

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 January, 1994.

In the matter of Ozark Mountain Water Company's )  
tariff sheets designed to increase rates for )  
for water service pursuant to the Commission's ) CASE NO. WR 94-176  
informal rate procedure. )

ORDER APPROVING TARIFFS AND AGREEMENT

Ozark Mountain Water Company (Company) is a water corporation and a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission). Section 386.250(3) RSMo Cum. Supp. (1992). Ozark Mountain Water Company serves approximately 298 water customers in Barry County, Missouri. By letter dated July 8, 1993, the Company requested that the Commission approve a rate increase for its water operations under the small company rate proceeding set out in 4 CSR 240-2.060(8). The Company requested an increase of revenues of approximately \$10,971.00 annually in order to compensate for increases in operating expenses, and to replace and repair existing plant equipment.

On August 14, 1993, the Company sent written notice of these requested increases to its customers. The Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) received four telephone calls, four letters, and two petitions from customers stating that the proposed increase was too high. Staff received one service complaint which was resolved by installation of a flush valve. The Company also agreed to notify customers of scheduled water outages due to maintenance of the system. After consultation with Staff, the Company filed its tariff sheets on December 1, 1993, with a proposed effective date of February 1,

1994. A second notice was sent to customers on December 15, 1993, advising them of the revised proposed increase. Staff received no customer complaints in response to the second notice.

Staff conducted an investigation into the books, records, and operations of the Company, and filed its recommendation on January 14, 1994. Based upon its audit, the accounting staff concluded that the increased costs cited by the Company and borne out in its audit justify an increase in revenue of approximately \$9,283.00. Staff found that expenses had increased significantly since Company's last rate case. Staff recommended approval of the revised tariff sheet filed December 1, 1993, for service provided on and after February 1, 1994. The proposed rate increase would affect the monthly bill of a residential customer using 5,000 gallons of water per month as follows:

<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>% INCREASE</u>
\$12.42	\$13.56	9.15

After its own investigation, and after negotiations with Company and Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) agreed with the recommended rate increase and filed its Statement of Public Counsel Position on January 14, 1993.

Small company rate proceedings are required by Commission rule to be completed in 150 days. 4 CSR 240-2.060(8)(H). The time period can be extended by consent of the parties. This case was initiated on July 8, 1993, but there is nothing in the case papers to indicate that Company or any other party requested an extension of time beyond December 5, 1993. However, since the tariffs have been agreed upon by Company, Staff, and the OPC, and no party has

raised an objection to the delay, any objections to the timeliness of the filing of the Staff memorandum and OPC Statement of Position will be deemed waived.

Upon review of Staff's memorandum and its attachments, the Company's tariff sheets filed December 1, 1993, and OPC's Statement, the Commission finds that the tariffs agreed to by the Company, Staff, and the OPC and filed with the Commission are justified in order to compensate for increased expenses and to enable Company to make needed repairs. The Commission finds that the tariffs are just and reasonable and in the public interest and concludes that the tariffs should be approved.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the following tariff sheets filed by Ozark Mountain Water Company, on December 1, 1993, are hereby approved for services on and after February 1, 1993:

P.S.C.Mo. No. 1

4th Revised Sheet No. 1, cancelling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 1.

2. That this Order shall become effective on February 1, 1994.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Mueller, Chm., McClure, Perkins,  
Kincheloe and Crumpton, CC., Concur.