December 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

