

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

In the Matter of the Small Company Rate)
Increase Request of Mill Creek Sewers, Inc.)

Case No. SR-2005-0116

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through Counsel, and for its Status Report states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. On March 23, 2005 (unless noted otherwise all dates herein refer to the year 2005), the Commission issued an **Order Directing Filing** (March 23 Order), in which it directed the Staff to file two status reports regarding the potential transfer of the sewer collection and treatment system owned by Mill Creek Sewers, Inc. (Mill Creek) to the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), with those reports to be filed on March 25 and April 1.

2. The Staff filed the two status reports required by the Commission's March 23 Order on March 25 and April 1, respectively.

3. As a part of its April 1 Status Report, the Staff stated that it would continue to file weekly status reports in this case. Consistent with that commitment, the Staff filed its third, fourth and fifth Status Reports on April 8, April 15 and April 25, respectively.

4. As a part of its April 25 Status Report, the Staff stated that it would continue to file weekly status reports, or would advise the Commission that additional information is not available and that a status report would thus not be filed for a given week. Consistent with that commitment, the Staff filed its sixth and seventh Status Reports on April 29 and May 6,

respectively, a Notice Regarding Status Report on May 13, its eighth and ninth Status Reports on May 20 and May 27, respectively, a Notice Regarding Status Report on June 3, its tenth and eleventh Status Reports on June 10 and June 17, respectively, a Notice Regarding Status Report on June 24, its twelfth Status Report on July 1, a Notice Regarding Status Report on July 8, its thirteenth Status Report on July 15, and a Notice Regarding Status Report on July 22.

STATUS UPDATES

5. Regarding the DNR's report pertaining to the June 23 PSC/DNR joint inspection of Mill Creek's sewage treatment plant, a copy of which was included with the Staff's thirteenth Status Report, the Staff has been advised that an attorney representing Mill Creek is preparing a response to the report and that it should be completed fairly soon.

6. Regarding the condition of Mill Creek's sewage treatment plant, the Staff offers the following information. On July 26, Steve Loethen of the Water & Sewer Department visited the plant and noted that it was obvious that a load of sludge had been hauled from the sludge holding tank. Mr. Loethen also observed that the plant was not losing sludge through its discharge, that the plant was functioning properly and that the plant was in generally good condition. On July 29, Mr. Loethen talked with a representative of Mill Creek and was advised that effluent samples had recently been taken and tested, and that the test results have been sent to the DNR.

7. Regarding the status of the potential transfer of Mill Creek's sewage treatment and collection system to the MSD, the Staff notes that it does not have any updated information to provide with this Status Report.

FUTURE STAFF ACTIONS

8. Steve Loethen and/or other Staff members will continue to periodically monitor the operation of Mill Creek's sewage treatment plant and will make recommendations to Mill Creek for any operational adjustments that may be needed, and will also continue to monitor the actions that Mill Creek is taking with regard to sludge hauling, monthly sampling of the plant's effluent, and the hiring of a licensed plant operator.

9. The Staff will continue to monitor the MSD's progress in making its determination of whether it will take over Mill Creek's system. Additionally, the Staff will advise the MSD of any future planned inspections, as far in advance as possible, so that the MSD will have the opportunity to participate in such inspections.

FUTURE STATUS REPORTS

10. The Staff again notes that it will continue to file weekly status reports, or will advise the Commission that additional information is not available and that a status report will thus not be filed for a given week.

WHEREFORE the Staff respectfully submits its fourteenth Status Report for the Commission's information and consideration in this case.

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)
keith.krueger@psc.mo.gov (e-mail)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed with first class postage, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or transmitted via e-mail to all counsel and/or parties of record this 29th day of July 2005.

/s/ Keith R. Krueger