

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

In the Matter of Missouri Utilities Company)
Small Company Rate Increase.)

**Case Nos. WR-2009-0150 &
SR-2009-0153**

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REQUEST FOR RULING

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

1. On March 19, 2009, Public Counsel filed a Request for Local Public Hearing stating that Public Counsel believed that scheduling a local public hearing would allow the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) and the Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) the opportunity to gather information which may be crucial in setting fair and reasonable rates in this case.
2. Public Counsel also stated an additional concern of the customers is the fact that their utility is now under the control of a court appointed receiver. Public Counsel pointed out that the question and answer session normally scheduled before a local public hearing would give Staff, Public Counsel and Mr. Cover the opportunity to meet with the customers and provide information regarding the receivership process.
3. As of the date of this filing, the Commission has yet to act on Public Counsel’s request.
4. According to the Amended Timeline filed in this case, an Executed Disposition Agreement is due to be filed by Staff on May 21, 2009. Public Counsel believes the information that would be gathered at a local public hearing will have a direct bearing on any disposition of this case. Consequently, it is Public Counsel’s preference that a local public hearing be held a

few business days before May 21, 2009 so the information gathered could be included in the Executed Disposition Agreement.

5. Therefore, Public Counsel requests that the Commission issue a ruling on its request for a local public hearing as soon as possible and if possible, schedule any local public hearing a few business days before May 21, 2009.

6. Alternatively, if a local public hearing cannot be scheduled a few business days before May 21, 2009, Public Counsel suggests that a local public hearing be held as soon as possible.

7. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the hearing promptly, as long as customers are given sufficient notice.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel requests that the Commission issue a ruling on Public Counsel's Request for Local Public Hearing as soon as possible and if possible, schedule any local public hearing a few business days before May 21, 2009. Alternatively, if a local public hearing cannot be scheduled a few business days before May 21, 2009, Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing to be held as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 27th day of April 2009:

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