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

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In the Matter of the Request of LW Sewer Corporation for a Rate Increase Pursuant to the Commission's Small Company Rate Increase Procedure

Case No. SR-2005-0338

#### <u>NOTICE OF AGREEMENT REGARDING DISPOSITION</u> <u>OF SMALL COMPANY RATE INCREASE REQUEST</u>

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through Counsel, and for its <u>Notice of Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Company Rate</u> <u>Increase Request</u> states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission").

1. By a letter dated March 30, 2005<sup>1</sup>, which was stamped "Received" and entered into the Commission's electronic filing and information system on March 31, LW Sewer Corporation ("Company") submitted to the Commission revised tariff sheets to implement an increase in its sewer service rates and charges, and other tariff changes, and the instant case was established.

2. As stated in the Company's tariff filing transmittal letter, the rates and charges, and other tariff changes, contained in the subject revised tariff sheets are based upon a *Unanimous Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Sewer Company Rate Increase* ("Disposition Agreement") entered into by the Company, the Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel, which pertains to the small company rate increase request that the Company submitted to the Commission on May 3, 2004 (Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010).

3. On April 11, the Commission issued its <u>Order Directing Filing</u> ("April 11 Order") in this case, in which it directed the Staff to file the Disposition Agreement referenced in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless noted otherwise, all dates herein refer to the year 2005.

Company's tariff filing transmittal letter and directed the Company to file written consent of the extension of the 150-day tariff filing period that normally applies to small company rate increase requests, with both filings due on April 15.

4. In compliance with the Commission's April 11 Order, a copy of the signed Disposition Agreement and related attachments, which are referenced in the Company's tariff filing transmittal letter, are included in the document that is attached hereto and identified as Appendix A.

5. Included as a part of the Disposition Agreement is acknowledgement of the Company/Staff agreement regarding extensions of the 150-day tariff filing period that normally applies to small company rate increase requests (third paragraph on page 3 of the agreement).<sup>2</sup>

6. As the Disposition Agreement includes acknowledgement of the Company/Staff agreement regarding extensions of the 150-day tariff filing period that normally applies to small company rate increase requests, the Staff believes this filing should be considered as sufficient to meet the filing requirement applicable to the Company set out in the Commission's April 11 Order.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully submits the attached *Unanimous Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Sewer Company Rate Increase* (and related attachments) for the Commission's information and consideration in this case, and respectfully requests that the Commission consider this filing as sufficient to meet the filing requirement applicable to the Company set out in the Commission's April 11 Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Staff also notes that written extension agreements were submitted to the EFIS Tracking File (Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010) pertaining to the Company's rate increase request, per established internal operating procedures.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE General Counsel

#### /s/ Keith R. Krueger

Keith R. Krueger Deputy General Counsel Missouri Bar No. 23857

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 573-751-4140 (telephone) 573-751-9285 (facsimile) <u>keith.krueger@psc.mo.gov</u> (e-mail)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed with first class postage, handdelivered, transmitted by facsimile or transmitted via e-mail to all counsel and/or parties of record this 15th day of April 2005.

/s/ Keith R. Krueger

Keith R. Krueger

## NOTICE OF AGREEMENT REGARDING DISPOSITION OF SMALL COMPANY RATE INCREASE REQUEST

## APPENDIX A

## Disposition Agreement and Attachments

Note: To browse through this document by item, click on the "Bookmark" tab at the top of the menu bar to the left of the screen and then click on the item that you want to see.

## Table of Contents for Disposition Agreement Filing Packet

## LW Sewer Corporation

MO PSC Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010

Item 1:	Company/Staff Disposition Agreement
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Item 4:	Attachment 3 to Agreement – Rate Design Worksheet
Item 5:	Attachment 4 to Agreement – Schedule of Depreciation Rates

## Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition Of Small Sewer Company Rate Increase Request

## UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT REGARDING DISPOSITION OF SMALL SEWER COMPANY RATE INCREASE REQUEST

#### L W SEWER CORPORATION

#### MO PSC WORK I.D. No. QS-2004-0010

#### BACKGROUND

L W Sewer Corporation ("Company") initiated the small company rate increase request ("Request") for sewer service that is the subject of the above-referenced Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") tracking file by submitting a letter to the Secretary of the Commission. The Company submitted its Request under the provisions of Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.330, Sewer Utility Small Company Rate Increase Procedure ("Small Company Rate Increase Procedure"). The date the Company's Request was received at the Commission's offices was May 3, 2004.

By its request letter, the Company was requesting Commission approval of customer rates intended to generate an increase of \$28,524.60 in its total annual sewer service operating revenues. The Company provides service to approximately 199 customers, all of which are residential customers.

Upon receipt of the Company's Request, personnel in the Commission's Data Center entered the Request into the Commission's electronic filing and information system and Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010 was assigned to the Request. The Request was then forwarded to the Commission's Water & Sewer Department for processing under the Small Company Rate Increase Procedure.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Small Company Rate Increase Procedure and related internal operating procedures, the Staff of the Commission ("Staff") initiated an audit of the Company's books and records, a review of certain of the Company's general business practices, an inspection of the Company's facilities and a review of the Company's operation of its facilities. (Hereafter, these activities will be collectively referred to as the Staff's "investigation" of the Company's Request.)

Small Company Rate Case Disposition Agreement MO PSC Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010 L W Sewer Corporation – Page 2 of 5 Pages

Upon completion of its investigation of the Company's Request, the Staff provided the Company

and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") various information regarding the results of the investigation, as

well as its initial recommendations for resolution of the Company's Request.

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMPANY'S RATE INCREASE REQUEST**

Pursuant to negotiations held subsequent to the Company's and the OPC's receipt of the above-

referenced information regarding the Staff's investigation of the Company's Request, the Staff, the Company

and the OPC hereby state the following agreements.

(1) That for the purpose of implementing the agreements set out herein, the Company will file tariff revisions with the Commission containing the rates and language set out in the example tariff sheets attached hereto as Attachment A.

(2) That the ratemaking income statement attached hereto as Attachment B accurately reflects the Company's annualized revenues generated by its current customer rates, the Company's total annualized cost of providing service and the agreed-upon annualized operating revenue increase of \$4,740, which is required to recover the Company's cost of service.

(3) That the rates set out in the attached example tariff sheets, the development of which is shown on the rate design worksheet attached hereto as Attachment C, are designed to generate revenues sufficient to recover the Company's total annualized cost of service, and that the provisions of the attached example tariff sheets also properly reflect all other agreements set out herein, where necessary.

(4) That the rates included in the attached example tariff sheets are just and reasonable.

(5) That the depreciation rates set out on Attachment D hereto should be the prescribed sewer plant depreciation rates for the Company, as these were the depreciation rates used by the Staff in its revenue requirement analysis.

(6) That the Company provide Staff proof of Workman's Compensation coverage on a semi-annual basis.

(7) That the Company will initiate action to ensure that all new and existing customers receive a copy of the Company's "Billing Policy and Non-Payment Procedure".

(8) That the Company will include appropriate Company contact telephone number(s) on customers' bills for customers to use when they have an inquiry or complaint.

(9) That the Company will comply with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-60.010(4) and maintains a file of customer complaints received on the service it provides.

(10) That the above agreements satisfactorily resolve all issues identified by the Staff and the Company regarding the Company's Request, except as otherwise specifically stated.

Small Company Rate Case Disposition Agreement MO PSC Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010 L W Sewer Corporation – Page 3 of 5 Pages

#### ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Since this Disposition Agreement is between the Staff, the Company and the OPC, the Small Company Rate Increase Procedure does not require that the Company send a notice to its customers regarding the rates and charges that would result from implementation of the provisions of this Disposition Agreement, nor does it provide for a local public hearing, unless the Commission orders otherwise.

Other than the specific conditions agreed upon and expressly set out herein, the terms of this Disposition Agreement reflect compromises between the Staff, the Company and the OPC, and none of the parties have agreed to any particular ratemaking principle in arriving at the amount of the annual operating revenue increase specified herein.

The Company and the Staff acknowledge that they have previously agreed on three extensions of the normal 150-day tariff filing date for small company rate increase requests, so that Staff could evaluate additional information supplied to Staff from the Company.

The Company and the OPC acknowledge that the Staff will be making an additional filing with the Commission regarding this matter, with that filing including the following: (a) the Staff's recommendation for approval of the subject tariff revisions; (b) background information regarding the Company's Request and the Staff's investigation thereof; (c) the Staff's audit workpapers; (d) a general overview of the Company, including an overview of the Company's customer service procedures and practices; (e) information regarding the status of the Company's payment of its Commission assessments; (f) the status of the Company's submission of its Commission annual reports; (g) the status of the Company have before the Commission; (i) any recent Notices of Violations issued to the Company by the Missouri Department of

Small Company Rate Case Disposition Agreement MO PSC Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010 L W Sewer Corporation – Page 4 of 5 Pages

Natural Resources; and (j) the status of the Company's corporate standing with the Missouri Secretary of State. Additionally, the Company and the OPC agree that the Staff shall have the right to provide whatever oral explanation the Commission may request regarding the rate case that will be created when the Company files the tariff revisions called for in this agreement, at any agenda meeting at which that case is noticed to be considered by the Commission. To the extent reasonably practicable, the Staff will provide the Company and the OPC with advance notice of any such agenda meeting so that they may have the opportunity to also be represented at the meeting.

Small Company Rate Case Disposition Agreement MO PSC Work I.D. No. QS-2004-0010 L W Sewer Corporation - Page 5 of 5 Pages

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURES**

This Disposition Agreement shall be considered effective as of the date that the Company files the

tariff revisions required herein with the Commission.

Agreement Signed and Dated:

Dale W. Johansen Manager - Water & Sewer Department Missouri Public Service Commission Staff

M. Ruth O'Neill Senior Public Counsel Office of the Public Counsel

Clyde/Pratt President L W Sewer Corporation

List of Attachments

Attachment A - Example Tariff Sheets

Attachment B - Ratemaking Income Statement

Attachment C - Rate Design Worksheet

Attachment D - Schedule of Depreciation Rates

Date

Date

03-28-05

Date

Attachment 1 – Example Tariff Sheets

	P.S.C. MO No. <u>1</u>		$5^{\text{th}}$ Revised Sheet No. $4$
	_	Canceling	$\frac{4^{\text{th}}}{4}$ Revised Sheet No. 4
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	uing Company	Community, Town	
		Jefferson Cou	
		Pulse Coverning	
		Rules Governing dering of Sewer Service	+ +
	Si	ngle Family Residence	*
AVAILAI	BILITY: This rate is available residences for dome		ily
RATE TA	BLE:		
N	ew Service Connection and Ins	pection Charge	- \$600.00
М	Ionthly Service Charge -		- 15.16 *
PAYMEN	IT TERMS: Bills are net, are and payable on r	rendered quarterly, and are ceceipt.	lue
	ND REGULATIONS: The shall govern the supply of serve	general rules and regulations ice under this rate.	s set forth in
¥т 1°,	New Determine		
	s New Rate or Text s Changed Rate or Text		
maicates	Similer rate of Text		
ssue Date:	March 30, 2005	Effective D	ate: May 1, 2005
	Month/Day/Year		Month/Day/Year
ssued By:	Clyde Pratt-President		65 Hillsboro MO 63050
-	Name & Title of Issuing Office		

	P.S.C. MO No. <u>1</u>			2 <sup>nd</sup>	Revised	Sheet No.	4A
	1.5.C. WO NO. <u>1</u>		Canceling			Sheet No.	
	<u>r Corporation</u> iing Company	For:	Lake Wauwan Community, Town Jefferson Cou	oka, ] 1 or Ci	Hillsboro ity	Sheet NO.	4/1
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Issued By:	Clyde Pratt-President Name & Title of Issuing Officer		P.O. Box 20 Company Ma			0 63050	

Attachment 2 – Ratemaking Income Statement

# L W Sewer Corporation Rate Making Income Statement

	Operating Revenues at Current Rates						
1	Tariffed Rate Revenues *	\$	31,474				
2	Other Operating Revenues *	\$	20				
3	Total Operating Revenues	\$	31,494				

4 \* See "Revenues - Current Rates" for Details

	Cost of Servic	е	
	Item		Amount
1	Pumping Equipment-Purchased Power	\$	2,116
2	Sewer Treatment Expense-Chemicals	\$	899
3	Sludge Removal	\$	2,100
4	Maintenance of Parts/Equipment	\$	4,987
5	Maintenance Expense-Materials & Supplies	\$	-
6	Water Meters	\$	-
7	Administration & General - Salaries	\$	13,955
8	Office Supplies	\$	672
9	Bookkeeping	\$	113
10	Insurance	\$	639
11	Workman's Compensation Insurance	\$	3,214
12	Postage	\$	270
13	Permits and Registration Fees	\$	1,045
14	Regulatory Commission Expense	\$	2,550
15	Telephone & Pagers	\$	300
16	Sub-Total Operating Expenses	\$ \$ <b>\$</b> \$ \$	32,860
17	Property Taxes	\$	-
18	MO Franchise Taxes	\$	-
19	Employer FICA Taxes	\$	-
20	Federal Unemployment Taxes	\$	-
21	State Unemployment Taxes	\$ \$	-
22	State & Federal Income Taxes	\$	-
23	Sub-Total Taxes	\$ \$ \$ \$	-
	Depreciation Expense	\$	1,350
25	Amortization of Utility Plant (computer system)	\$	-
26	Sub-Total Depreciation/Amortization	\$	1,350
27	Return on Rate Base	\$	2,024
28	Total Cost of Service	\$	36,234
29	Overall Revenue Increase Needed	\$	4,740
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Attachment 3 – Rate Design Worksheet

## **Development of Tariffed Rates**

Agreement is to increase currently tariffed rates by a percentage equal to the agreed-upon overall revenue increase divided by the revenues generated by the currently tariffed rates.

Revenues Generated by Current Tariffed Rates	\$ 3	1,474
Agreed-Upon Overall Revenue Increase	\$	4,740
Percentage Increase Needed	15.06	61%

Metered Customer Rates								
	S	urrent ervice harge	S	oposed ervice harge	U	urrent Isage Rate	U	posed sage Rate
Monthly	\$	13.18	\$	15.16	\$	-	\$	-
Quarterly	\$	39.54	\$	45.49	\$	-	\$	-

Attachment 4 – Schedule of Depreciation Rates

## LW SEWER COMPANY

## DEPRECIATION RATES (SEWER)

## QS-2004-0010

ACCOUNT		DEPRECIATION	AVERAGE SERVICE
NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	RATE	LIFE (YEARS)
311	Structures & Improvements	2.50%	40
352.2	Collection Sewers (Gravity)	2.00%	50
355	Flow Measurement Devices	3.30%	30
363	Electric Pumping Equipment	10.00%	10
373	Treatment & Disposal Facilities	5.00%	20
391.1	Office Computer Equipment	14.30%	7