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June 1, 2004

## Via Federal Express

Mr. Dale H. Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 100 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

RE: Case No. SM-2004-0275

JUN 0 2 2004

FILED

Missouri Public Service Commission

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Dear Mr. Roberts:

Please find enclosed the original and nine copies of the Statement of Cedar Hill Utility Company In Support of Missouri-American Water Company's Proposal Concerning Acquisition Premium. By copy of this letter, I have served a copy of the Statement upon all parties of record. Please return a filed-stamped copy of the Statement to me in the enclosed return envelope provided.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Very truly yours,

Mark Johnson/ngr Mark P. Johnson

MPJ/rgr

Enclosures

cc: Cliff W. Snodgrass, Esq. (w/enclosure) Ruth O'Neill (w/enclosure) Dean L. Cooper, Esq. (w/enclosure)

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

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In the Matter of the Joint Application of Missouri-American Water Company and Cedar Hill Utility Company, Inc., for Authority for Missouri-American Water Company to Acquire Certain Assets of Cedar Hill Utility Company, Inc., and, in Connection Therewith, Certain Other Related Transactions.

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# Missouri Public Service Commission

JUN 0 2 2004

Case No. SM-2004-0275

## STATEMENT OF CEDAR HILL UTILITY COMPANY IN SUPPORT OF MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY'S PROPOSAL CONCERNING ACQUISITION <u>PREMIUM</u>

Comes now Applicant Cedar Hill Utility Company ("Cedar Hill"), by its undersigned counsel, and expresses its support for the proposal of Missouri-American Water Company ("Missouri-American) to postpone any decision concerning the treatment of any acquisition premium until the Commission deals with Missouri-American's next rate case proposal. In support of this statement, Cedar Hill states the following:

1. On May 17, 2004, Missouri-American responded to Staff's proposal that, <u>inter</u> <u>alia</u>, suggested that the Commission should condition approval of the proposed acquisition on Missouri-American's agreement not to seek recovery of any acquisition premium in its rates. Missouri-American noted that in the context of the acquisition and this Case, it is making no proposal to increase rates to recover the premium, distinguishing this Case from the situation presented in <u>State ex rel. Ag Processing, Inc. v. Public Service Commission</u>, 120 S.W.3d 732 (Mo. 2003). Missouri-American suggests that it is premature to consider Staff's proposal, and indicates that it would be willing to deal with the issue in the context of its next rate case.

2. Cedar Hill agrees with and supports Missouri-American's proposal. The proposal is a sensible solution to the issue which Staff feels must be decided, at some point: whether and to what extent the acquisition premium may be included in the rate base. As Missouri-American

is not proposing to include the acquisition premium in the rate base at this time, Staff's proposal presents an academic and hypothetical question. Given the Commission's limited resources, it should decide this question at the appropriate time, which is not in the context of this Case.

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Wherefore, Cedar Hills expresses its support for the proposal of Missouri-American concerning Staff's suggested condition relating to treatment of the acquisition premium

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Johnson #30740 Karen M. Jordon Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal 4520 Main Street Suite 1100 Kansas City, MO 64111 816/460-2400 816/531-7545 mjohnson@sonnenschein.com

ATTORNEYS FOR CEDAR HILL UTILITY COMPANY

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served this  $\frac{1}{5}$  day of June, 2004, by United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, on the following:

Cliff E. Snodgrass, Esq. Office of the General Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission Governor Office Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Ms. Ruth O'Neill Office of the Public Counsel Governor Office Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dean L. Cooper, Esq. Brydon, Swearengen & England P.C. 312 East Capitol Avenue P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102

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