1	STATE OF MISSOURI				
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION				
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б	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS				
7	Local Public Hearing				
8	October 29, 2012				
9	Poplar Bluff, Missouri				
10	Volume 1				
11	In the Matter of Request for) Increase In Annual Sewer Operating)File No. SR-2012-0263				
12	Revenues By R.D. Sewer Company,) L.L.C.)				
13					
14	In The Matter of The Rate Increase) For Lakeland Heights Water Company,)File No. WR-2012-0266				
15	Inc.)				
16	In The Matter of the Rate Increase) Of Oakbrier Water Company)File No. WR-2012-0267				
17					
18	RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding, SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.				
19	ANDY ZELLERS, Chairman's Personal Adviser				
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Page 2 1 **APPEARANCES:** 2 JOHN BORGMEYER Attorney at Law 3 P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri. 65102. FOR: Public Service Commission 4 5 CHRISTINA BAKER, Public Counsel Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 6 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 7 Jefferson City, MO 65102 FOR: Office of the Public Counsel and the Public. 8 9 AMANDA MCMELLEN Utility Regulatory Auditor 200 Madison St., Ste. 440 10 Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102 11 12 DEBORAH A. BERNSEN, CIA Utility Management Analyst III 13 Engineering and Management Services Dept. 200 Madison St., Ste. 700 14 P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 15 16 Reported by: 17 Buffy D. Topper, RPR, CRR, CCR Midwest Litigation Services 18 3095 Lexington Ave, Suite 300 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-200-7900 19 573-200-7905 fax 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

Page 3 PROCEEDINGS 1 (WHEREUPON, the public hearing began at 6:00 2 3 p.m.) 4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Good evening. 5 We're on the record in the local public hearings, Number 6 SR-2012-0263, WR-2012-0266 and WR-2012-0267. I'm Ron 7 Pridgin. I'm a regulatory law judge for the Commission. And with me this evening I have Andy Zellers. He is the 8 9 chairman's personal adviser. Could I get entries of 10 appearance from counsel, please. MR. BORGMEYER: Representing the Public 11 12 Service Commission, my name is John Borgmeyer, P. O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 13 14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Borgmeyer, thank you. On behalf of the Office of Public Counsel, please. 15 MS. BAKER: Christina Baker. P. O. Box 2230, 16 17 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf of the 18 Office of Public Counsel and the ratepayers. 19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Baker, thank you. Anyone 20 else wishing to enter an appearance? All right. Because we have such a small crowd and because I believe the 21 customers have been talking with folks from the staff and 22 public counsel. Let me just kind of cut to the chase and 23 24 ask if there's anyone here who wishes to testify and have the court reporter record your remarks for the 25

Page 4 commissioners. Yes, sir. All right. I'll make this as 1 2 informal as possible, just to let you know. I'll just ask 3 you your name, and I'll ask you to raise your right hand and be sworn. And I'll ask you, I guess, what company 4 5 you're a customer of, why you're here this evening and 6 then ask if you have any remarks you'd like to give for the 7 commission. Do you have any questions? 8 MR. BATSON: No. 9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Could I get you to give me your name and spell it for the court reporter, please? 10 MR. BATSON: My name is James Batson. Spell 11 12 it? 13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. Please. MR. BATSON: B-A-T-S-O-N. 14 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Batson, if 16 you'll raise your right hand to be sworn, please. JAMES BATSON, called as a witness herein, having 17 18 been first duly sworn on oath, testified as follows: BY JUDGE PRIDGIN: 19 Mr. Batson, thank you. I'll just have two or 20 0 three questions for you. Then I'll ask if you have a 21 statement. And then counsel may have some clarifying 22 23 questions for you. This is just your chance to tell the 24 commissioners what's on your mind. 25 So, again, if you'll just please state your

	Page 5
1	name for the record.
2	A James Batson.
3	Q And Mr. Batson, what company are you here to
4	testify about today?
5	A Oakbrier.
6	Q Anytime you're ready, give your statement to
7	the commission and the court reporter.
8	A We bought a piece of property in Oakbrier in
9	2001. We were still living in Florida. And we wasn't
10	moving up here until '05. We moved up here in '05. We
11	found a property. We built a house. We called Oakbrier.
12	Said we, we thought, we thought it actually had county
13	water on it. Come to find out it didn't. So I said fine.
14	I told him where I wanted the water to come
15	in. He brought it out. Put it in. And then I brought
16	people in to put the water in. And they, all we I don't
17	know anything about water. So they just put a, what fit
18	was the three-quarter-inch pipe and it run over 300 feet to
19	the house.
20	And we just don't have enough water pressure.
21	And the same line is, is running past where it goes to the
22	house and goes to three outside faucets. And they have no
23	boost pump on them. And the water pressure's just not
24	there. We built a 3400-square-foot house with three
25	working bathrooms in it. And the water pressure just is

Page 6 1 not there. 2 All, all I would like to have is water 3 pressure. We're not getting it. We had to go to extra 4 money to put a boost pump in the house. And it puts it up to 60PSI. I can unplug it. Run water. It goes down below 5 30, 30 or below; and it's just not there. We can't run 6 7 anything. And, and with him wanting to raise rates that's 8 not my issue. 9 We lived in Florida. Hurricane central. And we would lose power, but we still had water. I asked 10 Oakbrier Water System if they thought about putting in a 11 12 generator, an emergency generator on this pump. And 13 evidently from what he just said he's not making enough money to do that. 14 15 Again, it's not what he's wanting to charge. I just want the water service. We built this house out 16 here. When power's out, we could be self-sufficient. I 17 18 had my house extra wired strictly for emergency generator. 19 And when we lose power -- and we've done it several times -- I just go out and fire up the generator, plug it 20 21 into the house; and we're good to go. But we don't have water because the well, Oakbrier's well, does not have a 22 23 backup system. 24 And we've been putting up with this for six 25 years. And we just saw this. We thought we'd come in and,

Fax: 314.644.1334

Page 7 again, it is not your wanting to raise rates. It is not. 1 2 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Like I said --3 0 You're free to talk after this as much as you I just want to get your statement. 4 like. 5 That's my complaint. I'm done. Α 6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Batson, thank you. And I 7 don't have any questions. Let me see if we have any 8 clarifying questions. Mr. Zellers, do you have any 9 questions or anything? BY MR. ZELLERS: 10 Yes. Thank you for your testimony, sir. Have 11 0 12 you spoken with representatives of the company about this 13 and let them know about your complaint? 14 The water company? А 15 0 Yeah. Yes. Mr. Owens. 16 Α 17 0 Tonight you have. 18 А No. We've talked to him prior to this. 19 0 Do you feel those talks are productive? Do you have a good relationship with the company? 20 21 Α I have a good relationship with Mr. Owens. The man, I was gone -- and I had a water pipe burst. He 22 23 shut it off there. He didn't have to do that. He saw it 24 was really high usage. And he shut it off. And he went up to my house. And he saw water running out of my shop. 25 I

Page 8 1 appreciate that. 2 But no, I have no animosity towards Mr. Owens. 3 I just want better service. Did that answer your question, sir? 4 5 Yes, it did. Thank you. Q Because, yeah. He's right on things. And, if 6 Α 7 something's messed up, he's right out there. I was doing 8 something, lost water; I run over there still had my water 9 boots on. But anyway. That's it. It's just, if we lose power, we don't have water. And, without the extra expense 10 we had to go through just to run the water pressure in the 11 house, it was a boost pump. But my outside faucets -- it's 12 13 coming straight from his system; won't even run a yard sprinkler. It's just goes away. 14 And I think this ought to be addressed. 15 Because I think there's some other households in Oakbrier 16 that may be experiencing the same thing. And that's all I 17 18 have to say. 19 MR. ZELLERS: Thank you. 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Zellers, anything further? 21 MR. ZELLERS: That's all. Thank you, sir. JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Anything from 22 23 counsel? BY MS. BAKER: 24 25 0 How often are you without water?

	Page 9
1	A When the electricity goes out or it was until
2	Ozark cleared a lot of trees. All it took was a squirrel
3	or a branch falling on it.
4	Q How often in the last year?
5	A The last year?
6	Q Mm-hm.
7	A Couple times. Before that, the harsh winters
8	we had we was losing power all the time. No water.
9	Q And you mentioned whenever you turn off the
10	booster pump it goes below 30PSI. DNR's regulation is
11	20PSI. How often does it go below that?
12	A Well, I never have I tell you what, if we
13	turn on faucets or we try to run a washing machine or
14	something like that. It will drop. It drops more. It
15	just runs out of pressure.
16	Q But you haven't measured it go below 20?
17	A I really don't have a way to measure that. I
18	really don't.
19	Q I just wondered. Since you mentioned that it
20	went below 30.
21	A Well, because we have a gauge. My plumber put
22	a gauge on the boost pump. And it's on the other side, and
23	when that boost pump's running we had to put that in
24	when we built the house because the water pressure wasn't
25	there.

	Page 10
1	Q Thank you.
2	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anything further?
3	MR. BORGMEYER: Just a couple quick clarifying
4	questions.
5	BY MR. BORGMEYER:
6	Q So without the boost pump your water pressure
7	is consistently low?
8	A Yes.
9	Q And does it fluctuate at all? It just stays
10	at a pretty constant low pressure?
11	A We don't look at it. Well, if we turn it
12	on all right. If we turn on one faucet upstairs then a
13	restroom, a bathroom's being used or if you've got the
14	water pressure just falls off. It takes forever for a
15	washing machine to fill with water. If nothing else is
16	going on. And then if, if it just runs out, guys. I
17	don't know how else to say it. It's not constant.
18	Q And when you have no electricity you have no
19	water whatsoever?
20	A No water. No, sir. No water and a generator
21	will take care of that. On the, we have a, we're all
22	electric. And he's all electric. I have a generator in my
23	house. I cannot, but I cannot run the well.
24	MR. BORGMEYER: That's all the questions I
25	have. Thank you, sir.

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1	Page 11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Borgmeyer, thank you.
2	Mr. Batson, thank you very much for your comments. We
3	appreciate them.
4	MR. BATSON: I appreciate you listening.
-	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Our pleasure. And does anyone
6	else wish to testify? All right. Going once, going twice.
7	No further witnesses. Let me see if we have any closing
8	comments. Mr. Zellers?
9	MR. ZELLERS: No, thank you, Judge.
10	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything from counsel? All
10	right. Hearing nothing, we will then conclude this
12	evening's hearing in cases, number SR-2012-0263,
13	WR-2012-0266 and WR-2012-0267. And thank you very much.
14	We're off the record.
15	(WHEREUPON, the public hearing concluded at
16	6:21 p.m.)
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1	Page 12 CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MISSOURI)
3) ss. County of cape girardeau)
4	I, Buffy D. Topper, Certified Court Reporter with the
5	firm of Midwest Litigation Services, do hereby certify that
6	I was personally present at the proceedings had in the
7	above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth in the
8	caption sheet thereof; that I then and there took down in
9	Stenotype the proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a
10	full, true and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes
11	so made at such time and place. Given at my office in the
12	City of Cape Girardeau, County of Cape Girardeau, State of
13	Missouri.
14	
15	BUFFY D. TOPPER, RPR, CRR, CCR #1325
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