

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

In the Matter of the Application of Elm Hills Utility Company, Inc. for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity as an Expansion of the Existing Service Area)	
)	<u>File No. SA-2020-0152</u>
)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc., for Authority to Acquire Certain Sewer Assets and for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity as an Expansion of the Existing Service Area)	
)	<u>File No. SM-2020-0146</u>
)	
)	

STATUS REPORT AND MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through counsel, and for this *Status Report and Motion to Consolidate*, respectfully states as follows:

1. On November 22, 2019, in Case No. SM-2020-0146, Elms Hill Utility Operating Company, Inc. (“Elm Hills”) filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to acquire the assets of Central Rivers Wastewater Utility, Inc. (“Central Rivers”) used to provide sewer utility services, including Central Rivers’ Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”). This application also requests Commission approval for the issuance of a CCN to install, own, acquire, construct, operate, control, manage, and maintain a sewer system in Clay County, Missouri. Specifically, Elm Hills requests authority to provide service to a new subdivision located adjacent to Central Rivers’ existing service area.

2. Concurrently, in Case No. SA-2020-0152, the identical application was filed with the Commission.

3. On December 2, 2019, in both files, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice and Filing*. The Commission indicated in its orders that Elm Hills' request to acquire the assets of Central Rivers would be addressed in Case No. SM-2020-0146, and its request for a CCN to provide service to a subdivision adjacent to Central Rivers' existing service territory would be addressed in Case No. SA-2020-0152. In each case, any parties wishing to intervene in the case were ordered to file an application to intervene no later than January 2, 2020, and Staff was ordered to file status reports or recommendations no later than January 17, 2020.

4. No parties filed to intervene by January 2, 2020.

STATUS REPORT

5. Elm Hills filed supplemental information to its initial applications in each case file on December 11, 2019. In addition to the supplemental information filed, Staff has issued a number of data requests to help Staff review, provide feedback, and continue discussions with Elm Hills.

6. Because Elm Hills is continuing to provide Staff with information, Staff respectfully requests an extension to file its recommendation. Staff intends to file its recommendation no later than February 18.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this *Status Report*, and prays that the Commission approve Staff's proposed date of February 18, 2020 for filing its recommendation in this matter.

MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

7. Elm Hills filed applications with the Commission referencing the identical subject matter in two case files. While the subject matter of Elm Hills application is both a request for approval of the acquisition of Central Rivers, and the issuance of a CCN for a new service territory, the cases have the same parties, and primarily contain the same filings. Previous cases of this nature have been consolidated for the ease of filings and for administrative efficiency.

8. Further, due to the close proximity of the new service territory requested by Elm Hills to Central Rivers' current service area, Staff foresees its recommendations in Case Nos. SM-2020-0146 and SA-2020-0152 to be closely tied. Therefore, Staff requests, in the interests of administrative efficiency and the economy of resources, that the Commission consolidate these two cases for all purposes.

WHEREFORE Staff prays that the Commission accept this *Motion to Consolidate*, consolidate File Nos. SM-2020-0146 and SA-2020-0152, and grant such further and other relief as the Commission considers just under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

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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 parties and or counsel of record on this 17th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle