

**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 SHELL KNOB
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

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 Shell Knob Local Public Hearing as follows:

1. On February 11, 2010, the Missouri Public Service Commission (the Commission) conducted a local public hearing in Shell Knob, Missouri regarding the rate increase request of Aqua Missouri¹.

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

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.

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 did in fact obtain information at the Shell Knob local public hearing 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 expressed relevant concerns regarding the quality of service delivered by Aqua Missouri to its customers in and around the Shell Knob 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.

4. Although as stated above Staff views the information obtained at the Shell Knob local public hearing 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 22nd day of February, 2010.

/s/ Eric Dearmont