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August 13, 1999

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED

AUG 13 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

**RE: Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation,
Case Nos. WR-2000-68 and SR-2000-69**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced case, please find the original and 14 copies of Public Counsel's **Request for Local Public Hearing**. Please "file stamp" the extra enclosed copy and return it to this office. I have on this date mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered the appropriate number of copies to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John B. Coffman
Deputy Public Counsel

JBC:kh

cc: Counsel of record

Enclosure

FILED²

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation) Case No. WR-2000-68
water rate increase request.) Tariff File No. 9900333

In the matter of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation) Case No. SR-2000-69
sewer rate increase request.) Tariff File No. 9900334

REQUEST FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel), and for its Request for Local Public Hearing states as follows:

1. The two above-styled cases were established to consider a proposed water rate increase and a proposed sewer rate increase for Terre du Lac Utilities Corporation (Company). When the initial notice that Company had requested a rate increase pursuant to the Commission's informal small company rate procedure, 4 CSR 240-2.200 was mailed to customers, Public Counsel received a significant number of letters and phone calls expressing concern about the proposed increases.

2. As the result of negotiations, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) and Company have reached a settlement regarding proposed water and sewer rates and other terms and reduced this settlement to a written agreement. On July 26, 1999, Company filed revised tariff sheets pursuant to this agreement and a second notice was sent to Company's customers, notifying them of the proposed rate increases agreed upon between Staff and Company.

As a result, Public Counsel received more comments from customers. Some of the comments received express concerns regarding the quality of water and sewer service currently

being provided. Some customers have specifically requested that a local public hearing be conducted in Company's service territory.

3. Public Counsel believes that it would serve the public interest for a local public hearing to be held in or near Company's service territory (near Bonne Terre, Missouri) in order to allow public input into the record. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.200(1)(F), Public Counsel would be required to state whether or not it also agreed to the terms of the agreement between Company and Staff within ten days after the local public hearing.

4. If the Commission agrees that a local public hearing should be scheduled for these two cases, Public Counsel believes that, in order to ensure that the public has adequate notice, the following notice should be provided:

a. Notice of the time, date and location of the local public hearing, along with information regarding the amount of the proposed rate increases and the approximate percentage of the proposed increases, should be given to each affected customer, either by an imprint on the customer's monthly billing or a bill insert, or a separate mailing not more than 45 days or less than ten days prior to the date of the public hearing;

b. The newspapers in the relevant service areas, as listed in the current *Official Manual of the State of Missouri*, should be notified of the proposed increase as well as the date, time and location of the public hearing, not less than ten days before the date scheduled for the hearing, and should be requested to publish such notice seven and three days before the hearing in each newspaper's area;

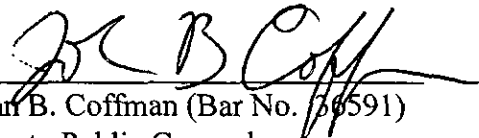
c. Similar notice should be given to any radio and television stations in each area, not less than three days before the public hearing.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel requests that the Commission issue its Order scheduling a local public hearing in this matter to be held in the vicinity of Company's service territory, providing adequate notice to the public as requested herein, and for such other and further orders as the Commission deems necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

BY:


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document has been either faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to the following counsel of record on this 13th day of August, 1999:

David Stueven
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jim Kwon
President
Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 191
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

