

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

In the Matter of WPC Sewer Company's)	
Small Company Rate Increase)	Case No. SR-2008-0388
)	
)	
In the Matter of West 16 th Sewer Company's)	
Small Company Rate Increase)	Case No. SR-2008-0389

**STAFF'S REPONSE TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING AND
THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL'S REQUEST FOR AN
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), through Counsel, and files this Response with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission). For its Response, Staff respectfully states the following:

1. On December 17, 2008, the Commission issued its Order Setting Local Public Hearing, giving notice that on January 5, 2009, a local public hearing for the above stated matters would be held in Sedalia, Missouri.
2. Also, the Commission's Order directed Staff, by January 12, 2009, to file a pleading as required by 4 CSR 240-3.050(19). Staff filed its pleading on January 13, 2009, as state offices in Cole County were closed on January 12, 2009 for inaugural purposes.
3. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19) requires Staff to indicate whether "...any material information not previously available was provided at the local public hearing and stating whether that information might result in changes to the utility/staff disposition agreement."
4. During the January 5, 2009 public hearing, several customers gave testimony regarding plant maintenance and billing issues. Staff members Steve Loethen and Randy Cole have investigated the reported issues, and inform Counsel that these issues do not alter the

Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Sewer Company Rate Increase Request, filed in both the above stated cases on November 6, 2008.

5. However, Staff is recommending a new revenue requirement for West 16th Sewer Company and WPC Sewer Company, which will be filed no later than Friday, January 23, 2009.

6. On January 21, 2009, the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) filed its 4 CSR 240-3.050 responses, requesting an evidentiary hearing be set in the above stated cases. Staff respectfully requests the Commission postpone setting such evidentiary hearings for two weeks, to allow Staff to discuss any new revenue requirements with OPC, and if applicable, file any needed updates resulting from those discussions for the Commission's consideration.

WHEREFORE, Staff, through Counsel, submits this Response and prays the Commission will postpone for two weeks setting an evidentiary hearing in the above cases to allow Staff to discuss any new revenue requirements with OPC.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Hernandez

Jennifer Hernandez

Legal Counsel

Missouri Bar No. 59814

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

PO Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65102

(573) 751-8706 (Telephone)

(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

jennifer.hernandez@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 21st day of January 2009.

/s/ Jennifer Hernandez