

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

In the Matter of a Requested Rate Increase)
For Annual Sewer Operating Revenues by)
Hickory Hills Water and Sewer) **File No. SR-2014-0166**

In the Matter of a Requested Rate Increase)
For Annual Water Operating Revenues by)
Hickory Hills Water and Sewer) **File No. WR-2014-0167**

STAFF’S RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through undersigned counsel, and hereby submits *Staff’s Response to Order Directing Filing*. In support hereof, Staff states as follows:

1. On September 16, 2014, Hickory Hills Water & Sewer Company (Hickory Hills) filed a *Withdrawal of Request for Rate Increase in Annual Sewer and Water System Operating Revenues* with the Commission.

2. That same day, the Commission in its *Order Directing Filing* requested that each party other than Hickory Hills file a response to the withdrawal request by September 18, 2014.

3. Being that Hickory Hills is currently in receivership, Staff believes, and is in agreement with Hickory Hills, that the Company’s assets being sold to a third party is in the best interest of the customers. As such, Staff consents to the withdrawal of Hickory Hills’ request for a rate increase. Additionally, Staff is not opposed to the procedural schedule being suspended per the Office of the Public Counsel’s request.

WHEREFORE, Staff files *Staff’s Response to Order Directing Filing* for the Commission’s information and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Akayla J. Jones

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed with first-class postage, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 16th day of September, 2014.

/s/ Akayla J. Jones