BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Evidentiary Hearing

January 5, 2011

Jefferson City, Missouri

Volume 3

In The Matter Of The Small) File No. SR-2010-0320 Company Rate Increase Of) Timber Creek Sewer Company)

HAROLD STEARLEY, Presiding SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

ROBERT M. CLAYTON, III, Chairman, TERRY M. JARRETT, KEVIN GUNN, ROBERT S. KENNEY, COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED BY: Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939 TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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11	FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission			
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1	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Good			
2	morning. It's Wednesday, January 5th, 2011.			
3	Commission has set this time for an evidentiary			
4	hearing in the matter of Small Company Rate Increase			
5	of Timber Creek Sewer Company, which is File			
6	No. SR-2010-0320.			
7	My name is Harold Stearley and I'm the			
8	presiding officer over this hearing today. Our court			
9	reporter is Tracy Taylor. And we will begin by taking			
10	entries of appearance starting with Timber Creek Sewer			
11	Company.			
12	MR. FINNEGAN: On behalf of the tariff			
13	company, Timber Creek Sewer Company, Jeremiah			
14	Finnegan; Finnegan, Conrad and Peterson, 3100			
15	Broadway, Suite 1209, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.			
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Mr. Finnegan.			
17	For the office of the Public Counsel.			
18	MS. BAKER: Thank you. Christina Baker,			
19	PO Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing			
20	on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the			
21	ratepayers.			
22	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. Baker.			
23	And for the Staff of the Missouri Public			
24	Service Commission.			
25	MS. OTT: Jaime Ott on behalf of the			

1	Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, PO
2	Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. Ott. And
4	for starters, as always, I'd like to ask that everyone
5	would please turn off all cell phones, Blackberries,
6	electronic devices. Those devices can interfere with
7	our webcasting and our recording, so I'd appreciate it
8	if you'd turn those off.
9	I don't believe we have any pending
10	motions or matters before the Commission for this case
11	so I'm going to quickly run through our witness list.
12	For Timber Creek we have Derek Sherry; Staff, James
13	Busch, Nila Hagemeyer, Martin Hummel, Bret Prenger, D.
14	William Harris; and for the Office of Public Counsel,
15	Ted Robertson. Did I miss anyone?
16	And were the parties wanting to present
17	evidence on an issue-by-issue basis today? It's my
18	understanding Mr. Sherry has some commitments tomorrow
19	so I'd like to be able to complete his testimony
20	today, or is it acceptable just to have each witness
21	address whichever issues they are going to address
22	whenever they're on the stand?
23	MS. BAKER: I think either way is fine
24	with Public Counsel.
25	MS. OTT: Same with Staff.

1	MR. FINNEGAN: Same here. I think			
2	just			
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Sometimes			
4	I've had people ask us to go issue-by-issue, so I just			
5	wanted to be sure.			
6	And preliminarily just to kind of get			
7	this out of the way, I did want I guess I can have			
8	Staff offer the two stipulations and the			
9	reconciliation into evidence if we could mark those as			
10	exhibits. I guess we could mark the unanimous partial			
11	stipulation as Exhibit 1 and the unanimous stipulation			
12	on undisputed facts as 2 and the reconciliation as			
13	Exhibit 3.			
14	(Exhibit Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were marked for			
15	identification.)			
16	MR. FINNEGAN: I'm sorry. What's Exhibit			
17	1 and 2?			
18	JUDGE STEARLEY: Exhibit 1 would be			
19	unanimous partial stipulation.			
20	MR. FINNEGAN: Okay.			
21	JUDGE STEARLEY: And 2 would be the			
22	unanimous stipulation of undisputed facts.			
23	MR. FINNEGAN: Thank you.			
24	JUDGE STEARLEY: And I'm assuming no			
25	party would be objecting to the admission of those			

1	exhibits. Hearing none, they will be admitted and			
2	received into evidence.			
3	(Exhibit Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were received			
4	into evidence.)			
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: I did have a couple of			
6	real quick questions about the unanimous stipulation			
7	and undisputed facts just to clear up and then we'll			
8	proceed with opening statements.			
9	In paragraph 6 it's noted that this			
10	agreement, this stipulation notes that the partial			
11	agreement resolved all of the issues in this matter			
12	except for the five issues that have been identified			
13	by the parties. And I just wanted to confirm that.			
14	MS. OTT: That is correct.			
15	MS. BAKER: I believe the only thing			
16	that that connects with some of these is payroll			
17	tax had an issue and then there was some some			
18	Workers' Comp and insurance that was also in the			
19	company's.			
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: And that comes in with			
21	the payroll issue itself?			
22	MS. BAKER: Yes, it does.			
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. With regard to			
24	that unanimous partial stip then, there were a couple			
25	items I didn't see in there and I just wanted to make			

1 sure the parties were all in agreement on. Are all 2 the parties in agreement on the company's rate-base as 3 it's laid out in Staff's accounting schedules? MR. FINNEGAN: Yes. 4 5 MS. BAKER: Yes. 6 MS. OTT: Yes. 7 JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. And are all the parties in agreement as to the capital structure 8 that's laid out in the Staff's accounting schedules? 10 MS. BAKER: Yes. 11 MR. FINNEGAN: Yes. 12 JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. That's all I needed for clarification. I appreciate that. If 13 there's no other preliminary matters then, we can go 14 15 ahead and begin with opening statements starting with Timber Creek. 16 17 MR. FINNEGAN: May it please the 18 Commission. I represent Timber Creek Sewer Company, which is unusual for me in a rate case, but here I am. 19 20 This is a small utility rate case proceeding and 21 although it started off small, I think we've got seven 22 witnesses in this case so it's kind of an oxymoron to 23 call it a small utility rate case because it's a pretty good-sized case but it's a small utility. 24 25 have 1,526 customers. They've grown from 47 when they started in 1995.

The issues in this case -- or the case came about basically because of two things: One, the increases in the PSC assessment for small -- for this company and for all sewer companies. The most -- well, all other utility groups other than the sewer utilities have an assessment of less than 1 percent. Some are really low.

But for utility -- for sewer companies, they've gone from 6 to 11 and I think it's 9.3 for the next -- for next year, but that's percentage. It's less -- it's pretty substantial. And it basically took all the profit away from this company and that's one of the reasons it's here. The other is because the electric rates have been increasing substantially over the years, plus just other general cost increases.

The issues after trying to work this out came down to there were certain issues that could not be resolved. And basically the first one was the appropriate level of salaries and overtime to be included in this case and the question of whether or not time sheets would be -- would be provided by the company in the future.

And with respect to the time sheets, the

1 company's in agreement that it would be willing to do 2 the time sheets, but it's concerned because of an overtime issue. It has two employees which it 3 believes may possibly be subject to -- would no longer 4 be exempt from -- under the Federal Labor Standards 5 Act and would be required to be paid overtime. 6 7 And the concern was by having the time sheets, they've got the evidence to come before the 8 court and say, I've worked overtime, here's the proof 10 and I wasn't paid and I'm not in the exempt class. 11 And even if they should not succeed, it would cost the 12 company something like 20- or 30,000 dollars in legal 13 fees to fight something like that. So that was the concern as to whether or not we would be required to 14 15 do time sheets. 16 And we are asking for overtime for two --17 for the two employees. One is the plant collection 18 system operator and the other is the office manager. 19 They both presently perform overtime duties and they 20 are not paid for it because -- well, they -- we don't 21 pay overtime at this point. But with the time sheets, 22 we plan to be paying overtime and will pay overtime. 23 The question of salaries is a pretty subjective issue as to the dollars and you'll see this 24

and most of it comes in as opinion as to where this

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should be pegged, but we are ask-- we are feeling that we are below market at this time and that we want to get the company that only has four employees to get them up to the level that they should be being paid commensurate with what their duties are.

The next issue is the issue of the rate case, the appropriate rate case expense and this is kind of -- of an ongoing matter at this point. The Staff started with the last rate case and tried to come up with some figures for that case as a surrogate for what the costs would be in this case. But I believe now we are moving to what is actually going to be the costs in this case and we're going to be getting in our -- our cost to the Staff and to everybody has fastly -- as fast as possible.

The other issue is the seeking costs for exploratory alternative energy source. In recent years, Timber Creek drilled an exploratory gas well in an effort to offset electricity costs. They're trying to find gas on the property. There's gas in the -- in the area -- in the Platte County area and they hoped that they would find some on the property.

They spent some \$10,000 in trying to get this -- to get this, but they -- after drilling quite a way down in the ground, they decided to stop and

capped the well because there was no gas appearing.

They spent \$10,849 on this. And what we're seeking is not a recovery of that, but a -- a allocation or -- of cost in that amount over a three-year period -- to recover over a three-year period to continue seeking alternative energy sources to help offset the cost of the utility, which, of course, is passed onto the -- to the ratepayer at the next rate case.

The other issue is the issue of the PSC assessment. And as a result of the big increases in the PSC assessment over the last three-year period from the last time that the PSC assessment was -- was set in this -- for the rates for this company, they have been -- paid over 54 -- \$45,902 in PSC assessment costs that were not recovered. And we're seeking to recover that amount \$15,301 a year over the period of three years, which is three into 45,902.

And until something happens -- there's a working case on small company -- small sewer and water companies, their problems. But until something is resolved in that case, we're -- we're seeking to pass through the gross -- the PSC assessment as a separate line item, not be a cost -- part of the cost of service, but be treated much like gross receipt taxes

and franchise fees, which are not tax on the customer, but that are a tax on the utility in much the same way the PSC assessment is a tax on this utility.

And it varies. It's been going up and down each year and the fact that we're here in this rate case is going to actually increase the cost of that assessment for everybody in the sewer utility because that's how it's determined by how much work the Staff does and -- in dealing with sewer companies.

So not only are they -- we're asking for rate case expenses, but there's also going to be an increase in the sewer assessment -- in the PSC assessment probably as a result of participating in this case and if any other rate cases come down the line. So what we are seeking is to pass this through in the future to the ratepayers as a separate item and on the bill and identified as such.

And then the final issue is a contingency emergency repair fund. The question is we want -- we want it to be authorized a contingency in the amount of 50 cents a month for a period of -- per customer for a period of 19 years to reach a goal that

Mr. Sherry has worked out based on the probability of the large items failing over a period of time without having any -- anything to be able to pick it up and

pay the cost of it.

Just this last Sunday a pump station failed in a very strategic location. It was in a park with a walking trail. And it blew off the cone, which is about a five-foot concrete dome with a sewer lid on top, blew it off and all -- and, of course, all the sewage out on -- into the area there. And I'm sure the walkers were not real happy with this as well as the DNR.

It's been reported, we're in the process of it. Mr. Sherry has been checking on it from here. In fact, he had a call at 2:30 this morning to see what the status of it is, but just one of the items we believe is the result of the control panel failing. And the last time the control panel failed was like three years ago, it cost about \$10,000 to replace.

So this is one of these contingencies that you can't expect, but -- well, you can expect but you don't know when to expect it. So the idea is to create a separate fund and to set up a certain amount in there and to recover this in the rates over the next period of time and so that there would be a fund segregated just for contingencies and emergency repairs.

One of the things that I'd like to point

out that in the statutes, Section 393.270, subsection 5, which says, In determining the price to be charged for sewer service, the Commission may consider all facts which in its judgment have any bearing upon a proper determination of the question, although not set forth in the complaint and not with any allegation contained therein, but do regard among other things reasonable average return upon the value of the property actually used in the public service.

This is kind of different than what it is for other utilities, gas, electric and water, because there's is to a reasonable average return on capital actually expended. There must be a difference, but I don't know if it's been treated as such, but that's not the issue at this point.

The issue is this: Upon the reasonable return on the value of the property actually used in the public service and to the necessity of making reservations out of income for surplus and contingencies.

So the statute authorizes the Commission to allow a contingency. And we think this is a very important one. The company -- if you look, the company's rate-base is very small. The -- it's a small company. Coming up with an extra \$10,000 here

1	or there is going to be a very difficult task to to			
2	do without something like a contingency fund.			
3	So basically that's the five issues that			
4	we have at this time. And we're hoping that the			
5	Commission will give us a good hearing on this and see			
6	if they can't come up with something to help us out.			
7	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any questions for			
8	Mr. Finnegan? Thank you very much, Mr. Finnegan.			
9	MR. FINNEGAN: Thank you.			
10	JUDGE STEARLEY: Opening statement from			
11	Staff?			
12	MS. OTT: Good morning. May it please			
13	the Commission. My name is Jaime Ott and I'm here			
14	today on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public			
15	Service Commission.			
16	As identified, parties were able to			
17	resolve the majority of this case through the small			
18	rate case process as identified through the unanimous			
19	partial disposition agreement back in October.			
20	Mr. Finnegan has identified the five			
21	issues that remain in this case: The salaries,			
22	overtime and time sheets; rate case expense; the			
23	alternative energy natural gas well; the Public			
24	Service Commission assessment; and the contingency			
25	emergency repair fund.			

Staff witness Bret Prenger has provided testimony and is here today to discuss the appropriate level of salary and overtime to be included in Timber Creek's rates. Mr. Prenger has researched and evaluated Timber Creek's employees' current salaries and determined what an appropriate, just and reasonable rate to be included in their cost of service based on market price, job duties to be a collective amount of \$245.441.

Further, Mr. Prenger and Ms. Hagemeyer have provided testimony that Timber Creek should be required to document all of its employees' time, not just the two that Timber Creek is saying are non-exempt employees that might qualify for overtime.

Time-keeping is a management tool that fosters efficiencies and effectiveness in the corporation as well as it enables a company to establish and track trends and workload and company projects that could result in the need for additional work force, a reduction in work force or even more, it could identify problematic issues within the system in which the company is spending excess time working on above and beyond what was the normal course of business.

Next, Staff witness Bill Harris has filed

1	testimony and is here to discuss the appropriate level
2	of rate case expense and the appropriate level of PSC
3	assessment that should be included in rates.
4	Mr. Harris' testimony identifies expenses that are
5	reasonable and prudent should be allowed in as rate
6	case expense and should be amortized over three years.
7	However, Mr. Harris does not believe that
8	expenses related to a prior rate case are appropriate
9	to be recovered in this current rate case. It is a
LO	violation of retroactive rate-making and a prohibition
L1	on single issue rate-making. And Timber Creek should
L2	be barred from recovering costs that related to its
L3	last rate case before the Commission.
L4	Mr. Harris also establishes that the
L5	appropriate level of PSC assessment should be \$62,590,
L6	the amount Timber Creek has been assessed for the
L7	2011 2011 fiscal year and not to go back and
L8	collect the fluctuations in PSC assessment since they
L9	were last allowed in their cost of service in the last
20	rate case.
21	The third issue is whether or not Timber
22	Creek should be allowed to recover costs related to an
23	exploratory alternative energy source or to the
24	continuation of the exploration of alternative energy.
5	Staff expert Martin Hummel has filed

1 testimony on the issue and is here to discuss why it 2 is inappropriate to include in rates a highly speculative venture that the management decided to 3 make and may continue to make and place the burden on ratepayers.

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The ratepayers have not received any benefit from Timber Creek's decision to explore the possibility of natural gas on its property or they have not received a benefit from the potential of exploring alternative energy source in their area and, therefore, the ratepayers should not have to bear the expense of the company making a management decision that was very speculative and did not foster results.

The last two issues in this case relate to issues that are currently being explored in the Commission workshop case, WW-2009-0386. Staff expert James Busch filed testimony and is here to discuss why it's inappropriate to bring the issues of a PSC assessment pass-through and the creation of a contingency reserve fund before the Commission today.

These issues are not ripe for Commission determination. The issues could result in a significant policy change as well as potentially having to change current law. The PSC assessment is based upon statutory Section 386.370. This section

does not provide the Commission with the authority to place a separate line item on ratepayer's bills to charge them for the cost of the PSC assessment.

Now, Staff has stated that one day it could potentially support a contingency reserve fund.

However, it cannot support one in this case today. In

does not believe that Timber Creek has provided enough detail, information and safeguards to ensure that it would be enforced properly and -- and protect both the

10 ratepayers and the shareholders.

Further, if the Commission would create the PSC assessment pass-through or the contingency reserve fund in this case, it could result in many unattended consequences to the sewer industry as well as all other utility industries in this state. It is more appropriate for the Commission, Staff, Public Counsel and the stakeholders to the workshop to continue vetting those issues out in that forum.

In conclusion, the Staff believes that it has included the most reasonable and appropriate levels of salary for the Timber Creek work force, that the Commission should require all Timber Creek's employees to track employees' hours, that only reasonable and prudent rate case expense related to this case and this case only to be included in the

1	cost of service, the Commission should disallow any
2	expenses relating to speculative, exploratory,
3	alternative energy sources, and that the Commission
4	should not grant a pass a PSC assessment
5	pass-through or a contingency reserve fund for Timber
6	Creek at this time. We hope that you will listen to
7	our witnesses and support our position. Thank you.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any questions for
9	Ms. Ott?
10	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I just have two quick
11	questions and they're mostly factual. The previous
12	rate case was resolved by stipulation; is that
13	correct?
14	MS. OTT: That's correct.
15	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. And then
16	and then just one legal question. Mr. Finnegan
17	said cited a statutory reference about that he
18	said authorizes contingency funds. Do you do you
19	agree with his assessment whether or not we do it
20	as a matter of policy is a separate question, but do
21	you agree with his assessment that the statute
22	authorizes us to do contingency funds as we so choose?
23	MS. OTT: I do not believe so.
24	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. Thanks.
25	That's all I have.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Jarrett,			
2	any questions?			
3	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I have no			
4	questions.			
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. Ott.			
6	Opening statement, Ms. Baker.			
7	MS. BAKER: May it please the Commission.			
8	My name is Christina Baker and I am here on behalf of			
9	the Office of the Public Counsel. As you've heard			
10	already today, you will hear evidence regarding the			
11	issues of compensation, overtime, time sheets, the			
12	exploratory gas well recovery and future exploratory			
13	gas work, a contingency emergency repair fund, the PSC			
14	assessment amount and pass-through and the rate case			
15	expense.			
16	On the issue of compensation, overtime			
17	and time sheets, Timber Creek has requested that the			
18	Commission authorize a total of \$265,742 in			
19	compensation for its four positions of general			
20	manager, office manager, operations manager and P and			
21	C systems operator.			
22	The evidence will show that this amount			
23	of compensation is excessive given the small size of			
24	the utility and the small number of customers. The			
25	evidence will show that rather than basing each			

employee's compensation on suitable market data for a utility of this size in the Kansas City area, Timber Creek first determined how much it would like to pay its employees and then sought out random information in an attempt to justify those amounts as just and reasonable.

It is Public Counsel's position that the Commission should base its authorization -- its authorization of compensation on information provided in the MERIC Occupation Wages, Kansas City region, 2009 along with the verifiable additional support. In our position statement, we listed out what Public Counsel's position was on each of those positions for a total compensation of 190,543.

The issue of overtime, Timber Creek is requesting the inclusion of approximately \$10,000 per year for overtime costs for the office manager and the P and C systems operator positions. However, the evidence will show that Timber Creek incurred no overtime during the test year for this rate case and, therefore, the amount of overtime is pure estimation of future and unlikely expenses.

It is Public Counsel's position that the Commission should not authorize the inclusion of any alleged or estimated overtime costs in the

determination of the utility's annualized payroll.

Also, Timber Creek opposes the requirement that it keep accurate time sheets for its employees. The evidence will show that keeping accurate time sheets is a normal business practice which protects both the utility and the employees.

The evidence will also show that it is -it is -- and as Mr. Finnegan stated this morning, that
basically their -- their main issue with time sheets
is because it might be used against them for how they
classify their employees under the Fair Labor
Standards. That is not an issue of the -- of the
Commission and it is inappropriate for the utility to
say that it wants to hide behind not keeping time
sheets so it doesn't have to meet with the Fair Labor
Standards. So it is Public Counsel's Commission -- or
position that the Commission should require Timber
Creek to keep and implement time reporting.

You've heard a lot about the exploratory gas well. We all know that -- that the utility attempted to drill for gas, was unsuccessful, spent almost \$11,000 doing so. Now they've come to the Commission asking that the 11,000 not necessarily be recovered, but that they get almost that amount back for future exploratory use.

It is -- it is not an amount that is used and useful by the ratepayers so, therefore, it is Public Counsel's position that the Commission should -- should deny the request for recovery of the amount or for future money from the ratepayers for the exploratory gas well. The -- and also Public Counsel believes that the -- the ratepayers should not be placed in a position to be the piggy bank for future speculatory gas drilling.

For the contingency emergency repair funds, Staff said it very plainly. There are no -the evidence will show that there are no protections,
no specifics on what Timber Creek is asking for this
emergency repair fund. The evidence will show that
Timber Creek's estimation of future repairs is just a
broad statement of what-ifs and what-may-bes.

The evidence will show that Timber Creek offers only statements of the money they wish to receive from the ratepayers, but offers no guidelines for operations, protections for the ratepayers or consequences of abuse. The evidence will show that what Timber Creek is actually attempting to do is to transfer the risk of owning and operating a public utility onto the customer. So is it Public Counsel's position that the Commission should reject Timber

Creeks' request to establish an emergency contingency repair fund.

On the issue of the PSC assessment,

Timber Creek is asking the Commission to include not only the current PSC assessment amount of \$62,590, but also an additional \$45,902 normalized over three years, asking the customers to pay \$19,391 per year for recovery of costs associated with PSC assessments from previous — or since the previous rate case.

Timber Creek is also requesting that the Commission allow it to establish a pass-through surcharge for the assessment.

The evidence will show that the Timber Creek -- that Timber Creek is attempting to recover past expenses which are beyond the test year true-up for this rate case as, therefore, retroactive rate-making.

The evidence will also show that Timber Creek is attempting to gain Commission approval to initiate single-issue rate-making in regards to the request for the pass-through surcharge, which is prohibited in utility regulation. Therefore, it is Public Counsel's position that the Commission should authorize the inclusion of the current PSC assessment rate of \$62,590 but reject the inclusion of the prior

assessment expenses as well as the request for a pass-through surcharge.

On the last issue of rate case expense, the evidence will show that some of the rate case expenses Timber Creek has incurred are just and reasonable to be recovered in rates. However, the evidence will also show that a significant portion of the rate case expense incurred has been merely for the benefit of Timber Creek and its wish to have face time with the Commission.

The evidence will show what this -- what sets this case apart from a typical small company rate case procedure is Timber Creek's insistence that the case go to evidentiary hearing on issues which it was fully aware were in violation of prudent rate-making practices such as single-issue rate-making, retroactive rate-making, improper risk shifting and the recovery of costs to which there was no customer benefit.

Therefore, it is Public Counsel's position that the Commission should authorize the inclusion of all prudent rate case expense associated with the current case except for those attorney costs billed by the firm Finnegan, Conrad and Peterson. And for those amounts, Public Counsel -- it is Public

1	Counsel's position that the Commission should		
2	authorize an inclusion of 50 percent of the Finnegan,		
3	Conrad, Peterson costs, excluding certain mileage		
4	charges normalized over three years.		
5	At the time of the filing of the		
6	reconciliation in this case, this amounts to \$8,691		
7	which will be updated throughout the case which Public		
8	Counsel believes the Commission should authorize as		
9	rate case expense.		
10	Overall, Public Counsel asks that the		
11	Commission set the rates for the customers of Timber		
12	Creek which are just and reasonable and protective of		
13	the interests of the ratepayers. Thank you.		
14	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any questions for		
15	Ms. Baker?		
16	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I just have two again		
17	real quick. You you stated that no overtime was		
18	incurred in the test year?		
19	MS. BAKER: That's correct.		
20	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Is that undisputed or		
21	is that because I thought I heard Mr. Finnegan talk		
22	about some people performing overtime.		
23	MS. BAKER: Staff Staff witness also		
24	talks about the fact that there was there was no		
25	rate case or I'm sorry no overtime expense		

1	during the test year.
2	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Now just a quick
3	follow-up question. If they're not doing time sheets
4	and everybody's salaried, how do we know that no
5	overtime was incurred or that outside the normal
6	9:00 to 5:00, 40-hour workweek?
7	MS. BAKER: There have been data requests
8	that have gone to the company. And if they had paid
9	out overtime at at more than, you know, at time,
10	time and a half, that would have been on their books.
11	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. But I guess
12	just to be clear, does did the fact that Public
13	Counsel Staff agrees that no overtime had been
14	incurred. Does the company agree with that?
15	MS. BAKER: I think you'll have to ask
16	Mr. Finnegan.
17	COMMISSIONER GUNN: We can get to that
18	then.
19	And then secondly, I'll ask you the same
20	question I asked Ms. Ott. Is Public Counsel's
21	objection to the contingency fund based on the lack of
22	protections or is it based on the fact that they don't
23	believe that it's statutorily authorized?
24	MS. BAKER: We don't believe that it is
25	statutorily authorized because what it comes down to

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   is single-issue rate-making where if you have a
 2
   contingency fund that is -- that is collected each
   month from -- from the customers, it's not used and
 3
   useful, it's not attached into the rate-base of -- of
 4
 5
   the utility itself, it's a separate fund.
 6
                COMMISSIONER GUNN:
                                    So you disagree with
 7
   Mr. Finnegan's interpretation of the statute?
                MS. BAKER: Yes, we do.
 8
                COMMISSIONER GUNN: That's all I have.
 9
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Jarrett?
10
11
                COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I just wanted to
12
   clarify what Commissioner Gunn had asked. Are you
13
   saying that there was no overtime expense incurred or
   are you saying that none of the employees worked over
14
15
   40 hours a week?
16
                MS. BAKER: May I -- may I let
17
   Mr. Robertson answer that since he is the one who did
18
   the testimony or should I get -- get the exact answer
   from him?
19
20
                COMMISSIONER JARRETT: If he's got it.
                                                         Ι
21
   was trying to clarify.
22
                MS. BAKER: We're getting a little ahead.
23
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Right. At this point
24
   he's not sworn in. I can swear him in for purposes of
25
   this question.
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```
1
                COMMISSIONER JARRETT: All right. Well,
 2
   I guess I'll ask that guestion later then.
 3
                MS. BAKER: I do believe that that will
   hinge on a lot of the decision in that particular
 4
 5
   issue.
 6
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you,
 7
   Ms. Baker.
 8
                MS. BAKER: Thank you.
 9
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. We can begin
   with witness examination then. Mr. Finnegan?
10
11
                MR. FINNEGAN: I'd like to call Derek
12
   Sherry to the stand, please.
13
                 (Witness sworn.)
                 (Exhibit Nos. 4, 5 and 6 were marked for
14
   identification.)
15
   DEREK SHERRY, having been sworn, testified as follows:
16
17
   DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
18
                Mr. Sherry, would you state your name,
          Q.
19
   please.
20
                My name is Derek Sherry.
          Α.
21
                And by whom are you employed?
          Q.
22
                By Timber Creek Sewer Company.
          Α.
23
                Are you the Timber -- are you the Derek
          0.
   Sherry who filed prepared direct, rebuttal and
24
   surrebuttal testimony in this case?
25
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г	EVIDENTIANT HEARING VOL. 5 OI 03 ZOII		
1	Α.	Yes.	
2	Q.	And do you have that before you?	
3	Α.	Yes.	
4	Q.	Looking at those well, let me ask you,	
5	is Exhibit No	o. 4 do you see that? Is that the	
6	direct testir	nony of Derek Sherry?	
7	Α.	Yes.	
8	Q.	And is Exhibit No. 5 the rebuttal	
9	testimony of	Derek Sherry?	
10	Α.	Yes.	
11	Q.	And is Exhibit No. 6 the surrebuttal	
12	testimony of	Derek Sherry?	
13	Α.	I don't have that one. Maybe I do.	
14	Q.	There it is.	
15	Α.	Yes, I do.	
16	Q.	Is that correct?	
17	Α.	Correct.	
18	Q.	Okay. And was this prepared by you or	
19	under your supervision and control?		
20	Α.	Yes.	
21	Q.	And if the questions were asked of you	
22	today, would	they be the same?	
23	Α.	Yes.	
24	Q.	And would your responses be the same as	
25	they were the	en?	

1 Yes. Α. 2 Do you have any corrections to any okay. Q. 3 of the testimony? I think we found one. 4 Α. 5 Some surrebuttal testimony? Q. 6 We found one correction on the surrebuttal testimony. On page 6, isn't it? 7 8 Six? Ο. 9 Line --Α. 10 Q. Sixteen? 11 Yep, 16. Should say, Increase rates --Α. 12 where it says "with," it should say "without" the approval of Commission. 13 14 Okay. So that's page 6, line 16? Q. MS. OTT: The direct? 15 MR. FINNEGAN: The surrebuttal. 16 17 BY MR. FINNEGAN: So that would read, After all, a utility 18 Q. 19 may not increase rates without the approval of the Commission --20 21 Correct. Α. 22 -- rather than with -- okay. And is Q. 23 there anything further you wish to add to these testimony exhibits? 24 25 Not at this time. Α.

1	MR. FINNEGAN: Okay. At this time, I'd
2	like to offer into tes into the record Exhibits 4, 5
3	and 6 and tender Mr. Sherry for cross-examination.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the
5	offering of Exhibits 4, 5 and 6?
6	MS. OTT: I would like to object to
7	Schedule DS-10 in the surrebuttal. It's an unverified
8	PowerPoint presentation from an unknown well, an
9	entity not a party to this case with nobody here to
10	attest to the voracity of it.
11	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan, your
12	response?
13	MR. FINNEGAN: My response, your Honor,
14	is this from the Johnson County Wastewater website.
15	The Staff has brought in the Johnson County Wastewater
16	into this case as to determine costs and and the
17	payroll. So I think it this is relevant and should
18	be permitted.
19	MS. OTT: The information Staff brought
20	in from Johnson County is certified by the custodian
21	of records of Johnson County Wastewater. I don't
22	believe this is a certified document.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan, are you
24	able to lay some foundation for this schedule with
25	your witness?

1 MR. FINNEGAN: Yes, I can. 2 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. You may 3 proceed. BY MR. FINNEGAN: 4 5 Mr. Sherry, do you have before you what's Q. 6 Schedule DS-10 to Exhibit 6? 7 Α. Yes. And where did you obtain this? 8 Q. 9 Α. If you go to Johnson County's legislative 10 site where they publish all of the county commission 11 meeting minutes and presentations that occur as part 12 of the normal course of business, that legislative site has all the county budgets, presentations that 13 happen in that public forum. And this was downloaded 14 15 directly from that site. 16 And the purpose that you're using this 0. 17 exhibit for -- or this schedule is to show the cost structure implications? 18 19 Α. Yes. What we were doing is looking at 20 various wastewater utilities within the Kansas City 21 Johnson County was one of those as looking at area. 22 it from a payroll perspective. So the information 23 here was to take a look at other utilities and payroll as it relates to their budget. So this was a document 24

that was presented as part of the county commission in

25

1	reviewing Johnson County Wastewater's operation and
2	maintenance and budgeting rate case kind of en
3	issues that they were faced with.
4	And the presentation talks about
5	operation of maintenance expense and personnel costs.
6	So it gives a very good view of a large utility, how
7	much personnel costs are associated with that utility.
8	Q. And what is that amount?
9	A. The amount is what it the what I
10	think is important about this is that it takes away
11	from size and scale of the utility and looks at
12	personnel costs as it relates to providing the
13	service. And what it it shows is that 41 percent
14	of their personnel cost goes towards operation
15	maintenance expense.
16	Q. And this is a public record?
17	A. Yes. Yeah. You could download it you
18	could go onsite today and find this document.
19	MR. FINNEGAN: Thank you, your Honor.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: Ms. Ott?
21	MS. OTT: Just for the record, Staff did
22	not bring in Johnson County. Timber Creek did in its
23	direct case and then Staff went and found the
24	certified copies only as a response to Timber Creek
25	bringing it up in their direct.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. In light of
2	the foundation Mr. Finnegan has just explored with his
3	witness, does your objection still remain?
4	MS. OTT: It does. It's still not
5	verified. It doesn't have a date which this was
6	pulled from the website. It's I still don't
7	believe it's a certified document. It doesn't show
8	that the URL at the bottom in which and what
9	date the search was done on.
10	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. The
11	objection will be overruled. There's sufficient
12	indicia of reliability to the document and it can be
13	verified by public access. Any other objections to
14	the admissions of Exhibits 4, 5 and 6?
15	Hearing none, they shall be received and
16	admitted into the record.
17	(Exhibit Nos. 4, 5 and 6 were received
18	into evidence.)
19	JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination
20	beginning with Staff.
21	MS. OTT: May Staff cross from counsel
22	table?
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Yes, you may remain at
24	counsel table if you wish.
25	MS. OTT: Thank you.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT: 2 Good morning, Mr. Sherry. Could you 3 please turn to page 3 on 7 of your surrebuttal? 4 MR. FINNEGAN: Did you say surrebuttal? 5 MS. OTT: Yes. 6 THE WITNESS: Okay. 7 BY MS. OTT: 8 when you're addressing Mr. Prenger's Ο. individual salary per customer cost, it identifies 10 that Platte County has 3,200 customers and 11 10 employees and then it identifies that Timber Creek 12 has 1,526 customers and 4 employees. Isn't that a similar ratio of employees per customer? 13 14 It's not. Because in the -- if you look 15 at the -- if it goes on to the percentages, that regional sewer district is 209 percent and they have 16 17 250 percent for staff. So the ratios are different. But in terms of -- if you would take 18 Ο. 19 it -- 320-to-1 to about 380-to-1, that's pretty close 20 in terms of employees to customer ratio. Could you 21 agree with that? 22 I mean I would not agree with that Α. No. because the idea is that if the same amount of 23 employees that Timber Creek has and the structure we 24 have was to serve 3,200, we would -- in essence, if

25

1	you did a straight line, we would double our staff,
2	four to eight. And Platte County has ten. So I can't
3	agree with that ratio.
4	Q. Did Timber Creek issue any salary
5	increases in the year 2010?
6	A. They did not.
7	Q. For any employee?
8	A. Did not.
9	Q. Does Timber Creek plan on increasing
10	issuing any salary increases for the year 2011?
11	A. Now, that decision has not been made yet.
12	Q. When would that decision be made?
13	A. That will be made on the outcome of this
14	case as well as a board meeting that will be upcoming.
15	Q. So dependent upon the outcome of the
16	case, would each employee receive a salary increase?
17	A. At this time the plan is not to give the
18	operations manager a increase in salary, as I've
19	stated in my testimony.
20	Q. But you would be giving an increase to
21	the general manager, yourself?
22	A. Correct.
23	Q. The office manager?
24	A. Correct.
25	Q. And the assistant operator?

1	A. Correct.
2	Q. Now, your Timber Creek's position is
3	they're seeking approximately a \$20,000 increase in
4	salaries in this case. Correct?
5	A. I believe so. It's over and above what
6	we've already agreed on.
7	Q. And about 17,000 of that is attributed to
8	your salary?
9	A. That sounds about right.
LO	Q. And only 3,000 attributed to the other
L1	three employees?
L2	A. Correct. Actually, no, that's incorrect.
L3	The plant system operator is currently at
L4	40-some-thousand and we're asking for 49,000. So
L5	\$9,000 would be for that position.
L6	Q. And you're asking for more than \$20,000
L7	in a salary increase?
L8	A. Let me get to my testimony.
L9	Q. Is that an increase from your direct
20	testimony?
21	A. What we're asking for is for the general
22	manager salary to move to the \$94,000 range. We're
23	asking for the office manager to move to the 43,000
24	let me get to the right page. We're asking for the
25	plant and collection system operator to move from the

1 41,000 roughly to the 49,000 and we're asking to keep 2 the operation manager the same. 3 So you don't believe the operation -- the 0. plant manager should receive a cost of living 4 increase? 5 6 Not at this time. 7 Now, has Timber Creek implemented the Q. payment of overtime since it had a discussion with 8 Staff back in September? 10 Α. No, it has not. 11 Q. When does Timber Creek plan on 12 implementing the overtime policy? 13 Α. Depending on the outcome of this case. 14 So if -- are you saying you're not going Q. to pay overtime if you don't like the outcome of this 15 16 case? 17 If we're going to be required to pay -- if we're going to be required to do time 18 19 sheets, I'll have to start paying overtime. 20 Ο. Okay. How do you track trends in -- in 21 the Timber Creek Sewer system? 22 Α. I don't understand the question. Track -- I don't understand track trend. 23 How do you evaluate and determine 24 0. 25 different trends? Like if a bunch of pumps are going

1 out or equipment is going bad, how -- how do you kind of keep a list to see if there's a trend, if 2 3 something's happening every January or every September? 4 5 So we really maintain two systems. Α. have a work order system which has now been automated 6 7 to an asset management system that tracks failures or unscheduled events or in this case scheduled events 8 that need to take place as far as the normal operation 10 and maintenance of the system. 11 Q. Could time reporting help you track 12 trends? 13 Α. Against the assets? 14 Or against maybe emergencies or 0. 15 different -- if there was pump failures or --We record time as -- as part of the 16 Α. 17 actual event itself. So in the case of the pump station outing that we had on Sunday, as part of 18 19 completing that work order, we will complete how much 20 time was spent by the vendors, how much time was spent 21 by the personnel to manage that event. 22 Did you ever do an analysis of those Ο. 23 records? 24 I did as part of this case to present how much overtime was worked in 2009. 25

1	Q. How do you determine efficiencies in the
2	utility?
3	A. Efficiencies in?
4	Q. To run your operations more efficiently,
5	to run your business.
6	A. How do I determine how efficiently we run
7	our business?
8	Q. Yes.
9	A. I look at the market in which we work in,
10	we look at how other utilities operate, we look at how
11	much costs that we're incurring, we look at rates that
12	we incur and then compare that to see if it makes
13	sense as to other utilities. We also have a pretty
14	high standard about what it is that we think, you
15	know, our efficiencies should run at, how much staff
16	we have to have to do certain activities.
17	Q. So if you don't keep time reports, how do
18	you determine how much Staff you need how
19	efficiently your Staff is operating?
20	A. Because I'm there every day. I have a
21	pretty good sense of what each employee's doing on
22	a any given hour.
23	Q. Do you know what your employees are doing
24	at every minute of the day?
25	A. Not every minute.

1 Do you ever take a vacation? Q. 2 Α. Sure. 3 So you're not there every day knowing 0. everything they're doing at every minute? 4 5 Right. Α. 6 Now, time records could keep track of Ο. 7 what your employees are doing because they'd have to be verified? 8 Is that a question? 9 Α. 10 Q. Yes. Could time records --11 Α. Sure. Absolutely. 12 -- help track the time --Q. 13 Α. Yeah. 14 -- to make sure your employees --0. I mean it's another tool to look 15 Yeah. Α. at to say, you know, how are they spending their time. 16 17 How do you verify that your employees 0. actually work 40 hours a week? 18 19 Α. Again, you know, for the most part because it's a small team there isn't a lot of 20 21 opportunity to, quote, hide. The interdependencies of the team between the office and the operations staff 22 23 and the workload and the work schedule doesn't allow for folks to run off and do something else. 24 But couldn't working with a close team 25 Q.

1	also do exactly the opposite, that you're so close
2	together and so closely a close relationship that
3	maybe you kind of overlook maybe somebody taking an
4	extra long lunch?
5	A. I guess it's possible.
6	Q. Does Timber Creek have a plan to expand
7	its current work force?
8	A. Not at this time.
9	Q. Timber Creek has had significant growth
10	within the last five years. Correct?
11	A. Correct.
12	Q. So at some point you could use additional
13	employees?
14	A. Possibly.
15	Q. So time sheets could adequately reflect
16	when you might need to expand your work force if
17	somebody's if your employees are all working
18	significant amounts over their 40 hours a week?
19	A. Yeah. Again, it's another tool.
20	Q. And that tool could help Staff then and
21	Public Counsel at some point say it might be
22	appropriate to expand your work force and include more
23	salaries in your rates?
24	A. If you I guess that's interpretation
25	for you guys as far as understanding how we spend our

1	time.	So se	ems to me that that tool is what you'd
2	prefer		
3		Q.	And do you understand the principles of
4	rate-m	aking?	
5		Α.	I think I have a decent understanding of
6	it.		
7		Q.	So are you familiar with the prohibition
8	on ret	roacti	ve rate-making?
9		Α.	I'll let my attorney answer that one.
10		Q.	But do you just not in a legal sense,
11	do you	under	stand the concept?
12		Α.	Yeah, I understand the concept.
13		Q.	Do you also understand the concept of
14	single	-issue	rate-making in a nonlegal interpretation?
15		Α.	I understand the concept.
16		Q.	Now, for the your rate case expense
17	from t	ne las	t rate case, did you ever provide invoices
18	to the	Staff	of the Commission for your services in
19	that c	ase?	
20		Α.	I missed the first part.
21		Q.	Relating back to the last rate case in
22	which y	you we	re seeking compensation for your time that
23	you wo	rked o	n the case, did you ever provide invoices
24	to the	Staff	of the Commission during that rate case?
25		Α.	Not during that rate case, no.

1	Q. So are you suggesting that every past
2	invoice in which Timber Creek digs up outside of the
3	test year that could have been brought up in a prior
4	rate case should be should be allowed to be brought
5	up in this rate case?
6	A. No. What I'm suggesting is that in the
7	past practice as part of a small company rate case, we
8	looked at in the 2007 rate case, we looked at 2004
9	rate case expenses as a surrogate to determine that.
10	So moving into this rate case was looking at 2007 as a
11	surrogate for this rate case. Unfortunately, that got
12	derailed when we had to go to a contested case
13	process.
14	Q. But rate case expense was allowed in
15	in rates during your last rate case?
16	A. In 2007, yeah. But it was using 2004
17	expenses.
18	Q. Now, has the Commission ever disallowed
19	Timber Creek's electric bills in rates?
20	A. No.
21	Q. Has the Staff of the Commission ever
22	proposed a disallowance to Timber Creek's electric
23	bills in a rate case?
24	A. No.
25	Q. Prior to drilling the exploratory well,

1	what did the driller say the probability of finding
2	gas was?
3	A. Well, in that industry they're going to
4	say it's a 50/50 shot.
5	Q. Now, is that a 50/50 shot of finding
6	A. Yes.
7	Q natural gas or is it a 50/50 shot of
8	finding commercial quantities of natural gas?
9	A. Finding natural gas.
10	Q. So do you know what the probability of
11	finding commercial quantity of natural gas was?
12	A. Yeah. I looked at the Tiffany Springs
13	wells that were drilled and looked at the volume of
14	production that the natural gas produced there to see
15	if it would, in fact, be able to power a generator to
16	produce electricity.
17	Q. Now, does the Tiffany Spring well produce
18	electricity?
19	A. No. They decided to cap those due to a
20	bankruptcy of the current owner or wasn't the
21	current owner, but the owner at the time.
22	Q. But the natural gas found at Tiffany
23	Springs was commercial quantity?
24	A. Yeah. They were planning to do exactly
25	what we were doing, which was to use it to power a

commercial development.

- Q. But was it just to burn natural gas or was it actually enough natural gas to then be used to generate electricity?
- A. It was enough natural gas to actually power a generator to generate electricity.
- Q. What types of alternative energy does Timber Creek plan to explore?
- A. So there's a -- the three that I'd still like to see if there's a possibility, we need to go through the feasibility, obviously solar is still an option. Unfortunately, the costs are still pretty high and we want to continue to get an update and find out if there's new tax incentives on those that might make it more attractive to do that.

Same way with wind energy. That tends to have some tax incentives with it that we'd like to find if that's possible. And then the third one, that is a biogas production which would mean a change in our treatment process and digestion of sludge, but to use that as a -- for methane production and to find out what the changes to our treatment process that would have to occur and then what the likelihood of how much we could actually produce.

Q. Now, what costs are involved in just

exploring those options?

- A. Typically what you're going to do is talk to experts in those industries, ask them to come and assess your situation and give you a view of what it would take. So in the case of the biogas, there's going to be implications to our treatment processes so what would happen there. And then look at the capital costs it would take to probably invest in going from aerobic or anaerobic digestion as an example.
- Q. But what's the actual cost involved? What would you be paying for?
 - A. You'll be paying for consulting services.
- Q. Do these consulting services not provide a complimentary evaluation?
- A. They'll come and give you a, Is it generally possible or not, but to do any kind of a -- to get you to a point where you can actually make a business case, no, they're not going to develop that for you.
- Q. Do you have any business plan that spells out what the cost of exploring those; the solar, wind or the sludge digestion?
- A. I've talked to a couple of firms to get high-level consulting costs, what it would take for them to develop a plan to see what it would be. And

```
1
   depending on the firm, but it's a pretty wide range of
 2
   cost, but anywhere from -- last time, this was in 2009
   when I talked to them, it was 5- to 10,000 dollars
 3
   per -- per study, if you will.
 4
 5
                 Now, you discussed the tax incentives.
          Q.
   Do you know if the -- the tax incentive versus the
 6
 7
   cost of generating -- or doing wind energy is really
   viable for a small utility?
 8
                 I don't know. That's why I would need
 9
          Α.
10
   some help.
11
          Q.
                 But isn't that research that could be
12
   done just by yourself by doing research on the
13
   internet or --
14
          Α.
                 Yeah.
15
                 -- just calling --
          0.
16
                 Sure.
          Α.
17
                 -- asking for brochures?
          0.
                 Yeah, I've done that. I've got what I
18
          Α.
         But the actual when it comes down to what does
19
20
   it mean financially to -- are we I guess -- what's the
21
   word?
         Have the authority or available to actually
22
   take advantage of the tax incentive, that's the
23
   questions -- I don't have that answer yet.
                 And there's -- the other thing that -- in
24
   talking to them, I guess there's a number of different
25
```

1	tax incentive vehicles that I'm not aware of. So
2	again, I'd need help with that.
3	Q. Now, in your testimony you said that
4	you've you have explored solar and wind. So what
5	further cost would you be involved in
6	A. Yeah.
7	Q something that you've already done and
8	determined that was not cost effective for your
9	company?
10	A. I did a very high-level kind of
11	100,000-foot view to say how much power or how much
12	cost would it generally take by just doing what you've
13	said earlier, doing some high-level research. But to
14	take the a deeper dive into that, I have not done
15	that.
16	Q. Are you aware of any other sewer utility
17	in the state of Missouri that is exploring alternative
18	energy sources?
19	A. I know that they're exploring them. I
20	don't know anybody that's actively doing them in the
21	state of Missouri. I do know one in Kansas.
22	Q. What company is that?
23	A. That would be the Johnson County
24	Wastewater doing biogas. And they received a
25	\$4 million grant to do that.

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1	Q. Now, you contacted 15 drilling companies?
2	A. Uh-huh.
3	Q. And you received 3 bids?
4	A. Correct.
5	Q. What information did the other
6	12 companies provide?
7	A. They didn't provide a bid.
8	Q. And do you know why they didn't provide a
9	bid?
10	A. No. Because they didn't respond.
11	Q. What is available to ratepayers from this
12	exploratory well?
13	A. At this point there is a metal standpipe
14	standing in the middle of the next to the plant.
15	Q. So they're not really receiving any
16	benefit from it?
17	A. No.
18	Q. Why is a speculative venture a good basis
19	to look for alternative energy going forward?
20	A. I think it's imperative that companies
21	continue to look at how to save costs. And in that
22	kind of research and development is where I think
23	ratepayers get the benefits. The in my opinion,
24	Timber Creek is probably one of the best run companies
25	in the state and that's through that innovative sort

1 of mind set that we have to try to figure out how to 2 get things done and then come up with interesting ways 3 to do it. So the -- we're going to continue to 4 5 challenge ourselves to look at better ways of doing things, whether that's power, asset management, 6 whatever our operations are to continue to try to be 7 as efficient as we can. 8 9 So to answer your question, I think it's -- would be beneficial to the Public Service 10 11 Commission and its ratepayers for us to continue to 12 look at creative, innovative ways to try to save them 13 money. 14 But is it really saving them money if 0. it -- if a windmill is going to be several hundred 15 thousand dollars, is that really saving them money on 16 17 a -- through electric bills? 18 If you can say that the run rate on the Α. 19 electric bills are going to go less, yes, it would. 20 Ο. But the cost of installing a windmill --21 That would be a capital investment. Α. 22 And you're willing to make that capital Ο. 23 investment? 24 If it pans out that it's a strong Α. business case, you bet. 25

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1	Q. Are you aware of statutory Section
2	386.370 of the revised statutes?
3	A. Probably not.
4	Q. If I told you it's where the PSC
5	assessment comes from, would you agree with that?
6	A. I have read that section, yes.
7	Q. Do you understand it in a nonlegal
8	manner?
9	A. In a nonlegal manner, yes.
10	Q. Do you understand why Timber Creek is
11	assessed a PSC assessment?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. And do you understand how the PSC
14	assessment works?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. Is Timber Creek willing to invest in its
17	sewer system?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. What are its current investment plans for
20	the next year?
21	A. The we've picked up a new certificated
22	area and are currently working with two developments
23	to install it would be shared infrastructure to
24	serve those developments.
25	Q. I'm sorry. I missed the last part.

1	A. Shared infrastructure to serve those
2	developments.
3	Q. Shared. How about within the next five
4	years? What investments does Timber Creek plan to be?
5	A. It would be the continued build-out of
6	those areas. So whether it's in the current
7	watersheds that we're serving or in the new watershed
8	that we're serving. So as development and activity
9	increases, we would obviously in the case of our
LO	Prairie Creek pump station, probably if the
L1	development occurs south of it, we would move that
L2	pump station and extend the interceptor south, as an
L3	example.
L4	Q. Now, has Timber Creek ever had an
L5	emergency repair in which they could not afford?
L6	A. We have always seemed to have found the
L7	money.
L8	Q. So if you couldn't afford it, you could
L9	find the financing for it?
20	A. Yeah. But it was at the cost of other
21	issues, like salary increases.
22	Q. Isn't that a normal cost of doing
23	business?
24	A. I suppose so.
25	Q. Now, on schedule of your direct, your

1 Schedule 7, is it an emergency that a -- that should 2 be pre-funded if --3 You said my direct? Α. The direct. 4 0. 5 Α. Okay. Schedule 7, it's the last page. 6 Ο. 7 All right. Thanks. Α. This schedule identifies different fund 8 Ο. estimations. How is it an emergency if the general 10 manager decides to depart? 11 Α. Because you'll be without the leader for 12 the company for a period of time. 13 Q. How -- I just -- I'm not getting how that's an emergency. Isn't that just normal business? 14 15 Employees come and go and as part of --16 Α. Right. 17 -- the cost you have to train new people? 0. Yeah. So this model's actually built off 18 Α. 19 of some of the EPA asset management best practices as 20 well as other companies that I've looked at as to how 21 to start to develop a reserve fund or contingency 22 fund. 23 And what you look at are the elements both from a people process and technology to say what 24 25 are those critical elements when it comes to managing

```
1
   the facility.
                  So one of the critical elements would
 2
   be key staff. Right? So those folks -- with Timber
 3
   Creek being a very small company and the number of
   people providing that service, there's -- other than
 4
   the -- since we have a backup on the operator itself,
 5
   the rest of the other three, obviously there's a
 6
   single point of failure.
 7
                And you believe that constitutes an
 8
          Q.
   emergency in which a ratepayer should be funding?
10
          Α.
                Yes.
11
          Q.
                Do you recognize that in the regulated
12
   utility industry that profit is based on shareholder
13
   investment?
14
          Α.
                Yes.
15
                MS. OTT: I don't have any further
16
   questions.
17
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you,
   Ms. Ott.
18
                Cross-examination, Public Counsel?
19
20
                MS. BAKER:
                             Thank you.
21
   CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
22
                Good morning, Mr. Sherry. It was Timber
          Ο.
   Creek's decision to proceed to an evidentiary hearing
23
   in this case, wasn't it?
24
25
                 Correct.
          Α.
```

1	Q. Did Staff and/or OPC ever inform company
2	that plant that is not used and useful is not included
3	in the calculation of rate-base?
4	A. Can you rephrase the question, make sure
5	I understand it?
6	Q. Was Timber Creek informed before
7	before the decision to proceed to an evidentiary
8	hearing, that plant that is not used and useful is not
9	included in the calculation of rate-base for a public
10	utility?
11	A. Other than the issues they contested, no.
12	Q. Can you explain your answer?
13	A. So we've agreed on what is plant is
14	used and useful in the unanimous stipulation. What
15	we
16	Q. No, no. I'm talking about in an overall
17	broad statement.
18	A. Well, we have we obviously don't agree
19	or otherwise we wouldn't be in this contested case.
20	Q. But a broad statement that plant that is
21	not used and useful is not normally included in rates?
22	A. Yeah, the Staff and both Public Counsel
23	have stated that.
24	Q. All right. And have Staff and Public
25	Counsel stated that expenses that are not known and

1	measurable are not included in the calculation of
2	rates?
3	A. They have stated that as well.
4	Q. Under the issue of salaries, you have
5	presented a lot of information about regional sewer
6	districts from different areas; is that correct?
7	A. Correct.
8	Q. But Timber Creek is not a regional sewer
9	district, is it?
10	A. I believe it is. We serve a region.
11	Q. Under under the definition of a
12	regional sewer district as a quasi-governmental entity
13	that is not under the
14	A. Yeah, we're not a public entity, correct.
15	Q. So Timber Creek is not a regional sewer
16	district. Timber Creek is under the jurisdiction of
17	the Public Service Commission?
18	A. Correct.
19	Q. Okay.
20	A. I guess I just have a hard time with
21	regional because in the practice, region being a
22	defined area or a watershed. So you're using it in
23	the sense of a what is the governance, so I agree.
24	I agree with the governance issue.
25	Q. All right. So it's not a sewer district?

1	A. Again, if that
2	Q. A quasi-governmental
3	A. I would agree with that, yeah. From a
4	governance perspective, I agree.
5	Q. All right. As far as the issue of
6	overtime, has Timber Creek incurred overtime costs
7	during the test period for this case?
8	A. In the cost in the sense that the
9	employees have spent time, yes; that we have not
10	booked as far as financial costs in the test year, no.
11	Q. Okay. So when Staff came and did their
12	audit, there were no booked overtime costs?
13	A. Correct.
14	Q. On the issue of the contingency emergency
15	repair fund, ongoing maintenance is already included
16	in normal rates; isn't that correct?
17	A. Yeah.
18	Q. And under the issue of the emerg or
19	under the issue of the gas well, Timber Creek is a
20	sewer company, not an energy company. Correct?
21	A. Correct.
22	MS. BAKER: No further questions. Thank
23	you.
24	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Mr. Sherry,
25	as you can see, the bench is pretty empty right now.

```
1
   The Commissioners had to go up for their regularly
 2
   scheduled agenda meeting. I know several of them do
   want to have questions for you. So I'm going to allow
 3
   you to step down at this time, but I expect we will be
 4
 5
   recalling you for their questions.
                MR. FINNEGAN: My redirect would follow
 6
 7
   that?
 8
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Yes. If you would like
   to do some redirect at this point with these
10
   questions, Mr. Finnegan, I can allow that or if you
11
   want, you can wait. But thank you for --
12
                MR. FINNEGAN: I think I'd just like to
   wait for the Commission.
13
14
                THE WITNESS: Good to go?
15
                JUDGE STEARLEY: You may step down.
16
                THE WITNESS: Thanks.
17
                JUDGE STEARLEY: And, Ms. Ott, you may
18
   call your first witness.
19
                MS. OTT: I'd like to call Bret Prenger.
   And at this time Staff would like to have marked as
20
21
   Exhibit -- I believe we're at 7 the Staff accounting
22
   schedules. Also, I'd like to mark as Exhibit 8 Bret
   Prenger's direct testimony; as Exhibit 9, Bret
23
   Prenger's rebuttal testimony; and as Exhibit 10, Bret
24
   Prenger's surrebuttal testimony.
25
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1
                 (Exhibit Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 were marked
 2
   for identification.)
 3
                          I'd like to admit those into
                 MS. OTT:
                Sorry. I'll do that after I question him
 4
   the record.
 5
   on that. I got a little ahead of myself.
 6
   BY MS. OTT:
 7
                 Can you please state your name for the
          Q.
   record?
 8
 9
          Α.
                 Bret G. Prenger.
10
          Ο.
                 And who --
11
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: And excuse me. I do
12
   need to swear Mr. Prenger in also.
13
                 (Witness sworn.)
14
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. And you may
15
   proceed, Ms. Ott.
16
                 MS. OTT: Thank you. Sorry about that.
17
   BRET G. PRENGER, having been sworn, testified as
   follows:
18
19
   DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
20
          Q.
                 Please state your name for the record.
21
                 Bret G. Prenger.
          Α.
22
                 whom are you employed, in what capacity?
          Q.
23
                 I am a utility regulatory auditor with
          Α.
   the Missouri Public Service Commission.
24
25
                 And are you the same Bret Prenger who has
          Q.
```

1 previously caused to be filed prepared direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal, as well as contributed to 2 the accounting schedules which have been previously 3 marked for identification as Exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10? 4 Α. I am. And with respect to your prepared direct, 6 Ο. 7 rebuttal and surrebuttal, was that prepared by you or under your direct supervision? 8 Α. Yes, it was. 10 Ο. Do you have any corrections to make at 11 this time to that testimony? 12 Α. At this time, no, I do not. 13 0. And if I were to ask you the same or 14 similar questions that are contained within that testimony, would your answers given today be the same 15 or substantially similar? 16 17 Yes, they would. 18 would they be true and accurate to the Q. best of your information, belief and knowledge? 19 20 Α. Yes, they would. MS. OTT: With that, I'd like to offer 21 22 Exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10 into the record. 23 JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the 24 Exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10? 25 No objection. MR. FINNEGAN:

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Hearing none, they shall
2	be admitted and received into the record.
3	(Exhibit Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 were
4	received into evidence.)
5	MS. OTT: And I tender Mr. Prenger for
6	cross-examination.
7	JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination from
8	Public Counsel?
9	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
10	Q. Good morning, Mr. Prenger.
11	A. Good morning.
12	Q. Your your issue in this case is the
13	compensation, the overtime and the time sheets; is
14	that correct?
15	A. That would be correct.
16	Q. Going to your direct testimony, page 16,
17	beginning with the question on line 14: What sources
18	did Staff use to calculate the payroll expense? Could
19	you read your answer, please?
20	A. Yes. Staff used a variety of different
21	sources to justify the amount of payroll included in
22	this case. Surveys and websites like MERIC and The
23	Market survey for the Bureau of Labor Statistics were
24	used. Staff also used discussions and information
25	provided by the company to aid, as well as other

1 material internal to the Staff such as prior cases and 2 a salary database maintained by the auditing 3 department. To begin Staff's look into the payroll 4 0. for this case, did Staff start with the current 5 6 salaries of Timber Creek's employees? 7 The initial step would have been looking Α. back through the prior cases' salaries. And then the 8 second step would have been, yes, looking at their current salaries prior to the -- this portion of time. 10 11 Q. Okay. And then the next step would have 12 been to try to justify whether the company's salaries 13 were reasonable? 14 That would be correct. Α. 15 So you had a number in mind and then you 0. looked at -- looked for documentation in order to 16 17 prove those numbers to be correct? we had the current salaries and we had a 18 Α. 19 treatment that we thought at that time would be 20 appropriate and we wanted to see that that treatment fit into a level -- a justifiable level, which these 21 22 surveys and discussions would aid in. Okay. But it is not Staff's normal 23 Ο. practice to look at what the market level is first for 24

25

a system like this?

Based upon the duties of that operations

25

Α.

1 manager, the fact that he is one of two field 2 employees that are doing all field maintenance and operations for this system, Staff finds it reasonable, 3 4 ves. Even though it is currently higher than Q. 6 the market? 7 It is on the higher end, yes. Α. Okay. And is it Staff's position that 8 Ο. the general manager should be paid more than the 10 operations manager? It is Staff's position that that would 11 Α. 12 generally be the hierarchy of the company structure, 13 yes. 14 All right. So if the operations Q. 15 manager's salary is currently higher than the market, then it would be Staff's position that the general 16 manager's position, since it should be paid more, 17 should also be higher than the market? 18 19 Α. I can't agree with that statement. Ιt 20 would more so be two different job comparisons. It's 21 apples and orange kind of comparison. You're 22 comparing an operations manager and a general manager 23 with different job duties and different job descriptions. 24 Okay. Could you read the question

25

Q.

1 on line 4, please? 2 Mr. Sherry identifies at page 9 of his 3 direct testimony a concern that his salary as general manager is lower than the operations manager. 4 5 Staff agree with Mr. Sherry's assessment of this 6 situation? 7 And your answer is yes; is that correct? Q. Yes. His salary is currently lower. 8 Α. 9 Q. But you share a concern also? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Q. On page 12, lines 1 through 2 of your 12 surrebuttal --13 Α. Page 12? 14 Page 12, lines 1 through 2. You state Ο. 15 that, Public Counsel's position for the general manager's salary should be calculated on the entry 16 17 level MERIC amount; is that correct? 18 Α. Public Counsel states that it should be, 19 yes. 20 Right. Q. 21 Α. Correct. Doesn't Public Counsel's position on the 22 Ο. general manager's salary also include a 3 percent per 23 year increase for the approximate three years that 24 25 Mr. Sherry has been the general manager?

1	A. I do believe that that is what
2	Mr. Robertson included, yes.
3	Q. All right. And then also on page 12,
4	line 8 of your surrebuttal you state, Mr. Sherry has
5	held various executive positions at Johnson County
6	Wastewater over 17 years.
7	Please identify each executive position
8	that he has held and the job duties and
9	responsibilities for each position.
10	A. That is pulled from Mr. Sherry's direct
11	testimony. I don't have an answer for every job
12	position he's held at Johnson County.
13	Q. Did you review and verify the information
14	that you used for this statement?
15	A. I took him at his word.
16	Q. So you really don't know what level of
17	management experience and expertise Mr. Sherry has?
18	A. I took him at his word for his
19	statements.
20	Q. All right. On also in the surrebuttal
21	on page 17, lines 5 through 6, you state that, Public
22	Counsel attempts to lessen the office manager's
23	position in order to propose a lower salary in Staff's
24	view; is that correct?
25	MS. OTT: Excuse me. I didn't get what

```
1
   line you're reading from.
 2
                MS. BAKER: I'm sorry. Page 17,
 3
   surrebuttal, lines 5 through 6.
   BY MS. BAKER:
 4
 5
                And I'll repeat. On page 17, lines 5
          0.
   through 6 of your surrebuttal you state that, Public
 6
 7
   Counsel attempts to lessen the office manager's
   position in order to propose a lower salary in Staff's
 8
   view: is that correct?
10
          Α.
                That is what it states, yes.
11
          Q.
                To your knowledge, did OPC base its
12
   position on documented MERIC information?
13
          Α.
                Yes.
14
                MS. BAKER: No further questions.
15
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination,
   Timber Creek?
16
17
   CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
18
                Mr. Prenger with respect to the position
          Q.
19
   of plant and collection systems operator you are
20
   proposing $7,000 in overtime; however, to do that
21
   you're reducing the salary to $39,000 from what's
22
   currently $45,867?
23
                That position -- the end total of $46,000
          Α.
   salary for the total compensation of that position is
24
25
   the number that Staff was inputting.
                                          Now that number
```

1 is -- is made up a \$39,000 salary and overtime 2 portion, yes. 3 So presently the position pays 45,867 0. without overtime: is that correct? 4 I don't believe -- I don't believe that's 5 correct. 6 I'm sorry. 7 That's Public Counsel. Q. in the wrong spot here. \$40,980? 8 9 Α. That -- that seems correct, yes. 10 Ο. Okay. And to have -- so you're proposing 11 a position for 46-- \$46,000 basically, including 12 overtime? we're proposing a \$46,000 compensation 13 Α. level for this -- for this position. 14 15 Now, is the overtime time and a half 0. you're figuring? 16 17 The overtime was brought -- brought to 18 our attention in a September 28th meeting -- phone call, excuse me, with Mr. Sherry. And at that --19 20 prior to that position, Staff had granted a 3 percent 21 COLA increase for all of the company positions. 22 And at that time Mr. Sherry brought to our attention that he was going to be paying overtime 23 regardless on how the outcome of this case played out. 24 And according to that statement, Staff agreed with 25

1 that position and incorporated an amount of overtime 2 for that position to be paid out. 3 Okay. But so -- but you're saying it's 0. \$7,000, but basically it's more like \$5,020 based on 4 5 the current salary? 6 well, no. We took into consideration the 7 full \$7,000 amount that we proposed that that position worked. We found a number for the 39,000 that was 8 supported by our databases and we -- we added the 10 additional amount to get to the ending total that we 11 felt was appropriate for this position. 12 Q. And by your databases, what do you mean? That particular position would have been 13 Α. MERIC -- MERIC based in that conversation with 14 15 Mr. Sherry. I believe in a study that the Staff 16 0. 17 performed in -- in what was it, August of -- or that you'd found that that the salary -- the mean salary 18 19 level for the system operator was \$49,290 and that the 20 salary level paid to Timber Creek system operator is a 21 conservative level compared to information reviewed? 22 The -- I believe you're looking at MERIC. Α. I'm not quite sure. Is that --23 I'm looking at Schedule DS-3 to 24 Ο. 25 Mr. Sherry's testimony. It's the memorandum from the

1 Staff dated August 2nd, 2010 regarding the determination -- the determinations in this case. 2 3 Staff has never supported a \$49,000 level for this position. I don't know where exactly on this 4 schedule it said --5 6 It's on page --Ο. 7 -- it's stating that. Α. -- 7 of the schedule. Starts at the 8 0. bottom of page 6, just one word. Staff concluded that 10 the salary levels paid to Timber Creek employees are 11 conservatively priced in relationship to salaries paid 12 to other similar positions to other entities. 13 Α. Correct. 14 An example of the survey viewed would be Q. 15 the following. And there's four bullet points there and the third bullet point is for the system operator? 16 17 Okav. It does indeed read that the mean salaries would be a 49,290. But based upon further 18 19 review from Staff, that that is not an accurate salary for that position. 20 21 well, if MERIC said it then, why isn't it Q. 22 now? 23 well, at the time of this memorandum Α. there's been significant changes as far as additional 24 research performed by Staff, including looking into 25

1 the other utilities that Mr. Sherry brought to our 2 attention. As far as at one point an update to the 3 MERIC website -- and I don't know when that all transcribed as to the time of this particular 4 document, but there has been changes to the MERIC 5 website from an '07 database to an '09 database. 6 7 Okay. And this says mean salary level Q. we're talking. There's -- there's different items 8 under MERIC, aren't there? 10 Α. There is. 11 Q. Median, mean, entry, experienced and 12 median -- I'm sorry. Mean, entry, experienced and median? 13 14 Α. Yes. 15 And the figures are all different? 0. The figures are all different. 16 Α. Yes. 17 So basically this gives you a range? 0. There is a range. MERIC is based on 18 Α. many, many things, as you're saying. There is a range 19 20 based on experience is what you're referring to as an 21 entry level employee all the way through, I'm 22 assuming, based on tenure and experience level 23 employee. And it also has a breakdown of hourly if you'd like to treat it in that manner. There's a lot 24

of information provided by MERIC.

- Q. So basically you look at all these things and you make an educated guess as to what you think might be reasonable?
- A. MERIC is only but one of the items we look at, as stated. We don't make an educated guess. We define the salaries we start with, what was paid in the last case and we find a treatment or a manner that we wish to apply to this case and we use these databases and other methods of research as support for what we feel should be included in this case.
- Q. And is it still your position that the salary levels for Timber Creek employees are conservatively priced in relationship to the salaries paid other similar positions for other entities?
- A. There is a conservative nature in their pricing, yes. But again, you're looking at entities that are on a completely different scale than Timber Creek. The entities being compared to are much larger with much higher amount of customers. So there should be a conservative level built into that. It should be more conservatively priced versus those entities.
- Q. But with the -- for example, the general manager position, that also has a mean entry, experienced and median rate. Correct?
 - A. That would be correct.

1 And in -- there's -- in your memo --Q. 2 Uh-huh. Α. 3 -- Staff's memo, it points out the median 0. annual salary for general managers was \$94,529, which 4 5 coincidentally is the amount that Mr. Sherry is seeking in this case. That would be conservatively 6 7 priced? That management occupation search is a 8 Α. general management occupation search. It does not 10 specify utility, does not specify size of company, it 11 does not specify work force, it doesn't specify a lot 12 of things. That is a search to just say in a Kansas 13 City region for an employee of that title, a median salary is expected to earn around that. 14 15 Does Staff have any position on what is Ο. the reasonable percentage of personnel costs to -- the 16 17 O&M cost? 18 Repeat that for me, please. Α. 19 Q. well, as far as the total overall 20 salaries paid as compared to the overall expenses, do 21 you remember looking at any percentage --22 Α. I --23 -- to see if that's reasonable -- or 0. other industries and other companies to what their 24 percentage of --25

1 Α. I did not look at any other industries or 2 companies. I simply found the most reasonable 3 recommendation sal-- recommended salary for Timber Creek Sewer Company. 4 And -- but basically it comes down to a 5 Q. subjective determination based on what you think is 6 7 best? 8 Comes -- I would say it comes down to Α. finding a position of how you would like to treat salaries in this case and finding support for what you 10 11 believe is the recommended salary, which is what Staff 12 has done. 13 Q. Okay. In your rebuttal testimony, you have a schedule for Wyandotte County. I think it's 14 15 Schedule 3-2. Have you found that? 16 Α. Yes. 17 On page -- Schedule 3-4 --0. 18 Α. Yes. -- there's the -- for 2009 this shows the 19 Q. 20 budget in actual -- for Wyandotte County, the Water 21 Pollution Control Board? 22 Α. I see that, yes. 23 Okay. You see the personnel cost of Ο. \$7,514,440 under operating expenses, the first item? 24 25 Α. I do.

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1	Q.	And then you see what the total operating
2	expenses are	of \$17,791,488?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Can you compute what that percentage is?
5	Α.	I don't have a calculator or any sort of
6	device to co	mpute that. And off the top of my head, I
7	don't feel l	ike I would provide you a
8	Q.	Would you do it subject to check, like we
9	used to?	
10	Α.	I could say that. Subject to check, I
11	can find tha	t answer for you.
12	Q.	All right. Would you say 42 percent?
13	Α.	Again, subject to check. I would have to
14	do the compu	tation, but yes.
15		MR. FINNEGAN: Okay. Does anybody have a
16	calculator?	I don't have one except my telephone. I
17	don't know h	ow to use it. Who knows how to use this?
18	This one mig	ht be the most reasonable.
19	BY MR. FINNE	GAN:
20	Q.	Would you be dividing the 7 million by
21	Α.	17,9
22	Q.	Yeah.
23	Α.	791. Roughly 42.24 is what I'm
24	calculating.	
25	Q.	Okay. And with respect to Johnson

```
1
   County, do you know what their cost is?
 2
                 I -- I don't believe -- I don't believe I
 3
   provided that data.
 4
                 would you look at -- do you have a copy
          0.
 5
   three of Mr. Sherry's testimony?
 6
                 Copy three?
          Α.
 7
                 To the surrebuttal testimony.
          Q.
 8
                 MR. FINNEGAN: May I approach? I already
 9
   have.
10
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: You may.
11
   BY MR. FINNEGAN:
12
          Q.
                 I'm not going to hurt you. Schedule
   DS-10 to the surrebuttal. Yeah, just in front of that
13
14
   right here.
15
                 Okay
          Α.
16
                 MS. OTT: What page are you looking at?
17
                 MR. FINNEGAN:
                                Six.
   BY MR. FINNEGAN:
18
                And there's a -- there's a pie chart
19
          Q.
20
           It says, Breakdown of 2009 actual spending,
21
   looks like the total is 32.62 million total. That's
22
   kind of hard for you to read.
23
                 Yeah.
          Α.
24
                And it says --
          Q.
25
          Α.
                 Personnel.
```

1 -- personnel is what? Q. 2 Α. 41 percent. 3 I believe it also says it's 41 percent. 0. 12.5 million. I assume that would be about right. 4 5 For Timber Creek do you know what its personnel cost is percentage-wise? 6 Is there a schedule? 7 I do not. Α. On page 2 of Mr. Sherry's surrebuttal 8 Ο. testimony at the bottom, the last line -- line 23 --10 starting at line 23. 11 Α. Okay. 12 It states, In comparison, Timber Creek's Q. current personnel costs are 38 percent, including 13 benefits, of revenue. Timber Creek's salaries as part 14 15 of this case will put personnel cost at 40 percent, including benefits and 10,000 overtime. 16 17 Do you read -- do you see that? 18 Yes, I see that. Α. 19 Q. Do you have any reason to doubt that? 20 No. I do not. Α. 21 In -- in your testimony you refer to the Q. 22 Lake Region Company. Is it a company or is it --23 Lake Region is a water and sewer company, Α. 24 yes. That has kind of some sewer districts in 25 Q.

it or water districts in it and --

- A. It's actually composed of a water and sewer district at which everyone is a contracted employee of that water and sewer district. And then there's two other entities, Ozark Shores and Lake Region, in which those employees would provide service on a need or necessity basis out to Lake Region. So it's a contract group of entities.
- Q. And by the Lake Region, I assume we're talking Lake of the Ozarks?
- A. That is correct. It is located at the Lake of the Ozarks.
- Q. So it's not the Kansas City metropolitan area?
- 15 A. No. No, it is not.
 - Q. And with respect to the -- let's see. On page 13 of your rebuttal testimony you indicate that the Lake Region has 1,413 -- 1,413 customers; is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes. That is correct.
 - Q. Now, do you know -- you say it's -- 1,852 were water customers, 179 water customers, 117 sewer customers. So there's -- right above that you talk about the number. Do you know if these water and sewer customers are the same people?

1	A. The numbers that you were just quoting
2	were the makeup of the three separate entities.
3	Q. Right.
4	A. There's 1,413 for the Lake Region system,
5	there's 1,852 for Ozark Shore system and then there's
6	179 water, 117 sewer for the district. They are
7	different different customers, correct. They're
8	all different entities and those are the customer
9	counts for each of those entities.
10	Q. I guess what I'm trying to get to, if
11	you're a water customer, you could also be a sewer
12	customer?
13	A. For this specific entity?
14	Q. For one of those specific entities.
15	A. Yes, you could.
16	Q. Probably in all likelihood, you are?
17	A. I'm assuming in all likelihood, yes.
18	Q. So basically we're kind of double
19	counting here as to how many customers there are?
20	A. Well, you're still a water and a sewer
21	customer, you're still a separate customer. So I
22	wouldn't see that as a double counting. There's still
23	1,400 customers.
24	MR. FINNEGAN: I believe that's all the
25	questions I have.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Questions from the
2	Bench? I know Commissioners are just getting back
3	from agenda and trying to catch up here. I as with
4	Mr. Sherry, I've allowed him to step down and we can
5	call him back later for redirect and or for some
6	questions from the Bench and if there's another if
7	you're not ready at this time, we can always have
8	questions later.
9	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I'm ready for a
10	few questions anyway.
11	JUDGE STEARLEY: Go ahead.
12	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT:
13	Q. Good morning Mr. Prenger.
14	A. Good morning.
15	Q. How are you?
16	A. Good. Thank you.
17	Q. In your testimony you provided I guess
18	was it four examples, Johnson County, Wyandotte
19	County, Platte County, and then Lake Region; is that
20	correct?
21	A. That is correct.
22	Q. Okay. Do you know are which one of
23	those are privately owned, for-profit regulated
24	entities?
25	A. Two entities at Lake Region would be

privately owned, Lake Region and Ozark Shores for sure 1 off the top of my head. 2 3 Should it make a difference All right. 0. whether a company is for-profit or not-for-profit --4 5 should the salary structure -- should it make a difference on salary structure? 6 7 In my opinion, no. Α. would you agree that companies -- water 8 Ο. companies, sewer companies need quality employees to 10 make sure that the operations are run effectively and 11 efficiently and that customers get adequate service? 12 Α. Certainly. 13 Q. Now, I notice from the position statements in the reconciliation, Staff and the 14 company are less than \$30,000 apart on salary. 15 that still correct? 16 Yes. I believe that the total difference 17 is 29-and-some dollars. 18 19 Q. And some change, yeah. And I know that 20 you rely on these studies and Timber Creek relies on some different studies. I know you may have some 21 22 disagreements maybe with the methodology or whatever 23 of some of those studies, but are those otherwise valid studies from valid companies or valid surveyors? 24

Timber Creek's studies or my -- our

25

Α.

1 studies? 2 Timber Creek's. 0. 3 They seem to be valid studies, yes. Α. All right. Would you agree that given 4 0. 5 that there's only 29,000 change difference for purposes of us deciding the case, would anywhere in 6 7 the range between your numbers and their numbers be a reasonable salary structure? 8 I believe Staff's recommended levels Α. No. 10 are --11 So if we go \$10 over Staff's, then that's Q. 12 not reasonable? I don't -- I don't agree with that, no. 13 I believe that Staff's are -- excuse me. I do agree 14 15 with that. \$10 over is unreasonable. Staff's 16 proposed levels are what we feel are the proposed 17 levels. That's the top dollar. Anything above 18 Q. that's unreasonable? 19 20 Α. For all the positions that we've 21 included, including a few that are on the upper end 22 already of a pay scale, I believe that we have 23 recommended just and reasonable rates, yes. 24 Okay. Now, were you here during the Ο. 25 opening arguments?

1	A. Yes, I was.
2	Q. And you recall I believe I had a
3	little question back and forth with Ms. Baker on the
4	overtime issue?
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. Can do you know do employees of
7	Timber Creek ever work over 40 hours a week?
8	A. It was assumed that they did. It was
9	more of a salary. Initially it was they were
10	salaried employees so it was kind of similar to
11	certain Staff members here at the Commission, you put
12	in the time as needed. If it was over, it was over.
13	It was assumed that they would sometimes work over 40
14	hours a week, yes.
15	Q. So you assume, but do you have any
16	personal knowledge that they did or didn't?
17	A. We have certain schedules and data
18	requests that we've asked that support that they've
19	had events where they've been required to work
20	overtime, yes.
21	Q. Okay.
22	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't think I
23	have any more questions right now. Thank you,
24	Mr. Prenger.
25	JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn,

Commissioner Kenney? 1 2 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN: Yeah, I just have a couple. And I apologize if these have already been 3 asked --4 5 No problem. Α. 6 -- and we weren't here. But I want to Ο. 7 talk about the contingency fund right now. One of the -- in your -- I guess I was looking at 8 Mr. Busch's, so you're not here -- you're not here to talk about it? 10 11 Α. I'm not Mr. Busch. 12 I was looking at the wrong one. All Q. 13 right. So let me go back to the pay scale. So one of the -- the water systems that Timber is relying on is 14 15 the Johnson County? 16 Α. Correct. 17 Correct. Now, can you describe in terms 0. 18 of scale and scope, are there -- are there major 19 differences between that water system and Timber 20 Creek? Is it an apples-to-apples comparison in your 21 opinion? 22 In my opinion, no, it's not. It's a Α. significantly larger system of customers and 23 employee-wise. There's 133,000 customers in Johnson 24 25 County, 1,500 at Timber Creek. There's 219 employees

at Johnson County, there's 4 at Timber Creek.

- Q. Does the -- when you upscale, when you -do you -- have more customers, does that inherently
 mean that water and sewer systems become more complex
 or -- or can you -- can you make -- like I said, an
 apples-to-apples comparison saying just because you
 have a lot more customers doesn't necessarily mean
 that systems are more complex?
- A. I'm not an engineer by any means, but I would assume as customer levels and employee levels went up, you would have more complaints, larger systems, more lift stations, more -- everything that goes with the operations of a water and sewer utility.
- Q. How significant is the pay differential between the Kansas City metro area and say the Lake of the Ozarks for the types of systems we're talking about? There may be significant differences in nonrelated industries, whether you're a lawyer or a doctor or -- I don't -- there may not be. I don't know.

But -- but do you see -- did you take that into account when you were making your recommendations that cost of living might be different, transportation costs, things like that might be lower?

1	A. It was taken into consideration. If you
2	would apply a cost of living increase to salaries that
3	were, say, at Lake Region, for instance, at the Lake
4	of the Ozarks and I don't know what a standard cost
5	of living increase would be for something a move of
6	that magnitude, but a 10 percent increase would put
7	these salaries more on scale and they would be
8	accurate comparisons as far as salary levels on
9	different job duties.
10	Q. And so you took that into account in your
11	recommendation of the the salary level, you took
12	into account the higher cost of living in the Kansas
13	City metro area?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. So you would if you if you took
16	exactly what the Timber Creek people were doing and
17	put them in the Lake of the Ozarks, you would see
18	somewhat of a reduction in your recommendation for
19	those salaries?
20	A. That would be a fair statement. They
21	would be slightly on the high end of salary wages.
22	COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. I don't think
23	I have any further questions, at least not prepared.
24	So thank you.

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JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Kenney, any

1 questions for this witness? 2 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY: 3 I have a couple questions. And I was up 0. at agenda so if this was covered in your testimony, I 4 5 apologize. I want to ask really quickly about the issue of overtime and time sheets. Is it your 6 understanding that Timber Creek's argument is that if 7 they start using time sheets, they will be required to 8 start paying overtime? I believe that's -- that is what he was 10 Α. 11 stating. 12 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. And, Judge, 13 will we have an opportunity to have Mr. Sherry come up 14 here? 15 JUDGE STEARLEY: Yes. Yes, he will. 16 BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY: 17 And my second question is with respect to both alternative energy and gas well cost recovery. 18 19 10,849 is it your understanding that they're 20 requesting that amount for future exploration of 21 alternative energies or as reimbursement for the money 22 already expended on the failed well? 23 I'm actually not the witness to address Α. That's going to be Mr. Martin Hummel. 24 that. 25 Okay. Okay. Well, thank you for your Q.

1 time. 2 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'm finished. 3 **OUESTIONS BY JUDGE STEARLEY:** 4 Mr. Prenger, I have one quick question 0. 5 for you. You were the sponsor of Staff's accounting 6 schedules. Correct? 7 Correct. Α. And I had asked it to begin with this 8 Q. hearing did everyone agree to the capital structure in that accounting schedule. And I realize parties have 10 11 stated they're all in agreement with those numbers. 12 But given this was a small company rate increase case as it initiated, there's a little lesser amount of 13 testimony on some of these values. And I was just 14 15 wondering if you could briefly tell the Commission how the embedded cost of capital numbers were determined? 16 17 That would have been a computation by Staff member Shana Atkinson actually. I received the 18 19 data to put into the case from them and I don't -- I 20 don't have any idea how that would have been 21 calculated. 22 JUDGE STEARLEY: Ms. Ott, do you think you can file an affidavit from Ms. Atkinson just 23 offering the Commission a brief explanation of her 24

calculations?

1	MS. OTT: Judge, are you asking for an
2	affidavit with an explanation or just the affidavit to
3	support
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: With a short explanation
5	of how she derived those.
6	MS. OTT: Okay. I do believe she has a
7	memo in the unanimous partial disposition agreement
8	that would have had a signed affidavit along with it,
9	but I will do that as well.
10	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. If you can just
11	file that as a late-filed exhibit. Thank you. I
12	appreciate that.
13	Any recross based on questions from the
14	Bench?
15	MS. BAKER: I do.
16	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
17	Q. I just have one question. Whenever you
18	reviewed the books of Timber Creek, did they book any
19	paid overtime during the test year?
20	A. There was not any booked overtime, no.
21	MS. BAKER: Thank you. That's all I
22	have.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Recross,
24	Timber Creek?
25	MR. FINNEGAN: Just a few questions.

1	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
2	Q. Commissioner Jarrett asked you about
3	utilities needing quality employees; is that correct?
4	And you
5	A. Yes, that is correct.
6	Q. And you agreed that they do?
7	A. Certainly.
8	Q. With your experience with Timber Creek
9	employees, do you find them to be quality employees?
LO	A. Yes, I do.
L1	Q. And that Timber Creek is a pretty
L2	exceptionally run sewer company?
L3	A. They are ran very well, yes.
L4	Q. In fact, the Staff works with them and
L5	uses them to teach other people?
L6	A. In the small water and sewer industry, I
L7	believe they are used quite often as examples, yes.
L8	MR. FINNEGAN: That's all the questions I
L9	had.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: And, Ms. Ott, before you
21	begin your redirect, do you have a large amount of
22	redirect? We're running on two hours and I wanted to
23	give my court reporter and everyone a break.
24	MS. OTT: I have some. I don't know how
5	much. but we can take a break.

1 JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Why don't we take 2 about a ten-minute break. And when we resume, we'll 3 have you do your redirect with Mr. Prenger. (A recess was taken.) 4 5 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. We're back on the record. Mr. Prenger is on the stand for 6 7 redirect from Staff. Mr. Prenger, I remind you that you're still under oath. 8 9 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 10 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT: 11 Q. Mr. Prenger, Ms. Baker earlier was 12 discussing with you whether or not Staff had a number 13 in mind when it began making its salary determination. Can you explain how you -- what the process you used 14 15 in making sure that the salaries were just and reasonable? 16 17 Yes. Again, it started with initially viewing the prior cases' salaries and then requesting 18 19 the current pay levels for Timber Creek employees and 20 then comparing those levels to different databases and 21 surveys, other utilities and internal discussions with 22 other Staff members as to what our position would be 23 regarding salaries for this case. So you didn't take what -- Timber Creek's 24 25 word what they're paying their salary and then decide

whether or not you thought that was reasonable?

- A. No. We did our -- found those -- found those salaries and then did research upon those salaries to determine what levels we thought were accurate to be paid.
- Q. And a little afterwards she was discussing with your surrebuttal, page 12, line 8, when you were discussing the qualifications of Mr. Sherry and whether or not you took his word for it. Do you know if the direct testimony that you pulled the information for was attested to?
- A. Yes. That was sworn testimony by Mr. Sherry.
- Q. Okay. Mr. Finnegan from Timber Creek was having a conversation with you about whether or not when Staff makes its salary determination, whether or not that -- that's a subjective determination. Did you agree that it was a subjective determination?
- A. No. I don't think it's subjective.

 Again, you do the research based on their current salaries and then you justify those salaries based on the databases and surveys again and the other utilities and databases that the Staff has within their -- their work force. So it's -- it's not a subjective process. You do find numbers and answers

to everything.

- Q. And then shortly afterwards, Mr. Finnegan was kind of going through those personnel percentages to operating -- operating expenses. What was Staff's basis for using the Johnson County, Platte County and Wyandotte County's annual reports?
- A. Staff was trying to depict by using those specific utilities the impact per customer that the certain salaries would have. In that instance we were using strictly the general manager's salary and dividing that by the customers of each of those entities to get a dollar level per customer.
- Q. And then Mr. Finnegan was also discussing the structure of Lake Region Water and Sewer and whether or not that all of the water customers are the same as the sewer customers. Can you explain the Lake Region Water and Sewer system?
- A. Yes. I meant to say that part of that system is Ozark Shores, which is strictly water, and there's a Horseshoe Bend system which is strictly sewer. So they're not one in the same. There are specific sewer and water customers, but there are a few customers that could potentially be on -- receiving water and sewer service.
 - Q. Okay. And then -- okay. And then

Commissioner Gunn was kind of discussing the pay scale difference between Kansas City and the Lake Ozark region. Can you explain the difference between how Staff would determine a cost of living adjustment between the two?

A. You just have to look at the cities, the magnitude of where you're living. The Kansas City

magnitude of where you're living. The Kansas City regional metropolitan region is a larger, more expensive city probably than the lake region. And that's what I was trying to get as was taking those, you would probably have to factor in some sort of adjustment for the living zones, but I don't know, without doing an analysis or research, what particular amount of money or percentage of monies would be acceptable for that sort of adjustment.

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- Q. So if Timber Creek was at the lake, would their salary be higher or lower than what it currently is?
- A. I would assume it would be a lower salary as it would cost more to live in the metropolitan

 Kansas City area than it would the Lake Region area -or the Lake Ozarks area, sorry.
- MS. OTT: I don't have any further questions. Thank you.
- 25 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Mr. Prenger,

1 thank you for your testimony. 2 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 3 JUDGE STEARLEY: At this time I'm going to recall Mr. Sherry to the stand for questions from 4 5 the Bench. 6 MS. OTT: Judge, before we continue, can 7 Mr. Prenger be excused from the room, not from the hearing, as there is testimony due today in another 8 case in which he's a witness on? 10 JUDGE STEARLEY: Certainly. 11 MS. OTT: And if we need him, I can go 12 grab him and bring him back up. Thank you. 13 JUDGE STEARLEY: Would you be seated. And, Mr. Sherry, I do want to remind you that you're 14 15 still under oath. Commissioner Jarrett? 16 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Yes, thank you, 17 Judge. 18 DEREK SHERRY, having been previously sworn, testified as follows: 19 20 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT: 21 Good morning, Mr. Sherry. How are you Q. 22 this morning? Sorry we had to step out during your 23 testimony --I understand. 24 Α. -- and attend to other business, but I'll 25 Q.

1 try not to -- hopefully won't recover testimony 2 that -- or areas that you explored with the attorneys. I apologize if I do so, but I want to make sure I 3 understand. 4 5 How long have you worked for Timber 6 Creek? I was the vice president since 1995, then 7 Α. as an unpaid board member, then became full-time 8 president, general manager in February of 2008. 10 Q. Are you familiar with about how many 11 hours per week each employee of Timber Creek works --12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. -- just on average? 14 Α. Yes. 15 And you are the general manager? Q. 16 Correct. Α. 17 Okay. About how many hours a week do you 0. 18 work? 19 Α. For me obviously it varies, but on the 20 average, you know, about 45 to 50 hours a week is a 21 pretty common workweek I'd say when you average 22 everything out. 23 Right. Now do you ever have to go out 0. like on weekends or the middle of night if there's a 24 problem? 25

1 Α. I was out Sunday afternoon on a pump 2 station failure in the evening. I was up at 2:30 last 3 night reviewing the telemetry logs to make sure the pump station is working. So to answer your question, 4 5 yes, I'm pretty much 24/7. 6 All right. And what about the office Ο. 7 manager? The office manager's primary 8 Α. responsibilities are from really 8:30 to 4:30. That's when the office is open. Her first and foremost is to 10 11 make sure we are open for business, customers' calls, 12 permits, all that is handled. She's the frontline of communication. 13 14 15 16 17

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She then has additional duties that require her to work overtime or outside those hours, which are in customer notifications when -- late payments, collection-type issues, whether it's door hangers that go out to customers or if they haven't applied for service, she then drives to those sites to actually physically place those on there.

She's also responsible for collecting all the inventory and supplies for the office as well as any other materials that the operations may use. she usually goes to Costco or Sam's on the weekend to pick those items up to make sure that we have the

1 supplies we need. 2 So if you were to go to a time sheet 3 system that Staff is recommending, would she be an exempt employee and just be paid a straight salary or 4 5 would she be subject to overtime? 6 Right now -- as I've discussed with 7 Staff, looking through the Fair Labor Standards law and consulting with an attorney, there is a question 8 as to whether it would be exempt or non-exempt. 10 Ο. Right. Now, you would be exempt, I 11 assume? 12 Α. Correct. Myself and the operations 13 manager, no question, we are exempt. The office manager is -- at this point under the advice of, you 14 know, looking at our counsel's idea, you're better off 15 to go ahead and pay the little bit of overtime rather 16 17 than to have to defend a claim. 18 Ο. Right. Then the operations manager, how 19 many hours per week would you say the office manager 20 works? 21 The office --Α. 22 Not the office manager, operations Ο. 23 manager. Oh, operation manager, he'll be similar 24 Α.

to my work schedule. Maybe a little more depending on

1 outages and issues. He had the shift from -- up 2 through 9:00 p.m. last night and then he picked it up 3 at 4:30 this morning on the pump station. So I had it from 11:00 and 2:30 and then he started back up at 4 5 4:30. So that was just an example. So we have to 6 work whatever hours we have to work. 7 Right. So you said yourself 45 to 50. Q. Yeah. He'll be in the same range. 8 Α. Same for him? 9 Q. 10 Α. Yeah. 11 Q. And then the system operator? 12 Α. Yeah. That position again is a operations-type person. So he is filling in for the 13 operations manager or when the duties are assigned. 14 15 On average, he'll work between 42 to 45 hours a week is what we've determined. 16 17 All right. And then under the -- under a 0. time sheet scheme --18 19 Α. Uh-huh. 20 Q. -- since both you and the Staff are 21 looking at overtime, is the determination is that that 22 would be a non-exempt employee and you'd have to pay 23 him --24 Yeah. Α. 25 -- him or her time and a half? Q.

1	A. That is clearly a nonexempt and an
2	overtime eligible position.
3	Q. Right. Okay. Now, are you familiar with
4	other water and sewer companies that are similarly
5	situated to yourself?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Just based on your personal knowledge,
8	how do you think your salary structure falls in with
9	those?
10	A. Right now I think the Staff, as they said
11	in their initial report, is accurate that it's
12	conservatively priced. As we've as I've said in my
13	testimony, I think the operations manager is in the
14	upper range of that as a salary. The other three
15	positions are under market.
16	Q. Okay. And I'll ask you the same question
17	I asked Mr. Prenger. I think you were in the audience
18	when when I was talking with him. The difference
19	between you and Staff on total salary is less than
20	\$30,000?
21	A. Correct.
22	Q. You have studies, they have studies. We
23	can talk about individual, which study is better,
24	which study is not. Do you think that anything within
25	the range between your salary structure and Staff's

1 proposal would you think it would be reasonable for us 2 based on the studies to find somewhere in between? Certainly. You bet. I'm a reasonable 3 Α. businessman. 4 5 And I believe Mr. Prenger testified that 0. all the employees of Timber Creek are -- he would 6 consider to be excellent --7 8 Α. Yes. -- right? And do you think that normally 9 0. 10 employees who perform above average should be paid 11 accordingly? 12 Α. Correct. 13 Q. And you also understand that you're a regulated entity so we have to balance that with the 14 15 ratepayers. We want to make sure that ratepayers get 16 good value for their rates. 17 Absolutely. In a -- just as you guys are accountable to ratepayers, so are we. I mean, we 18 19 live, work in that community and have to answer to 20 them. So it's -- I understand why, you know, it's got 21 to make sense. Right? And it's got to be defensible 22 and it has to -- you know, as I would say, it's got to 23 pass the sort of red-face test. 24 Right. Now, when we were talking a Ο. 25 little bit earlier, you know, about the average hours

1 per week or the -- that the various employees worked, 2 would your answers be about the same if we're just 3 talking about the test year in this case? Α. 4 Yes. 5 All right. Q. 6 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't have any 7 further questions. Thank you, Mr. Sherry. Appreciate 8 it. 9 THE WITNESS: You bet. Thanks. JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn? 10 11 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN: 12 Ο. Thank you. Appreciate the -- coming 13 back. 14 No problem. Α. 15 And we hope it will be fairly painless. 0. I'm -- in all of the questions that I have, I may ask 16 17 you some questions that potentially would involve settlement discussions. 18 19 Α. Okay. 20 Q. And I don't want you to go into 21 necessarily the substance of what was discussed, but I 22 may just want you to answer whether or not there were 23 discussions and that's really all I need to know because I don't want to get involved -- I don't think 24 25 we can get involved in some of the other stuff.

EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 3 01-05-2011 1 So I think basically all my questions have been answered on the salary -- on the salary 2 3 stuff except that the reason why the office manager won't be getting a raise -- or the operations manager 4 5 wouldn't be getting a raise under this was because -under your proposal is because you think they're 6 7 already at the top of the pay scale. Correct? Yeah. I believe, you know, if you think 8 Α. of a traditional pay system, you have -- you know, as 10 much as I can see in MERIC, but you have a range, you 11 have an entry, a mid-point and then a maximum. 12

I believe the operation manager's right now salary from my own studies is in the mid-point to maximum side of the area. So as I was responding earlier that, you know, in the red-face test, he probably needs to stay where he's at, let cost of living catch up in a year or two and then put him back onto a -- kind of a raise. And I've had that discussion with the employee.

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- Q. Now, I want to move to the rate case expense issue and this is one of those areas. Were you with Timber Creek during the last rate case?
- A. I was at -- in 2007 I was actually an employee of Sprint on leave of absence during that rate case.

1	Q. Okay. Were you involved at all in the
2	discussions in the settlement discussions in that
3	case?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. And were you involved in the discussion
6	over the Stipulation and Agreement that was eventually
7	filed in the case?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. All right. So you're familiar with it.
10	And would you say your part was active?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Okay. That's all I want to know. I'm
13	not going to ask you to get into anything. So now I
14	want to go to this gas well issue. Can you tell me
15	can you walk me through the process of once you
16	determined that you were going to look for an an
17	alternative energy, can you take me through the
18	process that you went in identifying the area that
19	area to dig, what caused you to dig there, why you
20	thought there was gas on the property? Could you just
21	walk me through that? It doesn't have to be long,
22	just really quickly.
23	A. Certainly. Obviously it's the increasing
24	electrical costs that drove us to look at different
25	sources. So as I've said in my testimony, we looked

at the three what we believe are the most available power type sources; would be natural gas, solar and wind.

In looking at the financials, when you look at the investment that it would take and then how much return you would get, so those scenarios, natural gas was the lowest cost type pursuit, but, you know, I'll admit probably the highest risk as well. The reason we looked at -- so we said, well, okay, let's do some research before we decide to actually spend any money.

So at that point spent numerous hours talking to the Department of Natural Resources, specifically the folks in Rolla, the USGS, talking about, you know, what to look for, how to look for it, all the materials that existed. And there's tremendous amount of research and materials out there where it talks about gas.

And particularly in the northwest
Missouri, southeast Iowa, in that area there's what's
called The Forest City Basin that stretches all the
way down actually to Harrisonville, Missouri and so
on. So there's Plattsburg, Harrisonville and then the
areas of Tiffany Springs all had active gas wells or
wells that had known productions. And again, I've

1 given that to the Staff to show that. 2 So at that point I said what's 3 specifically within our region? Well, the oldest well logs you could find -- so the research is, is who else 4 has done it. 5 6 Right. Q. 7 Right. That's what I was looking for. Α. So looked at old well logs in -- from the 1920's 8 through the 1940's was really the last active in --I'd say within a five-mile radius that anyone had done 10 11 any drilling in that area. 12 The reason you have to look in the area 13 is that according to the USGS and the DNR, it has been to be on your site and it has to be within -- if I 14 15 remember right, 150 feet inside your property boundary borders. That's the only place you can legally try to 16 drill a gas well for safety reasons and other things. 17 So it had to be on a site that we owned. 18 So looking for a five-mile radius, looked 19 at the research. And at the time from the 20's to 20 21 40's, it was mostly oil exploration at that time. 22 didn't really see it, but you'd see mentions of -- the records were sketchy, but you'd see mention of natural 23 gas found or that, but no production. 24

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The real telling thing was in Tiffany

1 Springs, which is about seven miles directly to the east. So we're on the west side of KCI, Tiffany 2 Springs is on the east side of KCI. And there was 3 three gas wells there that had significant volumes of 4 5 natural gas production. Now, they're not currently using it, but that was there and documented. 6 7 So at that point it looked encouraging because those volumes of natural gas would actually 8 did -- met with generator companies on natural gas and 10 they said, yeah, you could power a -- you know, 11 100-kilowatt generator -- it's actually 120 -- off of 12 those types of production. So at that point, met with lots of 13 drillers and everybody else. And what it came down 14 15 to, you know, you can spend a lot of money doing 16 sonar, you can spend a lot of money doing all these other types of techniques. They said, to be blunt, 17 the simplest cheapest is to try what's called a pilot 18 19 well. And the pilot well is just that. It's like 20 you're drilling a water well and you're going to go 21 down and see what you -- see what you --22 And hope you find gas? Ο. And hope you find gas. 23 Α. was the site that was selected to drill 24 Ο.

based on some sort of likelihood that you would find

gas or was it based on some of the other parameters that were given you by DNR?

- A. It was a combination of all of those. So one was we had to meet the legal requirements of being 150 feet on the site. So that limited it to there. And then it also had to be in The Forest City Basin area. And then from the geological logs, there was two different zones of shale that had gas. And you had to look to see if any of those other zones existed within those other well logs.
- Q. When you spoke with drillers and the other people that were giving you the recommendation about where you should drill, did they give you a percentage? Did they say, Look, this is a 50/50 proposition, we think that there's probably 75 percent chance there's gas here or we think, Look, it's a shot in the dark, we can't tell you that it's a percentage at all?
- A. Yeah. I mean to cover their own sort of thing, they're going to say, It's your gamble, right. So knowing that going in, 50/50 shot. You know, so I showed them all the research I'd done, what it was, showed them the payoff, you know. They're like, At this point, you know, probably worth giving it a shot.
 - Q. Let me ask you, when you were drilling,

1 what was your perspective? What did you think the 2 chances were of finding gas? 3 I thought it was actually, you know, Α. 50/50 or better with the idea that the zones were 4 5 there, we were able to determine that the two natural gas production shale zones were in the area. 6 7 actually hit them so we know they exist. They just didn't have enough release of natural gas from that. 8 Other than the drilling, did you -- did 9 Q. 10 you spend any money on generators or anything in anticipation of finding the gas? 11 12 Α. No. No. We waited. It was pilot well 13 first only. 14 Ο. All right. Now I want to move on. And I 15 appreciate that. I want to move onto the contingency fee stuff. Because this is -- this is one of those 16 things that seems a little bit -- we'll just call it 17 creative. And obviously what Staff's major concern, 18 19 other than some of the legal potential issues --20 Α. Right. 21 -- was the lack of oversight and lack of Q. 22 conditions. And this is another one is that -- did -would you or are you willing to accept conditions on 23 any contingency fund that is set up? 24 25 Α. Absolutely. I mean the -- you know, when

1 we've had discussions on the working case at very high 2 level, haven't gotten down into the details, but I absolutely believe that it's a contingency reserve 3 fund available for these repairs. So I think the --4 5 you know, oversight and reviews and even approvals, you know, a separate account, all those kinds of 6 7 concepts we're completely in agreement with. Now, you set the cap in your testimony of 8 Ο. 100,000 and change? 10 Α. Yeah. 177,000. 11 Q. 177-something thousand? 12 Α. Yeah. How did you arrive at that figure? 13 Q. 14 I used a model that the EPA is doing as Α. 15 part of an assessment management education awareness 16 and getting utilities to be more proactive about 17 managing aging infrastructure. 18 So in that is the ability to go through 19 and look through at your critical components of your infrastructure and do an assessment of what -- how --20 21 what is the criteria as far as the condition of the 22 asset, what's the probability that it will fail, 23 what's the criticality of it within that system in processing utilities. And then you set that up and 24

then you come up with basically an equation that says

what's the probability failure, how many do you have and determine that.

So I used that same model to determine that. So ran those calculations. When I -- in some cases I had very real data about how much repairs have cost. Others, called up some of the vendors and said, Hey, if this happened, what generally should I except. Developed that model, came up with that number. So there it was.

Then I turned around and looked at what are other utilities in the public sector doing when it comes to this area. Made some calls and they said, to be blunt, they keep three months of cash reserves in a fund for that specific reason. They're going to this asset model. They said three funds is typically what is required by their bond companies. So did the quick math and guess what? The 170,000 is about three months' worth of expenses that we have.

- Q. So you -- you did do -- did you do a comparison of actual repair and failure rates with the model?
- A. Yes. On -- on those where we had actual repairs and costs, I could highlight which items those are and what -- how much the repairs have been and how frequently they've occurred.

1	Q. So I want to mention something that
2	Mr. Finnegan mentioned in arguments is that you had a
3	control panel the Sunday incident was a control
4	panel failure.
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. Which caused a pump to fail?
7	A. Correct.
8	Q. And he said something about how it had
9	it had failed three years ago?
10	A. Yeah. We hit had a lightning strike
11	in late 2006, replaced the panel had to replace the
12	panel in 2007. And that cost was 9,900 and some
13	change.
14	Q. So are control panels supposed to last
15	three years or are they supposed to last a lot longer
16	than that?
17	A. They're supposed to last a lot longer.
18	Q. So did you when you were looking at
19	some of these repair things, did you take that into
20	account as a potential repair item that
21	A. Yes.
22	Q would not have to be in there
23	hopefully anymore?
24	A. Right. Right.
25	Q. Okay. Did Staff ever propose any

1	condit ⁻	ions?	
2		Α.	No.
3			COMMISSIONER GUNN: Okay. All right. I
4	do not	think	I have anything else. Thank you very
5	much.	І аррі	reciate it.
6			JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Kenney?
7	QUESTIC	ONS BY	COMMISSIONER KENNEY:
8		Q.	Mr. Sherry, thanks for sticking around
9		Α.	Yeah.
10		Q.	and indulging us.
11		Α.	My pleasure.
12		Q.	I just have a few questions about and
13	we're p	olowing	g the same ground again, so bear with me.
14	I want	to ta	lk again about the question of these
15	exempt	employ	yees versus non-exempt employees. And
16	just so	o I'm o	clear, are there two employees that you
17	have re	eceive	d a legal opinion that would be considered
18	nonexer	mpt or	one?
19		Α.	Definitely one. The other is
20	questic	onable.	. It has to do with if you look through
21	the Fa	ir Labo	or Standards criteria, it has to do
22	with	- the i	issue is discretionary judgment. So
23		Q.	Whether that employee has discretionary
24	judgmer	nt?	
25		۸	Correct At what level it's at what

1	level of dis	cretionary judgment.
2	Q.	Which two employees are we talking about?
3	Α.	It's the plant and collection system
4	operator.	
5	Q.	Okay.
6	Α.	And the office manager.
7	Q.	And is there a document that's attached
8	to your test	imony where that opinion is offered?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	Which one is that?
11	Α.	That would be in my direct testimony.
12	And there's	
13	Q.	The DS-4?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	And that's the letter from the law firm?
16	Α.	Yeah.
17	Q.	And that's the basis because their
18	I want do	you have it in front of you?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	It says that they in the first
21	paragraph it	says they have not been retained to
22	determine wh	ether any employee is exempt or non-exempt
23	and no opini	on is made as to that question.
24	Α.	Correct.
25	Q.	So is there something else in there I'm

1 missing where they offer an opinion about who or would 2 not be? 3 It was in discussions with Jason No. Davey as to when I was walking him through what the 4 positions of the Fair Standards Labor law. And so it 5 was really the oral conversations with him. 6 said -- and so obviously what he's going to write, he 7 says, We're not making any determination, but 8 here's -- here's the issue. 10 Ο. But these employees are treated currently 11 as exempt employees? 12 Α. Yeah. We just pay them a base salary. 13 Q. And you intend to continue treating them 14 that way? 15 I intend to start paying them a --Α. overtime if I have the time sheets in front of them. 16 17 And why are you going to do that? I mean 0. are you -- are you under the impression that merely by 18 19 virtue of keeping track of their time, that you have 20 to start treating them as nonexempt employees? 21 No. But I've given them evidence to Α. 22 possibly make a claim that I've required them to 23 actually start doing time sheets and have, in essence, said, There's your overtime and --24 25 So you're anticipating a claim that they Q.

1	could make?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And the cost that it would cost you to
4	defend that claim?
5	A. Correct.
6	Q. Irrespective of whether they actually are
7	or are not?
8	A. That's correct.
9	Q. Okay. So if so your practice is
10	going have you already started paying overtime or
11	intend to start paying them overtime?
12	A. No. I intend to start paying them
13	overtime.
14	Q. All right. Let me ask another question
15	about the natural gas well that you have drilled. Do
16	you intend to keep exploring alternative energy
17	options in the future?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. Have you?
20	A. We've stopped.
21	Q. Okay.
22	A. But we want to go back and look at the
23	solar to see if you know, for more tax incentives.
24	Because right now that infrastructure is very
25	expensive. So we want to look to see at those tax

1	incentives and run an analysis on sunny versus cloudy
2	days and how much real production you could get and
3	try to get more detail around that.
4	Same way with the wind as a again,
5	where we're located, where it's at, how much
6	production could we really expect to have to go
7	through that analysis.
8	And then also into biogas. So actually
9	changing our treatment process from aerobic to
10	anaerobic on sludge digestion and actually
11	Q. So you can capture that?
12	A. Capture that methane and actually try to
13	use that as maybe an alternative source.
14	Q. Do you intend to do that irrespective of
15	our determination in this case
16	A. No.
17	Q to explore those other options?
18	A. I do not.
19	Q. So if we don't allow you to cover that
20	10,000, you are not exploring any of those other
21	alternative energy options?
22	A. Yeah. At this point to take the analysis
23	any further, I'm going to need expert help. So that's
24	an expense that at this point you know, talking to
25	the shareholders, they're like, Look, if the Public

1 Service Commission is interested in us doing this, 2 we'd be happy to try to pursue that. If they say not, 3 then I guess we'll just pay the electric bill. well, we may very well be interested in 4 Ο. 5 you doing it. So I don't know that a determination 6 with respect to that issue would be an opinion about 7 whether we're interested in you exploring those other alternative energy options. 8 But let me ask this question then: 9 10 said the reason you explored the gas option was 11 because it was the least cost and -- but admittedly 12 the highest risk. 13 Α. Correct. 14 And so the 10,849 was the least cost Q. 15 option in pursuing some alternative energy option? That's correct. 16 Α. 17 So solar and wind options are going to 0. 18 cost you more than the 10,849? 19 Α. Yes. We got -- it was pretty easy. Once 20 you establish 100 kilowatt, you can go to, you know, 21 enough vendors and they'll give you a broad budget for 22 what that would run. 23 0. Right. So, you know, give them a call and start 24 Α. making some phone calls and say, Well, if you're going 25

1 to plan 100 kilowatts, here's roughly about what you 2 have to budget for. 3 All right. I don't have any other 0. questions for you. Thanks for your time. 4 5 Yeah. Α. 6 JUDGE STEARLEY: Any other questions from 7 the Bench? Seeing none, recross based on questions 8 from the Bench beginning with Staff? 10 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT: 11 Q. Mr. Sherry, when -- I believe it was 12 Commissioner Gunn was discussing the model that you used to determine a level of contingency reserve fund. 13 Do you remember that discussion? 14 15 Α. Yes. Yes. 16 Now, that model that you have and that is 0. 17 attached as one of your schedules, it includes all 18 expenses, not just plant expenses. Correct? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Okay. Q. 21 Well, I guess -- can you say more about Α. 22 what you mean by plant expenses versus all expenses, 23 make sure I understand? Plant like the physical plant, not 24 Ο. 25 operating expenses.

1	A. Right. Yeah. The estimate's there as to
2	prepare the item. So, you know, whether it's a vendor
3	and materials to take care of that item. So it's an
4	estimation to make the repair on that.
5	Q. So the schedule attached to I think
6	it's your direct testimony that I had discussed with
7	you earlier, is that the model that you were using
8	when you were discussing with Commissioner Gunn?
9	A. DS-7. Schedule DS-7?
10	Q. Yes.
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. So how is a personnel departure a plant
13	expense?
14	A. It is not.
15	Q. Okay. That's what I was getting at.
16	A. Okay.
17	Q. The model does include operating expenses
18	and not just plant expenses.
19	A. Right. It's again, the model is for
20	unplanned emergencies or contingencies that you're
21	trying to plan for. So personnel departures would be
22	one of those.
23	Q. Now
24	A. And by the way, I never thought of that
25	until I reviewed other people's models and they had

1 those in there. So this wasn't a -- I was actually 2 kind of like you, kind of interested to see that that was in there. And when I read more about it, it was 3 key personnel. So it's those kind of critical failure 4 5 points. 6 But you agree personnel is not plant? Ο. 7 Α. I agree. 8 JUDGE STEARLEY: Excuse me, Ms. Ott. Could you make sure your microphone is on? 10 MS. OTT: Sorry. 11 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. 12 BY MS. OTT: 13 Q. And then Commissioner Kenney was just discussing whether or not if you pay overtime, it's 14 15 going to be based on time sheets. So are you -- the only way you're going to pay overtime to those two 16 17 employees is if the Commission mandates that you keep track of time? 18 I'm afraid due to the contested case 19 Α. No. 20 and all that, that as soon as I come out of this case 21 and get a ruling, that we'll start implementing time 22 sheets and overtime. 23 So you're going to implement overtime and 0. time sheets regardless of the outcome of this case? 24 25 I think I have to. Α.

MS. OTT: I have nothing further. 1 Thank 2 you. 3 JUDGE STEARLEY: Public Counsel? RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER: 4 5 Whenever you were talking with Q. Commissioner Jarrett about the number of hours that 6 7 the employees work per week, does the company allow employees who have worked a long day to take comp time 8 or to come in late? If it so merits. 10 Α. Sure. 11 Q. Okay. All right. And also talking about 12 the model for the emergency repairs, you said that this is an EPA model; is that correct? 13 14 It's based off EPA management reporting, Α. 15 as well as I talked to some of my colleagues in the industry that are doing far bigger asset management 16 systems and asked them how this was being done. 17 they shared with me some of their concepts and what 18 19 they were doing. Isn't it true that this model includes 20 Q. 21 non-regulated utilities as well as a regulated 22 utility, which Timber Creek is? 23 Oh, correct. Yes. Α. 24 All right. Q. 25 As far as the examples where I pulled Α.

from, yes.

- Q. And also looking at your listing of your estimations, I see one of the things that you've listed in here for customers to pay for with this emergency fund is environmental impacts, clean-up, restoration and DNR fines?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. How is DNR fines an emergency situation that customers need to pay ahead of for?
- A. If there is a significant event that happens, so if the company's going to be faced with paying for all the costs of that event. So in the case of a -- let's take a pump station example on Sunday. So if for some reason that the DNR felt like that was a complete error on the company's part or whatever -- I'm not sure how they determine that, but they have been known to issue fines for just unscheduled discharges to the waters in the state.
- Q. Okay. So the company -- it's the company's position that it's just and reasonable that customers pay ahead to protect the company against something that was the company's fault?
- A. No.
- Q. And whenever you were talking with Commissioner Gunn about the gas well, you made

1 statements about the odds of whether gas would be 2 found, 50/50 odds about finding gas. Do you remember 3 that? 4 Α. Yes. 5 All right. So basically since what 0. you're asking the Commission to do is to have the 6 customers fund future research, you believe that it is 7 just and reasonable to gamble with the ratepayers' 8 money on the odds that you find natural gas? I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think 10 Α. 11 it was -- there was a real opportunity for us to have 12 the benefit of having natural gas and offsetting our 13 electrical costs. So yeah, I thought it was a worthwhile opportunity to try to take the risk, as you 14 15 said, to see if we could not reduce our electrical cost, which had been a significant expense item. 16 17 But didn't you also say that you won't Ο. 18 continue to do it if the ratepayers don't pay for it first? 19 20 Α. Correct. At this point we're looking for 21 Commission direction as to does this make sense. 22 MS. BAKER: No further questions. Thank 23 you. JUDGE STEARLEY: Redirect Timber Creek? 24 25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:

1	Q. Mr. Sherry, I guess we're doing redirect
2	on and both what the Commissioners asked. Starting
3	with the salary increases, there were no salary
4	increases during the test year; is that correct?
5	A. That's correct.
6	Q. Why was why did you not do that then?
7	A. Because the company has been losing
8	money. So the last three years, as I said in my
9	testimony, the net loss has been \$42,000. So it's
10	hard to justify giving merit or salary increases to
11	the when the bottom line is negative.
12	Q. You were waiting until a rate case to be
13	able to do that?
14	A. Correct. Yeah. I'd like to be able to
15	get back to a more reasonable rate structure and cost
16	of service in order to be able to give those salary
17	increases.
18	Q. Now, with respect to overtime, are we
19	talking are you talking about paying time and a
20	half?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Is that the normal payment for overtime?
23	A. Correct.
24	Q. And you're doing this based on the on
25	the legal opinion from your labor law attorney?

1 Yeah. The attorney very specifically Α. 2 said not going to make a ruling on the 3 exempt/nonexempt, but you're certainly -- for those positions that there is evidence that they've been 4 5 nonexempt in other places, that you have now required them to fill out time sheets, which is exactly the 6 evidence that they will use to file a claim. 7 And whether or not they win --8 Ο. Doesn't matter. 9 Α. 10 Ο. -- it's still going to cost you some 11 money? 12 Α. Correct. Any estimate on what it might cost? 13 Q. I think his estimation was \$30,000 to 14 Α. defend a claim. 15 Even if they -- even if you win? 16 0. 17 Correct. Α. 18 I believe you kind of answered this. Q. 19 know that the employees are currently working overtime? 20 21 Yes. Α. 22 I think you indicated the office manager Ο. does it regularly, each week? 23 Right. I -- actually in a data request I 24 provided -- the Staff had asked me to provide evidence 25

1	of overtime. So I provided evidence of door hangers,
2	mileage logs that show when those door hangers were
3	delivered. I produced evidence of work orders that
4	showed when work orders were completed for customer
5	call-outs on those time frames in which that was done.
6	Also provided evidence on the telemetry
7	logs in which the systems made phone calls after hours
8	to the operators in order to take care of issues. So
9	all that evidence was produced and given to the
10	Staff
11	Q. Okay.
12	A for 2009. And that's what was used to
13	determine the overtime calculation.
14	Q. So the same so the plant plant and
15	collection system operator has worked overtime too?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Based on and you can prove some of it
18	based on that?
19	A. Correct. So I'm sure, you know, through
20	that evidence, you know, that the that I based the
21	calculations off of, quite frankly, as we point out
22	here, don't have time sheets so I'm sure I've missed a
23	number of items but that's what I had the evidence
24	for.
25	Q. And plant collection system operator

1 worked overtime this last weekend or since Sunday? 2 Yes, he has. He's got one of the shifts 3 on -- on the weekend. He's got the clean-up job? 4 Q. 5 He got to do the clean-up too. Α. And this occurred where? In a park? 6 Ο. 7 Α. Yes. In a walking park? 8 Q. So Sunday it was in Prairie Creek 9 Α. Walkway, it's a streamway park which is a very 10 11 visible -- it's a streamway park where there are 12 bridges, it's a large asphalt walking and biking trail area. We cooperate with the parks and rec department 13 as far as the easements and how we access that. 14 15 So literally people are walking by the pump station, which is where the failure were. And 16 then as they make the first turn across the bridge, 17 that's where the manhole was that actually surcharged, 18 19 lifted the cone off and the sewage was spilling out in 20 the gap between the cone and the barrel at a fairly 21 significant rate. And so we were contacted by --22 actually it was the public calling in. 23 So somebody taking a walk? 0. 24 Α. Yes. 25 The cone you're talking about, could you Q.

describe this and what it weighs?

- A. It's several hundred pounds. It takes a machine to actually lift and put it into place. So it's a -- it's a fairly -- it's not something you're going to move by hand. It takes a machine to actually lift and move it.
 - Q. Is that under control now?
- A. Yes. Once we were contacted Sunday, you know, we immediately respond. Actually, the operations manager was there within minutes because he takes this stuff very seriously. Was there and meeting the sheriff's office there, along with the public, along with the parks and rec department.

And so at that point took immediate corrective steps to get the pumps bypassed, get it running, all that so that way the surcharge situation and the -- wasn't continuing. And then once we had that in place, once we had that, there was also a immediate call-out to specialists to figure out what was going wrong at the electrical panel.

- Q. Are you going to have to replace that panel, or do you know yet?
- A. We don't know yet. That's why we're baby-sitting it.
- Q. Okay. With respect to the last rate

1 case, you were not an employee of the company at the 2 time? 3 Α. Correct. You said you worked for --0. 4 5 I was an employee of Sprint, yes. Α. 6 But you were a vice president of the Ο. 7 company and you had been involved in the company's operations for years; is that correct? 8 I was as a officer and a board 9 Α. Yeah. 10 member and paid from 1995 to the -- 2008. 11 Q. So you learned sewer experience then? I -- I mean my career started -- got 12 Α. No. 13 an engineering degree from Rolla and then worked as an engineer for Johnson County Wastewater from 1986 to 14 15 1991. At that time I was promoted through Johnson County and ended up in director of positions for 16 17 Johnson County clear up until 1998. At that time I went to Sprint in 1998 as a -- as executive and a 18 19 director for Sprint and worked there -- or excuse me, 20 in -- yeah, 1998 clear up through 2008 I was an 21 executive at Sprint. 22 Then when did you -- you started with Ο. Timber Creek as an employee? 23 I started with Timber Creek full-time as 24 their president and general manager in February of 25

2008.

Q. With respect to the -- Timber Creek's general manager position, what's been the history of salaries for that position?

A. From the inception of the company, from 1995 through -- really up through the rate case of 2007, the company has grown obviously through number of customers. The general manager position really did not exist in its early days. It was really just a pure operations. And then as more things came on, we had to bring in administrative clerical work.

My father actually was then stepping in more and more from 2000 on to take care of the day-to-day operations of the company. He was unpaid for all those years of service clear up and through 2007.

So at that point through the rate case, we had grown to the size that we needed full-time professional staff. And that was part of the stipulation we were talking about in 2007 to bring that on as a maturing of the company to actually bring on professional staff. So at that point we decided it was a good chance to get that in place, got it done. And I think it's proven over the last three years to be a very -- value added to the company and to what

1 we've been able to accomplish. 2 And how has it added value to the 3 company? We've added in a number of ways in that 4 Α. 5 best practices have been put into place for the company and how we operate, manage, maintain. 6 public relations has dramatically improved as 7 evidenced by the public hearing that we held here 8 recently, by the number of customer complaints that we 10 have. 11 So not only see it in customer service 12 and public relations, you know, that have improved by having professional staff there, but we've also seen 13 that operation and maintenance is far more predictive 14 15 as to what we're doing, how we're doing it and we have asset management systems in place. We've put in --16 17 we're doing automated permitting systems, we've improved just a number of, you know, operational 18 19 areas. 20 Q. So in the last rate case, you were acting as a consultant for the company? 21 22 Correct. Α. 23 And were you paid for that? 0. 24 I was not. Α.

You requested \$18,750?

25

Q.

1	A. Yes. The what I did was I kept a time
2	sheet and tracked the log of activity and had
3	submitted that and Staff have that as well. It is
4	a the the thought is or the way we approached
5	it is in 2007 when the rate case was going on, we used
6	2004 rate case expenses as a surrogate to determine
7	rate case expenses.
8	For this rate case, most likely 2007
9	could have used it as surrogate. And that's kind of
10	the approach we were taking going forward. But then
11	as the case became contested, that is no longer
12	seems to be relevant, I guess.
13	Q. Okay.
14	A. But I'm confused as to when do you use
15	surrogates from previous years and when is it that you
16	don't? I guess it's when you go to a contested case
17	so I'm I'm having trouble with the inconsistencies.
18	Q. By okay. The last case was not
19	contested so they used a surrogate. Is that what
20	you're saying?
21	A. Correct.
22	Q. And this case is now contested so we're
23	talking about going to actual costs in this case?
24	A. That's where we stand at this point.
25	Q. The reason that the Staff gave for

disallowing the \$18,000 figure was because you were an 1 2 employee of the company? 3 That's what it stated in the testimony. Α. But you were not an employee of the 4 0. 5 company when you did the work? 6 Α. Correct. 7 with respect to the exploring more Q. alternative energy sources, you stated -- cited that 8 your electric bills have been increasing dramatically? 10 Α. Right. It's been 49 percent over the 11 last roughly three years as an increase. So -- and 12 then we've had increase in usage of 5 percent over 13 that same time span. 14 So basically it's just electric bill? Ο. 15 Electric bill has gone way up. Α. 16 And with respect to the -- the explor--0. 17 or the fund for gas exploration or for exploration for alternative energy sources, you're not seeking to 18 19 recover the -- for the plant that you -- well, for the 20 gas well that you dug? Right. It's no -- that doesn't -- it's 21 Α. 22 not in use. 23 Okay. But you're using that as a basis Ο. of an amount that you think might be reasonable 24 25 over -- over a three-year period?

1 Right. As I've stated earlier in the Α. 2 testimony that we're talking before, is that I've 3 talked to a number of experts or consults, if you will, about these other types of sources of energy and 4 5 said, What would it take to get us some more detailed information on these various sources of energy and so 6 that we could make a better informed decision as to 7 should we really invest. 8 Because these are significant 9 10 investments, whether it be a wind generator, solar 11 panels or even changing to a biogas. So before we do 12 that, we need to have folks that -- we need case 13

examples, we need to see what the production is. we need some experts to come in and take a look at our situation and develop a report that we can sit down and really evaluate.

- And this would take out-of-pocket dollars 0. to pay for this?
 - Α. Correct.

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- 20 With respect to the contingency emergency 0. 21 repair fund, you -- or Staff indicated initially it 22 was not opposed to it?
 - I think conceptually they're in agreement Α. with, you know, doing something like that as a contingency repair fund. So that's not been strong

1 opposition, I would say. I think they're conceptually 2 in agreement with it. 3 They were concerned that there be 0. consumer safeguards? 4 5 Correct. 6 And are you willing to work with the Ο. 7 Staff and Public Counsel and come up with the necessary consumer safeguards --8 9 Α. Absolutely. 10 Q. -- if they would state them? 11 Α. Yeah. Absolutely. 12 In their testimony has anybody stated Q. 13 what they think --14 No. It's -- apparently I've thrown out Α. 15 all the ideas and thoughts and all I seem to get is, We won't accept that. 16 17 Is this something that's also being 0. 18 handled in the working case? 19 Α. Yeah. In the working case that was 20 started in 2009, we had a meeting in November of 2009 which identified three issues that was plaguing the 21 22 small companies, which was the PSC assessment, the 23 contingency fund or repair fund -- emergency repair fund and the rate case education. 24 25 Those three topics -- the PSC assessment

1	was the highest priority. So from November 2009 we
2	finally had got that issue we had found out we all
3	disagreed on it in probably summer of 2010. And it
4	took clear up till November 2010 to get that in front
5	of the Commission for a direction. The contingency
6	reserve fund was a second topic. We've had one
7	exploratory meeting on that and that's been it.
8	So my certain is, is that while that's
9	probably a good forum to have the discussion, it's
10	taken us over a year to get one issue some direction
11	on. And at this pace, the contingency reserve fund
12	and these other items, it's going to be at least
13	probably another year or longer before we get any sort
14	of direction.
15	Q. And you're looking for immediate relief
16	at this time?
17	A. I have yeah, I have financial issues I
18	need to deal with.
19	Q. With respect to the disparity between the
20	general manager's salary and the plant operator's
21	salary, can you explain how that occurred?
22	A. Yeah. The operations manager's job was
23	the original operator for the company. So that was
24	been in place since 2001, I believe. So that has been

25 there since -- well, almost a decade now.

1	The general manager came on in 2008 as
2	really 2007 as part of the last rate case that the
3	company did. But since it was new and through
4	negotiations, we basically settled on a starting
5	salary of \$70,000. That being the case, at least it
6	was a step in the right direction, but obviously even
7	at that time it was un paid less than the operations
8	manager.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan, could you
10	be sure your microphone is on for us, please.
11	MR. FINNEGAN: It's on. Let me get it in
12	front of me try to get it in front of me.
13	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you.
14	MR. FINNEGAN: That might help.
15	MR. FINNEGAN: I got to get over here so
16	I can see everybody. Is that better?
17	JUDGE STEARLEY: That's much better.
18	BY MR. FINNEGAN:
19	Q. Okay. And it's your goal in this case to
20	get that disparity changed?
21	A. Yeah. At this point, I mean, realize
22	that the company's gone through a fairly fast
23	evolution when it comes to kind of utilities, where
24	we've been and kind of where we are today and I hope
25	where we're going.

But as part of the maturing process, it's time to really sit back and take a hard look at what is the market conditions for those salaries and -- and look at your competitors, look at the other -- when I say "competitors," it's really for the same employee base, what are the skill-sets.

And that was information I provided in my testimony to say here is what is being paid in these other companies that have -- you know, some of our pike positions that aren't shared or aren't these quasi, you know, contracted or whatever. These are full-time, you know, operators or full-time managers that do in this case wastewater work.

- Q. And under your direction, the company has expanded its service area?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. First into Platte -- into Clay County?
- A. Well, Clay County was in existence before I got there. There was two small subdivisions that we did there. The most recent case was we expanded roughly 2,900 to 3,000 acres here earlier in 2010 as part of a certificated case there which, in essence, doubled the size of our certificated area.
- Q. And you've also been working with the City of Platte City to handle some of their waste?

1	A. Yeah. We work within the south side of
2	Platte City where they've had the most growth. We
3	provide wholesale services to them. And so they
4	had continue to grow there and we continue to
5	support them both from a transport and treatment of
6	those areas as well as we consult with them quite
7	frequently on just helping them run their system.
8	Q. So dealing with the outside world, you
9	are the face of Timber Creek?
10	A. Yes. When I say consult with Platte
11	City, it's more they call up, Hey, we got this
12	problem, what do you guys do? How do you do it? So
13	give them advice, tips, you know, being good, you
14	know, professional associates.
15	Q. But you have a contract with them also?
16	A. Yeah. The contract we have with them,
17	and it's, you know, in our annual report, but it's a
18	treatment charge, you know, so many dollars per
19	thousand.
20	Q. And you helped negotiate that?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Would you agree that it's a subjective
23	determination to determine what to pay people?
24	A. It's there's a range.
25	Q. There's a range?

1	A. I mean I think, you know, everybody can
2	have an opinion about what they should pay. So the
3	reality of it is, is much like any of us that have
4	gone to employment, you're going to sit down and
5	negotiate that with your employer at those times,
6	but on any given basis.
7	But generally you're going to take a look
8	at what is the ranges in the market that you're in and
9	are you being competitive with those markets. So
10	that's what I attempted to do when I looked at what is
11	our salaries. But ultimately it is a subjective call
12	within that range.
13	Q. And you noted Public Counsel's testimony
14	in this case is to reduce the salaries of all the
15	employees?
16	A. Yeah. I found that fascinating since
17	Public Counsel was involved in the 2007 case and
18	didn't object to the current salaries at that time.
19	MS. BAKER: I'm going to object because
20	that was a settled case. And so I'm going to say that
21	any comments about what Public Counsel agreed to or
22	did not agree to in the previous case is confidential
23	settlement agreement talk.
24	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan?
25	MR. FINNEGAN: I think we can just leave

1	it as talked about current case, if that's all right.
2	JUDGE STEARLEY: I'm going to sustain the
3	objection and the remarks will be stricken.
4	MS. BAKER: Thank you.
5	MS. OTT: I'm also going to object to the
6	line of questioning. I don't believe this is based on
7	questions asked from the Bench or from counsel here.
8	I believe this is information that should have been in
9	direct testimony and he's just now adding direct
10	rebuttal and surrebuttal and these are not
11	MS. BAKER: And I would second that.
12	MS. OTT: direct questions.
13	MS. BAKER: We've been very patient with
14	the questions that have come across and the
15	long-winded answers that have come across.
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan?
17	MR. FINNEGAN: All I can say is that
18	according to my notes, these were questions that were
19	raised by some by opposing counsel also
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: I believe the questions
21	you asked were in relation to prior questions and I'm
22	going to overrule the objection.
23	BY MR. FINNEGAN:
24	Q. With respect to the Commissioner Gunn
25	asked something about the gas well and you indicated

1 there was a -- you talked about the generator, that 2 you didn't go -- go forward with the generator. you go as far as getting an idea of a cost of 3 generator?

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- Yes, I did. We actually estimated and Α. actually had vendors come and give us estimations for -- it was 130 kilowatt because that was the right size that they had for a natural gas generator. And I believe those -- if -- I'm trying to remember, but I believe the generator was \$30,000, you had to have two of them so \$60,000. But with the switching gear and all the other pertinences that you had to have, it was roughly a \$120,000 investment.
- And that would have done what to your Q. electric bill?
- we estimated with the production -- if it Α. had the production that, you know, we were hoping to see obviously, but it would have taken the Prairie Creek plant and the office basically off the grid from paying electrical costs, which right now that's, you know, I would estimate right around 30-, 32,000 dollars a year.
- So something that would be paid for in, Q. what, four --
- Just a little over four years. 25 Α.

1 MR. FINNEGAN: Just a second. I think 2 that's -- look at my notes. 3 BY MR. FINNEGAN: Oh, there was some discussion from 4 0. 5 Ms. Baker about you not being a regional sewer district. You kind of indicated equivocally that 6 7 you're just like one. Is that what you're saying? Yeah. When it comes to operation, 8 Α. maintenance, the -- and how we're constructed, how 10 people view us, we're a regional sewer district. What 11 Ms. Baker was I think trying to make the point is that 12 we're not a public entity or a quasi-public entity. 13 So I would agree with that. We are regulated by the Public Service Commission and not a non-profitable or 14 a city or municipality. 15 16 Do you usually find that public entities Q. 17 pay less than private sector? 18 I think as Mr. Prenger -- and I Α. 19 would agree with the statement that it's -- the job is 20 the job regardless of whether it's private or public. 21 MR. FINNEGAN: I believe that's all the 22 questions. 23 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you, 24 Mr. Finnegan. 25 Mr. Sherry, I thank you for your

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1
   testimony. You may step down.
 2
                Commissioners, is it all right to finally
 3
   excuse this witness?
                COMMISSIONER GUNN: I'm finished. Thank
 4
 5
   you very much.
 6
                JUDGE STEARLEY: And you are finally
 7
   excused, Mr. Sherry.
 8
                THE WITNESS: Thank you.
                MR. FINNEGAN: He'll be here the rest of
 9
   today and part of tomorrow, if we're still here
10
11
   tomorrow.
12
                JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. At this time
   we're about 20 till 12:00. Do the parties want to
13
14
   break for lunch? Do they want to proceed with the
   next witness?
15
                MS. OTT: I think we could do one more
16
17
   witness. I don't know -- I think it's only on the
   issue of time sheets.
18
19
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Ms. Ott, go ahead and
20
   please call your next witness.
21
                MS. OTT: I'd like to call Nila
22
   Hagemeyer. I'd like to have marked Nila's --
   Ms. Hagemeyer's direct testimony as Exhibit 11 and her
23
   rebuttal as Exhibit 12.
24
25
                (Exhibit Nos. 11 and 12 were marked for
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1	identificatio	on.)
2		(Witness sworn.)
3		JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. You may be
4	seated.	
5		Ms. Ott, you may proceed.
6	NILA HAGEMEY	ER, having been duly sworn, testified as
7	follows:	
8	DIRECT EXAMIN	NATION BY MS. OTT:
9	Q.	Good morning. Could you please state
10	your name for	the record.
11	Α.	Nila Hagemeyer.
12	Q.	Whom are you employed, in what capacity?
13	Α.	I am employed by the Missouri Public
14	Service Comm	ission as a utility management analyst
15	three.	
16	Q.	And are you the same Nila Hagemeyer who
17	has previous	ly caused to be filed prepared direct and
18	rebuttal test	timony which has been marked as Exhibit 11
19	and 12?	
20	Α.	Yes, I am.
21	Q.	And with respect to your direct and
22	rebuttal test	timony, was that prepared by you or under
23	your direct s	supervision?
24	Α.	Yes, it was.
25	Q.	Do you have any corrections to make at

1	this time?
2	A. No, I don't.
3	Q. So if I were to ask you the same or
4	similar questions that are contained in this direct
5	and rebuttal, would the answers that you give today be
6	substantially the same?
7	A. Yes, it would.
8	Q. And would they be true and accurate to
9	the best of your belief, information and knowledge?
10	A. Yes, they would.
11	MS. OTT: With that, I'd like to offer
12	Exhibit 11 and 12 into the record.
13	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the
14	offering of Exhibits 11 and 12?
15	MR. FINNEGAN: No objections.
16	MS. BAKER: No objections.
17	JUDGE STEARLEY: They shall be received
18	and admitted into the record.
19	(Exhibit Nos. 11 and 12 were received
20	into evidence.)
21	MS. OTT: I now tender her for
22	cross-examination.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination,
24	Public Counsel?
25	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS BAKER:

1	Q. Good morning, Ms. Hagemeyer. I just have
2	one question. In your experience, do other public
3	utilities face Fair Labor Standards issues?
4	A. It's my understanding from the limited
5	research that I have done is that companies that are
6	in excess of \$500,000 a year do face Fair Labor
7	Standards.
8	Q. And have you found that they have time
9	accounting systems?
LO	A. We have not been to all of them, but now
11	as we're going to each one of these, we're making sure
L2	that they have time sheets, we're recommending that.
L3	Q. But you have come across some in your
L4	review that have successfully implemented time sheets;
L5	is that correct?
L6	A. Yes. Yes.
L7	MS. BAKER: No further questions. Thank
L8	you.
L9	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
20	MR. FINNEGAN: Just a question or two.
21	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
22	Q. Ms. Hagemeyer, you've been have you
23	had experience with Timber Creek Sewer Company over
24	the years?
25	A. Yes, I have.

1	Q. How long has that been, do you know?
2	A. The first time I went to Timber Creek was
3	in 2003. Went back again for another rate case in
4	2007 and then again in 2010. So three times.
5	Q. So you're familiar kind of familiar
6	with their operations?
7	A. I'd say so.
8	Q. Would you say that they operate a good
9	sewer system?
10	A. As far as I can tell, they do. I've
11	spent most of my time with the office manager and she
12	does a good job.
13	Q. In fact, you've kind of referred people
14	to the office manager to if they have some
15	questions on some procedures?
16	A. I believe I have called her on one or two
17	occasions and needed a copy of something and she
18	provided that for me.
19	MR. FINNEGAN: Okay. That's all the
20	questions I have.
21	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any questions from the
22	Bench?
23	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't have any
24	questions. Thank you for your testimony,
25	Ms. Hagemeyer.

1 JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn? 2 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN: 3 I just have one. I will warn you that as 0. lawyer in private practice, I used to hate filling out 4 5 my billing sheets. I had to do it in six-minute increments, which will drive you crazy if you indeed 6 7 do it accurately, which I very rarely did. They served a purpose though, didn't 8 Α. they? Showed me how much time I was 10 Ο. They did. 11 wasting during the day. But let me ask you a quick 12 question. The concept of kind of a known loss versus an unknown loss is one of the things that I'm 13 concerned about. So if you have salaried employees --14 15 Uh-huh. Α. -- from a revenue perspective, you know 16 0. 17 what you're paying out on a monthly basis? 18 Α. That's right. 19 Ο. And the -- and so your monthly outlay of 20 cash is a little smoother, next to if you have 21 significant overtime events that -- that this -- the 22 time sheet may or may not kick in the requirement to 23 do that, those cash outlays on a monthly basis can spike up or down. And you could have significant cash 24 outlays one month when you have an incident like a 25

1	control panel failure or something like that that
2	causes around the clock monitoring or something like
3	that.
4	Did you take that into account when you
5	were making your general statements about the
6	efficiency of time time sheets; and if so, how did
7	that balance out with the with other kind of
8	savings that you may have found?
9	A. Well, I believe Mr. Prenger would have
10	been the one that would have actually done the
11	calculations on that if you know, if those were
12	done. I'm not asking for anything great here. Just
13	something simple. And whether a person is exempt or
14	not exempt, that really doesn't make any difference as
15	far as keeping the time sheets. Because, for
16	instance, I'm an exempt employee, but I have to keep
17	time sheets.
18	Q. And that's for assessment purposes?
19	A. That would be here that would be.
20	I've never had a job where I didn't keep a time sheet.
21	Q. All right. Okay. I don't think I have
22	anything else. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.
23	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thanks for your
24	time. No questions. Thank you.
25	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Recross

1	based on questions from the Bench, Public Counsel?
2	MS. BAKER: No, thank you.
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
4	MR. FINNEGAN: Did you say no?
5	MS. OTT: We were waiting on you.
6	MS. BAKER: Your turn.
7	MR. FINNEGAN: Oh, it's your witness.
8	You're right. I'm sorry. No questions.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: Redirect?
10	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
11	Q. I just have one thing related to
12	Commissioner Gunn's question regarding the concept of
13	known or unknown losses.
14	A. Uh-huh.
15	Q. Can time sheets then track what the
16	overtime might be or projected overtime going forward
17	would be?
18	A. Yes. They definitely can.
19	MS. OTT: I don't have any other
20	questions. Thanks.
21	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Very well.
22	Thank you Ms. Hagemeyer for your testimony. You may
23	step down.
24	At this point shall we break for lunch?
25	MS. OTT: This probably is a more

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1
   appropriate time. Thank you.
 2
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Why don't we go back on
 3
   the record about 1:15.
 4
                 (A recess was taken.)
 5
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. We are back
   on the record. And Staff, it looks like you're
 6
 7
   prepared to go with your next witness already here.
                MS. OTT: Yes. Staff would like to call
 8
   V. William Harris. And I'd like to mark his direct
   testimony as Exhibit 13, his rebuttal as Exhibit 14
10
11
   and his surrebuttal as Exhibit 15.
12
                 (Exhibit Nos. 13, 14 and 15 were marked
   for identification.)
13
14
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: And Mr. Harris, if you'd
15
   please raise your right hand.
                 (Witness sworn.)
16
17
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: You may proceed.
18
   V. WILLIAM HARRIS, having been sworn, testified as
   follows:
19
20
   DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
21
                Can you please state your name for the
          Q.
22
   record.
23
                V. William Harris.
          Α.
24
                And whom are you employed, in what
          Q.
25
   capacity?
```

1	A. I'm employed as Staff auditor for the
2	Missouri Public Service Commission.
3	Q. And are you the same V. William Harris
4	that has previously caused to be filed prepared
5	direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony which has
6	been previously marked as for identification as
7	Exhibits 13, 14 and 15?
8	A. Yes, I am.
9	Q. And with respect to your prepared direct,
10	rebuttal and surrebuttal, was that prepared by you or
11	under your direct supervision?
12	A. Yes, it was.
13	Q. Do you have any corrections to make to
14	your direct, rebuttal or surrebuttal at this time?
15	A. No.
16	Q. And if I were to ask you the same or
17	similar questions as contained within that testimony,
18	would your answers today be the same?
19	A. They would.
20	Q. Would they be true, accurate to your best
21	knowledge, belief?
22	A. Yes, to the best of my knowledge.
23	MS. OTT: With that, I'd like to offer
24	Exhibit 13, 14 and 15 into the record.
25	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the

1	offering of Exhibits 13 through 15?
2	MR. FINNEGAN: No objection.
3	JUDGE STEARLEY: Hearing none, they shall
4	be admitted and received into the record.
5	(Exhibit Nos. 13, 14 and 15 were received
6	into evidence.)
7	MS. OTT: With that, I will tender
8	Mr. Harris for cross-examination.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: And we'll begin
10	cross-examination with Office the Public Counsel.
11	MS. BAKER: Thank you.
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
13	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Harris.
14	A. Good afternoon, Ms. Baker.
15	Q. Is your rate case expense proposal based
16	on actual cost to process the actual rate case?
17	A. It's based on normalized cost of
18	normalized historical cost of the most recent rate
19	case.
20	Q. So
21	A. To be updated through the the
22	period settlement period by the current actual
23	experiences as they become known.
24	Q. So your answer is no, it is not based on
25	the actual current costs

1 Yes, that's correct. Α. 2 -- for the current rate case? Q. 3 It's not based on the current cost. Α. Thank you. Is Public Counsel's rate case 4 Ο. 5 expense proposal based on the actual costs to process the current rate case excluding the recommended 6 disallowances known so far? 7 To the best of my knowledge, yes. 8 Α. 9 MS. BAKER: No further questions. 10 you. 11 JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination, 12 Timber Creek? 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN: 14 Mr. Harris, let's see. Would you look at Q. your rebuttal testimony? I've got just a couple 15 16 questions. I think it's -- yeah, page 6. Do you have 17 the schedule at the top of the page here? 18 Yes, I do. Α. 19 Q. And you're showing revenues which my 20 understanding are starting with the 12/31/07, these 21 are from the annual report of Timber Creek? 22 Some of them are from the annual report, Α. some of them are from the last rate case, some of them 23 are from this rate case. 24 I'm sorry. Starting with 12/31/07. 25 Q.

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1
          Α.
                 Starting actually with 12/31/06, yes,
 2
   that would be the test year in the last rate case.
 3
                 And then what is the figure for 9/30/07?
                 That was the known and measurable update
 4
          Α.
 5
   period in the last rate case.
 6
                 Okay. Now, so the -- for 12/31/07, the
          Ο.
   figure 511,287 that was the -- from the annual report?
 7
 8
          Α.
                 Yes.
                 And the same is true for the 662,693 for
 9
          0.
10
   the next column and the 669,736 in the following
11
   column?
12
          Α.
                 Correct.
13
          Q.
                 Now, with respect to expenses starting in
14
   2007, you have $433,900 in the expense column,
15
   12/31/07?
16
                 Oh, okay. Yes.
          Α.
17
                 Did that come from the annual report
          Ο.
18
   also?
19
          Α.
                 Yes, it did.
20
          Q.
                 Okay.
21
                 MR. FINNEGAN: May I approach, please?
22
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: You may.
23
                 MR. FINNEGAN: I'm not sure if I need to
24
   mark this or not.
                       Okay.
                              I don't.
25
   BY MR. FINNEGAN:
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1 As attached to the surrebuttal testimony Q. 2 of Derek Sherry, Exhibit No. 6, it shows the sewer 3 operating revenues and expenses and statistics. Have you got a copy of that? 4 5 I do. I don't -- well, yes, actually I Let me see. Did you say rebuttal? 6 do. Exhibit 6, surrebuttal. 7 Q. Surrebuttal. 8 Α. 9 Q. Yeah, the last -- last three pages. 10 Α. Okay. 11 Q. Okay. You'll notice the first page, S-1 12 is -- well, they're all the same. Page -- Schedule DS-11, one of three, it shows a total operating --13 shows the total operating revenues of 511,286.59, 14 which is basically rounding off of the figure you 15 utilized? 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 Now, if I look at the total operating Q. 19 expenses and it's \$537,691.40. Now, that is quite a 20 bit higher than the one that you utilized? 21 Yes. The annual report is in a different Α. 22 format than the rate case -- the way the rate cases 23 are -- and EMS run, that the rates are based on is developed. S-1 here in annual report includes certain 24 25 expenses that aren't on the income statement in the

1 EMS run of -- in the rate case. 2 There are three items actually -- well, 3 actually there are two items and then there's a third item that's not reflected in my table. The two items 4 would be interest expense, and basically that's because interest expense is a -- associated with 6 balance sheet accounts as opposed to income statement 7 accounts. It's recorded below the line. And so it 8 doesn't -- it's not a -- an expense that's netted 10 against revenues in income statement. 11 If it makes it easier to explain, I 12 can -- I can refer back to the EMS run in this case or 13 the last case, but basically as I say it, it's -- it's related to an asset and becomes more of a balance 14 15 sheet associated account as opposed to an income 16 statement account. 17 And then also income taxes, which I don't know this particular year. The schedule doesn't 18 19 include S-3. There are under line item 19, tax 20 expenses. It would not include -- my table would not 21 include any income taxes because that's also 22 calculated in after net operating and we have a line item called net operating income before taxes. 23 And then the third item, this -- this 24

table I developed that you're referring to on page 6

1 is -- I was looking at cash inflows and outflows, the inflow of revenue, the outflow of expense. So what's 2 3 included on that -- in the annual report and not included on the table is depreciation expense, because 4 5 depreciation expense is not an out-of-pocket expense, it's not something that the company writes a check for 6 and -- to the depreciation store, if you will. 7 there's no cash outflow involved. 8 So what the table involves is -- is the 9 10 net, if you will, of expenses that are netted against 11 the -- the revenues. And that would not include the 12 interest expense because in the -- in the rate-making 13 process, the interest goes into a different calculation for rate -- there's a rate of return 14 15 that's calculated on the rate-base which is based on interest expense and then, like I say, the taxes are 16 17 an add-on. It might be easier to explain if -- if 18 you go to the EMS run. I think -- was that identified 19 20 as account -- I didn't get all the exhibits written 21 down this morning, but it would be Staff accounting schedule -- I'm not sure if that was -- that would 22 have been 1, 2 or 3, I think. 23 I think it's 7. 24 Q. 25 Α. But on --

1 MS. OTT: Staff accounting schedule --2 BY MR. FINNEGAN: 3 I believe it's 7. 0. Which one is it? Oh, it's 7. Okay. 4 Α. 5 accounting Schedule 1 there are three items -- or there are basically three pieces, if you will, of 6 going to the gross revenue requirement. And one is --7 the top one is the rate of return, which is calculated 8 on financial information including the interest expense. That's -- that's taken by the rate-base to 10 11 come up with a net operating income requirement. 12 Then there's the middle piece, the net 13 income available, which is what I'm looking at and I think Mr. Sherry is referring to in his testimony 14 15 where he states income minus expense. That's the net income and that's the piece that involves all the 16 income and expense items except for interest expense 17 and income tax. 18 And then the third piece is the income 19 tax requirement. 20 21 So this table is -- initially in -- in 22 Schedule 6 doesn't have the interest expense because 23 that's in the -- in the income -- or in the revenue requirement calculation for rate of return and it 24 25 doesn't have the income tax expense. Those are the

1 differences. 2 If you take -- it if you go back to 3 schedule -- or DS -- let's see, Mr. Sherry's schedule. DS-11? 4 0. 5 Yes. Okay. If you -- the particular -the first year for instance here, 2007, if you look at 6 7 S-1, it shows the 537,691 total operating expense. 8 That --Also shows a net loss of \$26,400 for --9 Q. 10 \$26,404 too. 11 Α. Right. Again, because we're comparing 12 two different things. But the 53-- what my 4-- 400 --13 let me see. 2007, the 500 and -- I guess the question was so long ago I lost -- I've forgotten what it was. 14 15 well, I was looking at -- and maybe this 0. will clarify it. The operating expenses shown on the 16 17 annual report to the Commission was \$537,691.40. 18 Α. Right. 19 Q. which produced a net loss of \$26,000. 20 Α. okay. I --21 Q. My --22 My schedule didn't address losses, so Α. I'm -- but if you go to -- my schedule is the 537,691, 23 the 2007 annual report here is showing revenues --24 25 actual revenues of \$448,044. Okay? That's the

1 537,691 that is shown in the S-- the income 2 statement -- or the -- the sewer operating revenues, expenses and statistics page S-1 in the annual report, 3 minus the line 20, which is the interest expense of 4 5 89,647.19, minus lines 16 and 17 which is depreciation expense, add contra account in the form of 6 amortizations and contributions in aid of construction 7 and the 537,000 net the interest expense and the 8 depreciation amortization expense brings you to the 448,044. And so that's -- if you're trying to tie the 10 11 two together, that's how those are tied.

Q. But --

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- A. I realize when I read Mr. Sherry's testimony, it was a little confusing on my table so I changed some of the headings and reworded them so it would make more sense and I reran the calculations using different headings and I addressed some of his concerns ultimately too and expanded upon it.
- Q. Okay. And just to follow up on this, on Schedule DS-11 page 2 of 3 is for the year 2008. The revenue figure 662,693 is the same as the figure you used for 2008. The total operating expenses shown on the annual report are 646,659.71 as opposed to your 547,133; is that correct?
 - A. Let me flip back to mine. I'm still

1 looking at his. Okay. I think what I'll do -- there. 2 Would you ask that question again, please? 3 Okay. The -- on Schedule DS-11, page 2 0. of 3, it shows the operating revenues as the same as 4 5 you show, 662,693, but when it -- total operating expenses on the annual report are 64-- \$646,659.71 6 7 where you have 547,133 --Right. 8 Α. -- is that correct? 9 Q. 10 Α. The -- the 646,000, yes, minus the 11 interest expense on line 20 and then depreciation 12 expense brings you to the 547,133 which -- or ties to 13 the 547,133 in my table. And the same would be true for Schedule 14 Q. DS-11, page 3 of 3, where it shows operating revenues 15 of 669,940 where -- really off on that one. You're 16 17 669,736 and for expenses you have 634,350 and according to the annual report, total operating 18 19 expenses were \$702,000.64; is that correct? 20 Α. I'm sorry. I didn't realize you'd asked 21 the question. 22 I mean, is this true? Ο. Yeah. 23 The -- the 702,000 that's on S-1 ties to Α. the 547 with the subtraction of the interest expense 24 25 on line 20 and the depreciation and amortization

1 expenses on 16 and 17. 2 I'm sorry. This is for 2009. It would Q. 3 be 634-or 634,350, yes. 4 Α. 5 Okay. Q. 6 Minus -- the 702 minus the 53,285, 532 7 minus the 128,187 plus the 116,068 ties to the 634,350. 8 But in the real world, the company lost 9 Q. 10 \$26,000 in 2007, made 16,000 in 2008, but lost 32,060 11 in 2009 based on their annual report; is that correct? 12 Α. My table on page 6 is a -- shows the 13 rate-making world. That's --14 Ο. 15 I wasn't addressing the real world in Α. that table. 16 Okay. Unfortunately, Timber Creek lives 17 Ο. in the real world and didn't make any money in those 18 19 years, actually lost money over those two -- those 20 three years. 21 If you look at expenses and -- that are Α. 22 associated with balance sheet accounts and assets and 23 subtract them from revenues that are flowing in, then 24 it would appear to be a loss, yes. MS. BAKER: Your Honor, I want to point 25

1 out that counsel is making statements and making opinions about the testimony rather than just asking 2 3 questions. MR. FINNEGAN: I'm on cross-examination. 4 5 I can ask leading questions. 6 MS. BAKER: No, but he's making 7 statements about -- about what these tables mean to him and I just want to point that out. 8 9 JUDGE STEARLEY: I understand. counsel. 10 And the Commission recognizes that Mr. Finnegan is not 11 offering testimony today. 12 BY MR. FINNEGAN: Just one further follow up on this. 13 Ο. My understanding is this table is related to the 14 15 surrogate 200-- or rate case expense based on 2007, but it probably won't even be applicable if we go to 16 17 the current rate case expense; is that correct? 18 Would you ask that again? Α. Okay. This -- this table relates to the 19 Ο. 20 reasonableness of including anything in the 2007 21 surrogate rate case expense? 22 what this table was designed to reflect Α. is what the rates -- the level of revenues and the 23 24 level of expenses that the current existing rates 25 were -- were based on and those levels were \$457,131

worth of revenue, \$518,541 of -- of expense. And that's what the -- the rates were established using.

Then the table shows subsequent events since then, actual revenues and actual income statement expenses to determine how much revenues were collected above the amount of the level of revenues that the rates were based on and how much expense was incurred above the level of expense that the -- the rates were based on.

After -- after reading Mr. Sherry's testimony, I addressed the possible concerns that you're expressing now. I included, like I say -- like I started to say earlier, I made maybe perhaps more easily understandable headings such as Revenue Dollars to read Revenue Dollars in Rates and Expense Dollars in Rates and re -- and ran some new figures using the expense -- the interest expense, line 20, in -- on -- in the annual report and also using the -- the interest expense and the -- the depreciation expense and amortization expense and I even recalculated in some instances using income taxes.

And with all of those things combined includ-- which would run it up to the 646,000 at the bottom of 2-3 that you're talking about, 2 of 3, it clearly indicates that there still were excess

revenues collected over expenses incurred. And it's largely responsible for the number of customers over here on the third column because the -- the company has grown so much over the last years -- last few years from 1,100-and-some customers to over 1,500, the revenues have -- have -- have escalated faster than the expenses.

And -- and so that is why the -- there's that much of a net difference after you account for all the expenses. There was -- there was still excess revenues collected because of the -- the increase in customers. Where customers are increased and you get -- you get dollar for dollar increase in revenues, that's not always true with expense. There's only -- only certain expenses that increase and there are certain fixed costs that don't increase.

So you can increase revenues a lot quicker through customer growth than what your expenses would normally increase. And that's why there's a difference reflected between the revenues that have been collected since the last rate case based on what the rates were set on as opposed to the expenses that have been incurred since the last rate case based on what those expenses were -- those rates were set on.

1 Q. But let me say, if I understand from your 2 surrebuttal testimony, Exhibit 15, you've kind of 3 moved on from looking at past expenses and instead are looking at the actual rate case expenses incurred in 4 5 this case as we are incurring them now. Is that not correct? That would be normalized over a period? 6 7 I don't know that I -- I'm following your Α. 8 question. Okay. On page 2 of your surrebuttal 9 Q. 10 testimony, the last line -- or second -- on line 17 11 you say, Staff will work with Timber Creek and Public 12 Counsel to establish an ongoing normalized level of 13 rate case expense based on the actual cost the company incurs in this case. 14 15 Okay. Would you -- would you go back to Α. the beginning there? 16 17 Okay. 0. It was rebuttal testimony you're 18 Α. 19 referring to? 20 Q. Surrebuttal testimony. 21 Surrebuttal. Α. 22 Page 2. And it seems to me that you Q. 23 are --24 Okay. Α. 25 -- making a course change and you're Q.

saying now that we're going to determine the rate case expense based on the actual cost in this case and not go back and look at the past expenses?

- A. No. That -- the -- the Staff's policy has not changed at all, not since the direct case. As I've stated throughout my testimony, Staff has normalized rate case expense -- or normalized rate case expense in its direct filing because the company said they had no rate case expense currently.
 - Q. At the time. But --

- A. In my direct filing I indicated at that time that there would be -- it was expected with the -- going to hearing -- in fact, it might be easier for me just to read it. The Staff's position in the -- in my direct after the normalization, of course, was that the company's expected to incur additional legal expenses due to the rate case proceeding, evidentiary hearings and so on.

 Additional costs that are reasonably incurred will be considered for inclusion later in the case.
- So it's always been Staff's intent, as rate case expense became known, to incur that that was prudent and reasonable. It's just we have to know what it is before we can start to incur it.
- Q. All right. And then in your rebuttal

1 testimony, you again state that, that Staff will work 2 with Timber Creek and Public Counsel --3 Yes. Α. -- to establish an ongoing normalized 4 5 level of rate case expense based on the actual cost 6 the company incurs in this case? 7 Α. Yes. And that's what we're looking forward to, 8 Q. right, in this case? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Q. Okay. 12 MR. FINNEGAN: That's all the questions I 13 have. 14 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Questions 15 from the Bench? Commissioner Jarrett? QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT: 16 17 Good afternoon. Ο. Good afternoon, Commissioner. 18 Α. 19 Q. I just -- I guess I just have a couple 20 questions. Have you been -- you've been involved in several of these small water company cases. Correct? 21 22 Yes, Commissioner. Including the last Α. 23 few with Timber Creek. Okay. And now Timber Creek's last rate 24 Ο. case was settled; is that correct? 25

1 Yes, it was. Α. It was a total settlement? 2 Q. 3 Α. Yes. Are you normally -- do you normally have 4 0. 5 some involvement in rate case settlement discussions? 6 Α. Yes. 7 All right. Have you ever seen in a Q. settlement where the rate case expense from the 8 settled case -- there's a clause in there, something 10 to the effect that rate case expenses will either --11 like you say, be normalized over the next three-year 12 period or will be addressed in the next rate case? Is that something you've ever seen before in a 13 14 settlement? 15 I don't recall specifically seeing in the Α. settlement because -- I may have -- may have 16 prematurely answered your question. In the -- in this 17 last case I was involved in the settlement, I don't 18 19 know that -- that -- and normally on this -- on a 20 small water and sewer company, I am involved in the 21 settlement. 22 It -- I don't recall seeing anything though as far as organized language stating rate case 23 24 expense specifically. I wouldn't be surprised to see 25 something like that as -- as one of the ingredients or

1	one of the stipulations in the settlement. I don't
2	recall specifically seeing one.
3	Q. In this case? I mean in the last rate
4	case?
5	A. In the last rate case it was not
6	addressed.
7	Q. Right. But in any settlement, any case
8	that you've been involved in settlement negotiations,
9	have you seen those types of clauses?
10	A. I would not be surprised to see one. I
11	don't specifically I don't remember one
12	specifically.
13	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Okay. I have no
14	further questions. Thanks.
15	JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn?
16	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I don't think I have
17	any questions. Thank you.
18	JUDGE STEARLEY: Recross based on
19	questions from the Bench, Public Counsel?
20	MS. BAKER: No, thank you.
21	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
22	MR. FINNEGAN: No, thank you.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any redirect?
24	MS. OTT: Yes. I would like to have
25	marked as Exhibit

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1
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: 16.
 2
                MS. OTT: -- 16 the chart in which
 3
   Mr. Harris was referring to several times during his
 4
   direct.
 5
                 (Exhibit No. 16 was marked for
 6
   identification.)
 7
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Is this the separate one
 8
   that --
                MS. OTT: This would be his updated chart
 9
10
   Yes. This is an update.
11
                THE WITNESS: Am I allowed to clarify
12
   what it is?
13
   REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
14
                Well, Mr. Harris --
          Q.
15
                I had mentioned after reading --
          Α.
16
                Mr. Harris, can I ask you a question
          Q.
   first?
17
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Yes. Wait until counsel
18
19
   directs you here.
                MR. FINNEGAN: Is this 16?
20
21
                MS. OTT: 17
22
                MS. BAKER: 16.
23
   BY MS. OTT:
24
                Mr. Harris, can you please explain what
          Q.
25
   you're looking at?
```

1 Okay. After -- after reading Α. 2 Mr. Sherry's rebuttal -- or surrebuttal, I realized that some of the headings on this table in my 3 testimony were probably not very clear. I knew what 4 5 it was -- what each column was representing, but it probably wasn't very clear to the reader. 6 7 So I, in an attempt to make it clearer -and let me -- let me just get back here to his 8 testimony. For instance, this is one of the things that -- that made me realize I needed to do something 10 11 to make it more easily explained was in -- on page 5 12 of Mr. Sherry's surrebuttal, he indicates, Utilizes 13 rate dollars as a constant for revenue and expenses, and goes on to explain that Timber Creek's accountant 14 15 and Staff are unaware of this accounting practice and that -- its standard is revenue minuses expenses. 16 I thought -- I didn't make it very clear as to what --17 what these rate dollars, if you will, are. 18 19 Q. when you're talking about rate dollars, 20 what -- can you explain that? 21 Okay. What I -- what I meant in -- let Α. 22 me flip back over to my original table and so I can 23 compare the two. What I mean by rate dollars is the revenue dollars that rates were set on -- or the rates 24

that were in the case and rates were, therefore,

1 established on those rates -when you say "in the case" --2 3 -- or those revenues. Α. -- are you referring to this case or the 4 0. 5 prior rate case? 6 I'm referring to the prior rate Α. No. 7 case. To go back to my rebuttal testimony, just so you can compare the two and understand what it is I'm 8 trying to clarify, on page 6 of my rebuttal testimony, 10 the headings, 12-Month Ended changed to Date Period, 11 the Description is -- basically has not changed except 12 I wanted to address different scenarios so the -- you know, there would be a lot of food for thought here. 13 14 So to that original table the first --15 the first table at the top includes the depreciation expense, because although it's not a cash outflow, it 16 is expense that could be netted against revenue. The 17 second table includes the depreciation and the 18 19 interest expense and the income taxes as well. 20 the third table just includes interest expense and the 21 income taxes. 22 And you're reading from column B? Ο. 23 Right. Column B. So I've used three Α. different scenarios here and they all ultimately come 24 25 up with the same result, just slightly different

amounts of it.

But column D -- well, column C, first of all, Number of Customers, stays the same. Column D, Revenue Dollars I've made it -- hopefully made it a little clearer, talking about the actual operating revenues either established in the case -- in the case of the known and measurable update, 9/30/2007 or in the an-- 2007 annual report, 2008 annual report and 2009 annual report.

Then the next column, column E, the table, it says Rate Dollars. And that would -- and I changed that in column E to reflect Revenue Dollars in Rates. So D is the actual operating revenues, E is the revenue dollars that were in rates.

And as you notice, that stays constant and it will stay constant until there's more -there's new rates set, until there's revenue dollars in -- in this case and the new rates are established based on those revenue dollars.

- Q. Okay. Now, column F?
- A. And column F is simply the actual operating revenues that have been collected, netted against the revenues that the rates are based on.
- Q. So is that when you took D -- the column D and minused the column E to get column F?

1	A. Yes. And then the 714 below that is the
2	cumulative amount since the last rate case.
3	Q. And that number has not changed
4	A. No.
5	Q for your three scenarios?
6	A. True. Because I didn't none of the
7	scenarios changed. Expense, revenues have been
8	constant. It's only what expenses are included or not
9	included. And like I say, I the one in the middle
10	includes them all so there's no question.
11	Q. Now
12	A. Continuing on over into column G, it's
13	basically on the right-hand side is basically the
14	left-hand side repeated only it's expenses instead of
15	revenues. So on my table where it says Expense
16	Dollars, that's now reflected in column G as Actual
17	Operating Expenses. H, the table says Rate Dollars.
18	It now reflects column H is Expense Dollars in
19	Rates.
20	Q. And when you say "in rates," that's their
21	rates established?
22	A. That the rates were based that the
23	rates were established on in the last rate case. That
24	was the level of expenses in the last rate case that
25	the rates were established using. And, again, that's

1 remained the same and will remain constant until this 2 case establishes a new expense level that these new rates will be based on. 3 Now, looking at your chart in column H, 4 0. 5 the number changes per your scenario. Can you explain 6 that? 7 Could you repeat that again a little Α. slower? Column H --8 So it appears you have three scenarios 9 Q. 10 here. 11 Α. Yes. 12 Q. That number is the same in scenario one 13 for all the years, but then it changes for scenario 14 two and then scenario three. Can you explain that? 15 And which number are you referring to? Α. The 555? 16 17 In column H. the --0. 18 Column H. Α. Okay. 19 Q. So if you --20 Α. That is because -- those expense -- and the first table, that includes the expense dollars 21 22 that were in rates for depreciation expense. changes in the second table because the second table 23 includes expense dollars included in rates for all the 24 25 expenses to include depreciation expense, interest

expense and income taxes.

Then the third table it changes to expense dollar in rates that column H changes because that table reflects the -- all the expenses in rates for all taxes -- I mean all expense including interest expense and income tax but not depreciation expense.

- Q. So what is the result of these three scenarios?
- A. Okay. In each of the scenarios if you take the cumulative expense and the revenues and net cumulative expenses against them, there is an excess of cumulative revenues over cumulative expenses. In other words, there's been more dollars above that amount set in rates for revenues collected then there has been dollars above expenses set -- established in rates that have been incurred under each scenario.

It's just a case of which scenario you look at, what level it is. But even in the lowest level, the one at the bottom, there's still the cumulative revenues less the cumulative expenses as -- from the actual results that have -- that the company has experienced since the last rate case. So 243,000 more in revenue collected than expense incurred.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Harris.

MS. OTT: I don't have anything else.

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1
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Harris, thank you
 2
   for your testimony. You may step down.
 3
                And Staff may call its next witness.
                MS. OTT: Judge, may I admit that into
 4
 5
   the record as Exhibit 16?
 6
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Yes, you may offer it at
 7
   this time. I've got an offering of Exhibit 16.
   there any objections to that offering?
 8
 9
                MR. FINNEGAN: Yes, your Honor. I'll
10
   object to it. It's the first time we've seen it, we
11
   haven't had a chance to really figure out the
12
   repercussions of it.
                MS. BAKER: Public Counsel has no
13
14
   objection.
                JUDGE STEARLEY: Well, Mr. Finnegan, I
15
   don't know that that's a valid legal objection for
16
17
   that particular piece of evidence. The Commission's
   willing to give you time though if you wish to --
18
   since it wasn't -- didn't come in as pre-filed
19
20
   testimony, if you want some additional time to perhaps
21
   file some response to that.
22
                MR. FINNEGAN: I don't think so, your
           I'll just withdraw my objection.
23
   Honor.
24
                JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Very well.
   Exhibit 16 will be admitted and received into
25
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1	evidence.
2	(Exhibit No. 16 was received into
3	evidence.)
4	MS. OTT: Staff would like to call Martin
5	Hummel. I'd like to mark as Exhibit 17 Martin
6	Hummel's direct testimony and as Exhibit 18, Martin
7	Hummel's rebuttal testimony.
8	(Exhibit Nos. 17 and 18 were marked for
9	identification.)
10	JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Hummel, if you'd
11	please raise your right hand.
12	(Witness sworn.)
13	MARTIN HUMMEL, being first duly sworn, testified as
14	follows:
15	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
16	Q. Please state your name for the record.
17	A. My name's Martin Hummel.
18	Q. And whom are you employed, in what
19	capacity?
20	A. I'm employed by the Missouri Public
21	Service Commission as an engineering or regulatory
22	engineering specialist.
23	Q. And are you the same Martin Hummel that
24	has previously caused to be filed prepared direct and
25	rebuttal testimony which have been previously

1	identified as Exhibits 17 and 18?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And with respect to your direct and
4	rebuttal, was that prepared by you or under your
5	direct supervision?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Do you have any corrections to make to
8	your direct or rebuttal at this time?
9	A. No.
10	Q. And if I were to ask you the same or
11	similar questions as contained within that testimony,
12	would your answers that you would give today be the
13	same or substantially similar?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. Would they be true and accurate to the
16	best of your information, knowledge and belief?
17	A. Yes.
18	MS. OTT: With that, I would like to
19	offer Exhibits Exhibit 17 and 18 into the record.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the
21	offering of Exhibits 17 and 18?
22	MR. FINNEGAN: No objection.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: They shall be received
24	and admitted into the record.
25	(Exhibit No. 17 and 18 were received into

1	evidence.)
2	MS. OTT: I will tender Mr. Hummel for
3	cross-examination.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: Public Counsel?
5	MS. BAKER: No questions. Thank you.
6	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
7	MR. FINNEGAN: No questions.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any questions from the
9	Bench for Mr. Hummel?
10	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT:
11	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hummel.
12	A. Good afternoon.
13	Q. I think I have just one question.
14	Does does Staff normally encourage companies like
15	Timber Creek to look for alternative forms of energy
16	when they can save money on fuel costs?
17	A. We would be we would encourage that
18	whatever we could in terms of any not just
19	alternative energies, but any methods to reduce the
20	cost with that could be conservation as well as
21	alternative energy production.
22	Q. Right. And I understand from your
23	testimony that you just feel that this in this
24	instance this was too speculative to
25	A. Yes, it was. It was a speculative

1 venture, I do believe. 2 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Okay. That's all 3 I had. Thank you. JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn? 4 5 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN: 6 Yeah, I just have a quick question. On Ο. 7 your rebuttal testimony you say -- you say that the comparison between wind, solar and natural gas is not 8 valid because you don't -- you didn't take into 10 account the possibility that natural gas will be 11 there. 12 Α. Correct. 13 Q. But if you assume that natural gas is 14 going to be there --15 I wouldn't -- no, I would not assume Α. 16 that. 17 I'm asking you to. 0. So --18 Α. Okay. So what I'm asking you to do is if you 19 Q. assume -- because the wind doesn't always blow and the 20 21 sun doesn't always shine as well. Right? 22 Α. Correct. 23 But if you assume that there is solar 0. power -- if one were to assume that solar power is 24 25 available and one were to assume wind power was

1	available, however variable that might be, and you
2	assume natural gas is available because you wouldn't
3	put a generation facility in if there weren't if
4	there wasn't a natural gas facility, then so if you
5	make those assumptions, is the are the pay-back
6	comparisons legitimate or
7	A. Yeah. I see what you're saying. Yes, if
8	you can assume that there is natural gas available,
9	then these comparisons that Mr. Sherry used in his
10	testimony would be valid.
11	Q. Okay. All right. That's that's the
12	only question I had. Thank you.
13	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any recross based on
14	questions from the Bench, Public Counsel?
15	MS. BAKER: No questions.
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
17	MR. FINNEGAN: No questions.
18	MS. OTT: Staff has no redirect.
19	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Very well. That
20	was very quick for you Mr. Hummel. You may step down.
21	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
22	JUDGE STEARLEY: I believe it's
23	Mr. Busch's turn.
24	MS. OTT: Staff would like to call James
25	Busch. Staff would like to have marked as Exhibit 19

1 the direct testimony of James Busch, as Exhibit 20 the rebuttal testimony of James Busch, and as 21 the 2 3 surrebuttal testimony of James Busch. (Exhibit Nos. 19, 20 and 21 were marked 4 5 for identification.) JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Busch, if you'd 6 7 raise your right hand, please. (Witness sworn.) 8 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. Please be 9 10 seated. And you may proceed. 11 JAMES BUSCH, having been sworn, testified as follows: 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT: 13 Q. Can you please state your name for the record. 14 15 James A. Busch, B-u-s-c-h, Α. 16 Q. whom are you employed, in what capacity? 17 I'm employed by the Missouri Public 18 Service Commission as a -- as the manager of the Water 19 and Sewer Department. And are you the same James Busch that has 20 Ο. 21 previously caused to file prepared direct, rebuttal 22 and surrebuttal testimony which has just been marked for identification as Exhibit 19, 20 and 21? 23 24 Α. I am. 25 And with respect to your direct, rebuttal Q.

1	and surrebuttal, was that prepared by you or under
2	your direct supervision?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Do you have any corrections to make to
5	that testimony at this time?
6	A. Not at this time.
7	Q. And if I were to ask you the same or
8	similar questions as contained within your direct,
9	rebuttal and surrebuttal, would the answers given
10	today be substantially the same?
11	A. They would.
12	Q. And would they be true and accurate to
13	your best knowledge, belief and information?
14	A. Yes.
15	MS. OTT: With that, I'd like to offer
16	Exhibit 19, 20 and 21 into the record.
17	JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the
18	offering of Exhibits 19, 20 and 21?
19	MR. FINNEGAN: No objection.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: Hearing none, they'll be
21	admitted and received into the record
22	(Exhibit Nos. 19, 20 and 21 were received
23	into evidence.)
24	MS. OTT: Staff would like to tender
25	Mr. Busch for cross-examination.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination
2	starting with Public Counsel?
3	MS. BAKER: No questions, thank you.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
5	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
6	Q. Mr. Busch, regarding the PSC assessment
7	issue in this case, which involving the
8	pass-through proposal of Timber Creek, you're saying
9	that would be single-issue rate-making?
10	A. I believe so, yes.
11	Q. What about pass-through of gross receipts
12	tax and franchise fees? Is that single-issue
13	rate-making?
14	MS. OTT: I'm going to object to this.
15	It calls for a legal conclusion.
16	MR. FINNEGAN: He just gave a legal
17	conclusion.
18	JUDGE STEARLEY: It will be overruled.
19	THE WITNESS: I'm what I'm familiar
20	with on gross receipts tax is that when the when a
21	company they are taken out of the company's cost of
22	service. They are not included in the company's cost
23	of service.
24	So like, for instance, when a company
25	comes in for a rate increase, first one of the

1	first things the auditors do is they pull out those
2	revenues so they're not involved in that cost of
3	service; whereas, the PSC assessment is a part of
4	the of the company's cost of service. So I don't
5	necessarily look at that as the same.
6	Q. And why isn't the the franchise fee
7	considered a cost of service? They got to pay it.
8	A. I don't know.
9	Q. Are you aware that Timber Creek is
10	proposing we take it out of the company's cost of
11	service and pass through directly in this case?
12	A. I am familiar that they want one of
13	the one of their proposals is to pull the PSC
14	assessment out and do a straight pass-through.
15	Q. And identifying same on the bill as a PSC
16	assessment?
17	A. That is correct.
18	Q. And the gross receipts tax is an
19	assessment on the utility's gross receipts, isn't it?
20	It's a tax on the utility's gross receipts?
21	A. I'm assuming that. I'm not here to
22	discuss gross receipts tax.
23	Q. Well, there is a similarity though, isn't
24	there?
25	A. I'm not familiar that all gross receipts

taxes is passed on to the customer's bill separately. 1 2 Aren't you aware that a lot of utilities 3 pass on gross receipts taxes separately? Not -- not as a specific line item on 4 Α. 5 their bill, no, I'm not. 6 Have you ever seen a Kansas City Power & Q. Light bill? 7 8 Α. No, I have not. MS. BAKER: I'm going to object to the 9 10 relevance of the testimony as far as the use and the 11 background of gross tax receipts in this case. This 12 is beyond the issues for the case. I understand how 13 it connects as far as -- as making the point why one is and one isn't passed through, but I think we've 14 gone beyond that particular issue. 15 16 JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Finnegan? 17 MR. FINNEGAN: It's in our testimony and 18 Mr. Sherry's surrebuttal comparing this -- this PSC 19 assessment to gross receipt taxes. It's -- basically it's the same thing. This is a tax on the utility 20 21 under a different name, but it's a state agency that's 22 enforcing an assessment, which is the same as taxes. 23 And I can't see any difference. 24 JUDGE STEARLEY: The objection will be 25 overruled. I'll allow the testimony.

BY MR. FINNEGAN:

- Q. With respect to the contingency fund, I understand your objection to this -- well, you're -- you're not objecting to it.
- A. I am -- Staff is not recommending that a contingency fund for Timber Creek be established at this time.
- Q. Because there's no safeguards at this point?
- A. As I think was mentioned earlier today, this would be a creative way to address one of the issues that's impacting the small water and sewer companies. There are a lot of issues that need to be ironed out to ensure that it is set up properly so that once it's established, it will be established in a way that can be utilized for more than just Timber Creek.

So at this time with some of the information that we've seen through the testimony of Timber Creek, we're not prepared to say that it can be established at this -- at this time.

- Q. You're not interested even in exploratory or experimental treatment in this case to see how things work?
- A. I am not. Because the fear is if you set

something up haphazardly, quickly just to try to satisfy one particular party and it backfires tremendously, we may never have an opportunity to do one again because the -- because of the unintended consequences that -- that occur that we didn't think about completely destroy the ability to do it for any other company.

when I think about this issue -- and I've been thinking about it for a while, I want to make sure that we get it set up properly for all the companies that have the ability to utilize it. And to take a chance on doing it really wrong the first time and never being able to bring it up again or having a lot of doubts about that is just something that I don't think is a prudent thing to do right now.

- Q. If the Commission were to order you to do this in this case and to come up with safeguards that you think are -- are reasonable for consumers and the whole methodology over -- and, you know, maybe over the next three months you work -- we work on this together to get it --
- A. If the Commission orders Staff to do it, Staff will work very hard to get that accomplished by the time -- by the deadline they set.

MR. FINNEGAN: Okay. That's all the

1	questions.
2	JUDGE STEARLEY: Questions from the
3	Bench, Commissioner Jarrett?
4	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT:
5	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Busch.
6	A. Good afternoon, Commissioner.
7	Q. How are the PSC assessments normally
8	handled in a rate case?
9	A. The PSC assessments in a rate case are
LO	I'm assuming are normally handled the amount that
L1	the assessment is is what's built into the rates as a
L2	part of the cost of service and then passed along to
L3	the consumers in that manner.
L4	Q. And do you know in this case was that
L5	part of the I guess it wasn't part of the
L6	settlement agreement, but is Staff recommending enough
L7	to cover assessments in the in the company's
L8	rate-base?
L9	A. It's my information that whatever the
20	amount of the assessment was that came up last July is
21	the amount that's built into rates for this case.
22	Q. Okay. Now, you're the director of the
23	water division. Correct?
24	A. The manager, yes.
25	O. The manager.

1	A. I don't know which is a better term,
2	SO
3	Q. I don't know. I may have just given you
4	a promotion. Are you involved in settlement
5	negotiations routinely in these in these types of
6	small water rate cases?
7	A. I don't get involved necessarily that I'm
8	there talking to all the parties, but I do get updates
9	from the my staff and I talk to the auditors and
10	EMSD folks. So I'm aware of what's going on, but I'm
11	not necessarily in the room every single time we have
12	settlement negotiations.
13	Q. Well, I'll ask you this question. You
14	may not know the answer, but I want to ask it. Is
15	it is it considered a matter of routine settlement
16	agreements before the Commission that they include a
17	provision providing for rate case expenses to be
18	handled in a future case?
19	A. That I'm I'm not aware of. I believe
20	that our auditors try to look at the fact that there
21	is some rate case expense normally. And a lot of the
22	small cases are done within, you know, the 150-day
23	window so there's there's not a lot of outside
24	consulting or attorney's fees or stuff like that.
25	But I assume that there might be a little

bit of rate case expense that is built into the cost
of service, but there's not -- I don't think it is
specifically spelled out in any sort of the
agreements.
O. I guess what I'm trying to understand

Q. I guess what I'm trying to understand is -- I mean rate case is a normal expense that is recovered in rates. And in this case it wasn't. This was a settlement agreement and apparently they weren't recovered and so the company's now coming forward and asking for the rate case expense from the last rate case.

So I'm wondering what happened with that case that doesn't happen with any other rate case that comes before us? I mean normally companies don't come before us in a rate case and say, We want recovery for rate case expenses in the last rate case. Did something fall through the cracks in the agreement?

A. Referring to that last case, I wasn't -- I wasn't on the water sewer staff at that time so I haven't really gone back and looked at the issue of what happened in that case that put us at where we are today.

Q. Okay.

24 A. I just don't know.

25 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: All right.

1 Thanks. No further questions. 2 JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn? 3 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN: 4 when you do a stipulation and agreement, 0. 5 do you typically believe that all issues in that case are resolved through -- if it's a global stipulation 6 and agreement rather than partial, that all issues are 7 resolved in that case based on the stipulation and 8 agreement? 10 Α. If we have a disposition agreement that 11 is signed by all three parties or signed by the 12 company and Staff and not opposed to by the Office of 13 Public Counsel, it is my understanding that everybody is signing off that it's a -- it's a done deal. 14 15 And there are no outstanding issues --0. 16 There are no outstanding issues. Α. 17 -- in that particular rate case as a 0. 18 general manner? Just generally. They may go away not 19 Α. 20 necessarily happy with it, but the -- there's no more 21 issues to be resolved at that time. 22 Okay. Let me -- I want to move onto the Ο. contingency fees. So part of your testimony seemed to 23 indicate that part of the issue was -- it was a time 24 25 issue, that at the point at which this was getting to

1 close to the hearing, that there just simply wasn't enough time to design a safeguard system that would 2 get you comfortable with -- with a contingency 3 arrangement: is that correct? 4 5 That is one aspect of it, yes. So let me -- let me ask you to flesh that 6 Q. out a little bit. What are the issues in -- let's put 7 aside any legal bars for this. Let's assume that the 8 statute gives us authority in order to do it. what are some of the issues that concern 10 11 you? And forget about the implementation aspect of it 12 too because, you know, one of the good -- great things about PSC cases is that they have absolutely no 13 precedential value. So if we screw something up, we 14 15 can always come back and fix it in the next rate case, which helps me sleep a lot better at night. 16 17 But -- so but tell me in terms of -- so not things that affect other cases, but in this 18 19 particular case what are -- what are the issues that 20 concern you about having kind of this contingency fee? 21 And this would not be an exclusive list. Α. 22 Sure. Absolutely. Ο. 23 I don't know that I've come up with Α. everything, but some of the things that strike me 24

would be -- and some of the ones I do -- I will admit

1 that Mr. Sherry has kind of addressed some of those. what type of account would be set up, how would the --2 what level of expense, what types of expenses would be 3 included, what types of expenses or capital 4 5 improvements would not be included, what the reporting requirements would be, how often would they have to 6 let Staff and Public Counsel know what's going on, 7 what would the cap be, how high would it go. 8 9 At some point in time, you know, assuming 10 that you build in a certain amount to be collected on 11 a monthly basis per customer, if you reach that cap, 12 what would trigger -- how would those no longer be 13 collected? Since it's built into, you know, maybe the cost of service, all of a sudden now you have to have 14 15 another case come in to pull that out? You know, is there a secondary tariff that's in the background that 16 says date certain or when the fund reaches a certain 17 level, it automatically -- the monthly -- or the 18 19 consumer rate falls? 20 who would -- who had -- the company, you 21 know, when -- when would they have access to the 22 funds? If an emergency would happen that, you know, something we had already agreed to or is the type of 23 situation where they could get to the funds, would the 24

company first be allowed to expend the funds and then

be allowed to come in and say, Oh, by the way, we just 1 2 expended \$20,000? Or do they have to come into Staff and/or Public Counsel? Do they have to come to the 3 Commission? Who's the one that signs off on that? 4 5 it something that the company itself has sole discretion on getting the funds? What happens when 6 7 the company gets sold? As of right now, if it's a transfer of 8 assets, they have to come in before the Commission to get permission, but if it's just a 100 percent sale of 10 11 stock, we may never know about it until six months 12 after the fact when we go out to do an inspection. 13 what would happen to those dollars? 14 You know, whereas, you know, we may not 15 have an issue with Mr. Sherry, he may sell to 16 somebody, not know about it and that person goes, I got \$100,000 sitting around here, I can do whatever I 17 want with it. 18 19 So those are the types of issues that, 20 you know, make me want to pause before I go ahead and 21 say, I'm comfortable going through that right now in -- in the time frame that we have. We have got the 22 WW case. I agree with Mr. Sherry that we focused on 23 the assessment first. This was the second -- kind of 24

25

the second issue.

We haven't been able to get a lot of work

done on it, but we're changing the way -- potentially

changing the way that has worked for decades. Let's

make sure that we do it properly and vet out all those

issues.

Q. So I'm not going to ask you to sign off on a proposal obviously, but I'm going to ask you if we -- give you a hypothetical and see if you are more comfortable with it than you would be comfortable. So if we said, Okay, they've asked for 170,000 in contingency.

We say, you know what? This a pilot program so we're going to give you 75, we're going to give you less than half of that, we're going to pull out -- and I think to Ms. Baker's point she made earlier, we're going to pull out anything that may be paying for violations of state law or regulations or federal law or regulations.

We're going to say, You can't use it for departing employees. We're going to say, You may use it for pipes in the ground basically. And before you use it for pipes in the ground, before you can spend a dollar of that, you have to come back and get approval from the PSC and maybe you can say unless Staff and Public Counsel don't object. If they -- in their

1 review they say that they believe it's prudent, they 2 don't object, then they can go ahead and do it. would controls like that make you feel 3 more comfortable with an arrangement? 4 5 It's definitely those types of controls are things we would want to have on. So you're 6 7 getting more comfortable, but there's still issues that could be out there that we're not. 8 9 Q. Let me ask you this question: If you had 10 more time -- if we said, Look, we're going to put you 11 in a room and we want you to -- because -- and if we 12 called it a pilot program -- because you're right, we are -- this hasn't really been done before and there 13 are all sor-- there are implications to other people. 14 I mean do we want -- do we want Missouri American 15 coming in saying, We want a contingency fee and we 16 want it to be \$100 million? So those may not be 17 things that we want to have or they may be things we 18 19 want to have. 20 But if we say, okay, we've got -- do 21 you -- we've got a small -- fairly small water company 22 here, water and sewer, they've requested this, is there a pilot program that we could set up. Do you 23

think given more time -- and by more time I'm not

talking about like a year to do a rate-making, but I'm

24

1 saying if we put everybody in a room and said, Look, after the evidentiary hearing closes, is there any way 2 you guys could get together and come up with 3 conditions that you think could be agreed to by 4 5 everybody that would make a pilot program make sense? 6 I don't -- if -- if you're saying that, 7 you know, there -- there is opposition to it and more time really isn't going to get you there because it's 8 a much longer process than we have in this case, then we're just going to have to decide how we -- how we 10 11 feel about it. We're just going to have to decide up or down and if we put conditions on it, we'd have to 12 do it ourself. 13 14 But do you think given the time frame of 15 this case, do you believe that it would be possible in the time frame of this case to come up with a pilot 16 program that would be acceptable to all the parties? 17 I know I'm putting you on the spot, I'm not going to 18 hold you to your answer. And obviously you're not the 19 20 company and you're not the Office of Public Counsel. 21 JUDGE STEARLEY: And before you answer 22 that, The Operation of law date in this case is 23 April 10th. 24 Thank you, Judge. MS. BAKER: 25 Is it possible? THE WITNESS: Many

things are possible. Is it probable?

BY COMMISSIONER GUNN:

Q. I'm looking for whether it's worth us doing. Because if not, then we just are going to have to decide. We're going to take this evidentiary hearing as it stands and we're going to have to come in and decide whether there are things that the Commissioners are comfortable with in order -- that says, you know, both on the legal side about whether the statute authorizes it, we'll have to cross that threshold issue and then we'll have to decide and craft -- craft something that -- if we want to do it, we craft ourselves.

So -- so that's -- I'm not -- I'm not looking for, you know -- it was technically possible for me to win the Mega Millions yesterday. Not likely to happen and I certainly wouldn't make a bet on it. But I'm looking for is it -- you know, is it worth us saying, Hey, in a briefing schedule let's -- let's take one more shot at this and see if we can figure this out to resolve one of -- I mean actually I want to compliment -- I think you've done a pretty good job of narrowing the issues. We have five issues here, all of them with pretty -- I mean the answers are there somewhere.

1	And I'm giving I'm giving you a shot
2	to say yes or no, but either I want you to be
3	honest with me. If you don't think that it's possible
4	to happen and if you don't think that it's likely to,
5	you know, I want to know that too.
6	A. With the operation of law date where it
7	is and knowing what has to be done with the rate case,
8	you know, with having to build it into the rates and
9	everything else, it really limits even more the time.
10	At the I just I don't see the extra
11	30 days that we would have, 45 days to get the
12	appropriate staff involved and the company and the OPC
13	involved, I just don't see I don't see that
14	happening.
15	Q. That is a fair answer and I appreciate
16	it.
17	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I don't have anything
18	else.
19	JUDGE STEARLEY: I don't believe there's
20	any other questions from the Bench. Any recross,
21	Public Counsel?
22	MS. BAKER: No, thank you.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
24	MR. FINNEGAN: Yes. Just a couple
25	questions.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:

- Q. In response to Commissioner Gunn with respect to -- you just said you'd have to build it into rates. Could it not be a surcharge of 50 cents like we're proposing, 50 cent surcharge which does not have to go in the rates?
- A. That would be one possibility. I don't know that Staff would be in favor of something like that.
- Q. And in response to one of the first questions from Commissioner Gunn, you gave a litany of conditions that you were considering. Seems like we're almost there. I don't know how many more -- I'd have to read the transcript to see what all he said, but apparently you had a lot of good questions. And we're talking about a pilot program. And Timber Creek is certainly amenable to it.
- A. I'm not -- I don't foresee -- look at this necessarily as just -- I'm looking at this more when we build this, this is going to be -- it's going to be a blueprint for many other ones to follow.

So even though I think we have established that there are, you know, some of the things that we are concerned about to come into complete agreement on those, I think it's going to be

1	difficult with all the parties. And I think there
2	might there are other issues that are out there
3	that, you know, once we get people we really get
4	down to it, we're going to find out, so
5	Q. But this is Timber Creek's rate case
6	right now. This is
7	A. I understand.
8	Q. This is its chance to get it or it won't
9	be back for another three years probably.
LO	A. That's that's the decision that Timber
L1	Creek makes.
L2	Q. I mean Timber Creek's made a decision.
L3	Right? They're asking for this at this time.
L4	A. They're asking for it. From what they've
L5	asked for at this time, we're not prepared to agree to
L6	one at this time.
L7	MR. FINNEGAN: That's all the questions.
L8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Redirect?
L9	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
20	Q. Mr. Busch, earlier Mr. Finnegan was
21	discussing I think right after the gross receipt
22	and franchise tax discussion about the pass-through.
23	How would the PSC assessment pass-through how would
24	that work if it was created?
25	A. I don't know how it would work. All I

could do is guess how it would work based on some other pass-throughs I'm familiar with, something like a fuel adjustment clause, which is a pass-through or purchased gas adjustment.

You know, some of the things I would notice or would think would have to be done is you'd have to re -- you know, everybody -- all the companies already have an amount of assessment built into their rates so pull that out, those are extra dollars that are in every company's rates that would have to be pulled out because the customers would already be paying that in rates. And then to pull that out to do another surcharge, you know, they'd be double collecting so you'd have to pull that out.

So I think you'd have to have, you know, at least 80 companies coming in for a rate case to try to ensure that you had the right amount of assessment collected. Because if you're going to pull it out, I think that's what you'd want to do. You'd have to have a true-up at the end of the year to verify that the amounts that were collected were the amounts that were actually due to the Commission. And then when you do that, you have to have a true-up audit. They take time. You have to have reporting requirements for these smaller utilities to have to -- to do.

1 And one of the things I've learned over 2 the last few years as the manager is, you know, some 3 of our small systems with -- they don't have computers, they have a hard time meeting their annual 4 5 reports, doing that every year. So if you add another level of complexity I think would make it even more 6 challenging, would give more time for Staff to have to 7 look at this, which would even -- which push it up 8 even more so we'd have to have more time. So, you know, maybe there's another way 10 11 to do it, but that's just -- that's how I was 12 foreseeing it and that's -- doesn't seem appealing to 13 me. 14 Okay. Now, when you were discussing the Q. 15 contingency reserve fund, I know you gave Commissioner Gunn a list of issues or potential issues. 16 I quess I just -- my question would be -- maybe you already 17 answered it -- to explain it a little bit further and 18 how it could affect the other utilities in the 19 20 industry. Other utilities in all industries or --21 Α. 22 Or -- in the sewer and/or all. Q. 23 I mean every -- I think if you approve it Α. at a -- you'd have the Missouri American's, AmerenUEs 24

would come in wanting to have contingency funds.

1	You'd have all the smaller systems would have
2	you know, would want
3	MR. FINNEGAN: I'm going to object to
4	this. This is not responsive and it's pure
5	speculation as to what other utilities are going to
6	do. This is for this company for this rate case.
7	MS. OTT: This is a question based on
8	concerns from a question from Commissioner Gunn.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: I believe Commissioner
10	Gunn opened the door on this questioning and I'll
11	overrule the objection.
12	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I did do that.
13	THE WITNESS: I think the main thing
14	would be the concern that a lot of the other
15	utilities, especially large utilities, would want to
16	start having contingency funds as well. And that's
17	something that I don't think you know, when we
18	think about this, we think about the small utilities.
19	BY MS. OTT:
20	Q. I think when you were discussing the
21	collection of the contingency fund, what type of
22	account would this have to be in?
23	A. That's one thing I think I'd have to get
24	with our auditors about to determine what kind of
25	account it would be put in.

1	Q. Would it be managed by the Staff, the
2	Commission, the company?
3	A. I think that was one of the questions I
4	had, who would have control over those dollars. I
5	don't know.
6	Q. Further, in regards to the contingency
7	reserve fund, how are the funds collected that are
8	then invested into the company be treated? Would they
9	be CIAC or would they be capitalized rate-base?
10	A. I think one thing that and I know I
11	didn't mention it, probably should have is that
12	these dollars would not be dollars that would be built
13	into the company's rate-base. They would be outside
14	of rates. I don't know if they'd be CIAC or, you
15	know, what the appropriate term would be, but it
16	definitely wouldn't be dollars that would build
17	rate-base for the company, and ultimately would not be
18	beneficial to the company's long-term health if they
19	didn't do their own investment
20	MS. OTT: I don't have any further
21	redirect. Thank you.
22	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you
23	very much for your testimony, Mr. Busch.
24	We're on auto pilot here. I don't have
25	to tell anybody. The witness is right there.

EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 3 01-05-2011

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THE WITNESS: I'm the last one.
 1
                MS. BAKER: He's the last one.
 2
 3
                COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Last, but not
   least.
 4
 5
                THE WITNESS: I don't know about that,
 6
   but still last.
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Let's start with Exhibit
 7
 8
   22.
 9
                MS. BAKER: 22 would be direct testimony
10
   of Ted Robertson, 23 rebuttal and 24 surrebuttal.
11
                 (Exhibit Nos. 22, 23 and 24 were marked
12
   for identification.)
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Mr. Robertson, if you'd
13
14
   please raise your right hand.
15
                 (Witness sworn.)
16
                 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. You may
17
   proceed, Ms. Baker.
18
                MS. BAKER: Thank you.
19
   TED ROBERTSON, having been sworn, testified as
   follows:
20
21
   DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
22
                would you please state your name for the
          Q.
   record and spell it, please.
23
24
                Ted Robertson, T-e-d R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n.
          Α.
25
                Could you state who you are employed by
          Q.
```

1	and in what capacity?
2	A. I'm employed by the Missouri Office of
3	the Public Counsel as chief public utility accountant.
4	Q. And are you the same Ted Robertson who
5	prepared and filed direct testimony, rebuttal
6	testimony and surrebuttal testimony in this case?
7	A. Yes, I am.
8	Q. And this testimony was prepared by you?
9	A. It was.
LO	Q. And is this testimony correct and true as
L1	far as you know or do you have corrections to it
L2	today?
L3	A. I have no corrections.
L4	Q. Okay. And if you were asked the same
L5	questions, would you have substantially the same
L6	answers today?
L7	A. Yes, I would.
L8	Q. And are these answers true and accurate
L9	to the best of your belief?
20	A. Yes, they are.
21	MS. BAKER: I will offer Exhibits 22, 23
22	and 24 and tender the witness.
23	JUDGE STEARLEY: Are there any objections
24	to the offering of Exhibits 22, 23 and 24?
25	MR. FINNEGAN: No objection.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Hearing none, they will
2	be admitted and received into the record.
3	(Exhibit Nos. 22, 23 and 24 were received
4	into evidence.)
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: And cross-examination,
6	we'll begin with Staff.
7	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT:
8	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Robertson.
9	A. Good afternoon.
10	Q. Can you please tell me how you deemed
11	Mr. Sherry to be an entry level general manager?
12	A. By the fact that he has been employed
13	with the utility for approximately three years.
14	Q. So did you base it on any of his prior
15	work experience?
16	A. There was discussion that he was an
17	engineer and executive director for the Johnson
18	Wastewater Johnson County Wastewater, but that was
19	the extent. There was no detail in what those
20	positions entailed.
21	Q. Now, can I have you turn to page 6 of
22	your rebuttal testimony?
23	A. Say again.
24	Q. Page 6.
25	A. Rebuttal?

1	Q. Yes.
2	A. Okay.
3	Q. And then in lines 12 through 15 you are
4	comparing unionized job activities to nonunionized
5	jobs. So is it your opinion that union members should
6	be paid or compensated more than nonunion members?
7	A. It's my experience that unionized jobs,
8	particularly in metropolitan areas, the wages or
9	salaries you can actually wages are usually higher,
10	yes.
11	Q. Do you believe that to be fair? I mean
12	should just because you join a union, should you
13	not be compensated at a higher level because you
14	didn't have a collective bargaining agreement to
15	establish your salary?
16	A. I'm not sure I understand the question.
17	Q. So do you think that's fair, because
18	you're a nonunion member that you should be you
19	shouldn't be compensated the same as a union member
20	because you don't have a collective bargaining
21	agreement to protect your wages?
22	A. I don't have an answer to that. I don't
23	know whether it's fair or not.
24	Q. In your opinion, do you think somebody
25	who's not a member of a union should automatically be

1	paid less than a member of a union?
2	A. Do I think they should automatically be
3	paid less?
4	Q. Yes.
5	A. In my opinion, no.
6	MS. OTT: I don't have any other
7	questions.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Cross-examination,
9	Timber Creek?
10	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
11	Q. All right. Following up on that question
12	there, on page 6 of your rebuttal testimony, just that
13	same thing I think you were asked about. In fact
14	you say, In fact, some of the line 12, page 6, some
15	of the MERIC payroll information likely includes
16	unionized jobs and activities, which I believe usually
17	includes pay raises that exceed similar nonunionized
18	job and activity pay raise.
19	That's pretty much speculation, isn't it?
20	A. I consider it my opinion based on my
21	knowledge of looking at union pay rates versus
22	nonunionized pay rates in the 20 years that I've
23	worked in this industry.
24	Q. But you're saying the MERIC payroll
25	information likely includes unionized jobs. How sure

1	is how likely is that?
2	A. I believe that's fairly likely. The
3	Department of Economic Development the MERIC survey
4	looks at all size companies, union and nonunion
5	nonunion so it likely includes unionized jobs.
6	Q. But you don't know how many unionized
7	jobs are considered in each of these categories?
8	A. We looked at the aggregated data of the
9	survey, not the individual items.
10	Q. Now, let's so you looked at the MERIC
11	JUDGE STEARLEY: Excuse me,
12	Mr. Finnegan
13	MR. FINNEGAN: Yes.
14	JUDGE STEARLEY: could I get you
15	you're reading my mind now.
16	MR. FINNEGAN: I'm sorry.
17	BY MR. FINNEGAN:
18	Q. You looked at the MERIC statistics,
19	whatever we call these. And I assume that there's
20	quite a substantial number of positions that are
21	covered under this?
22	A. There is.
23	Q. And you picked out four positions that
24	you thought were close to what these positions would
25	be?

1	A. Actually, I initially started with
2	Mr. Sherry's representation of what he the company
3	was requesting and looked in the categories that he
4	was basing his salaries on. And since his data was
5	from the 2007 MERIC, I looked at the 2009, which was
6	more current.
7	Q. Okay.
8	A. And you provided work papers, did you
9	not, to show that what you looked at?
10	A. I it's discussed in my testimony.
11	MR. FINNEGAN: Can I get some exhibits?
12	JUDGE STEARLEY: This will be marked as
13	Exhibit 25 and 26.
14	(Exhibit Nos. 25 and 26 were marked for
15	identification.)
16	BY MR. FINNEGAN:
17	Q. I hand you what's been marked as
18	Exhibit 25, Mr. Robertson. And is that some of the
19	work papers that you provided for four positions?
20	A. Yes, it is.
21	Q. And let me hand you what's been marked as
22	Exhibit 26. Can you identify that?
23	A. This is the first time I've seen this.
24	Q. It's from your work papers.
25	A. Okay.

1	Q. It appears to be a summary of
2	A. Yeah. Just give me a second here. Yes,
3	I think that's what it is. It is a summary of this
4	data, these MERIC, M-E-R-I-C, amounts and then the
5	amounts that we recommend.
6	Q. Now, looking at Exhibit 25, on the first
7	page you got the general and operations manager.
8	A. Okay.
9	Q. Then my understanding is from this you
10	looked at the mean the Kansas City, the mean, the
11	entry, the experienced and the median incomes. And
12	you determined the entry level was the most proper one
13	for Mr. Sherry?
14	A. I did.
15	Q. Have you heard you heard Mr. Sherry
16	testify, did you not, about his experiences?
17	A. I did.
18	Q. And you still say he's inexperienced?
19	A. As as the executive officer of the
20	utility company, yes. Particularly this utility
21	company.
22	Q. Three years is not enough to get
23	experience?
24	A. I think it is. And I gave I took the
25	entry level and I adjusted that for wage increases

1 over that three-year period, yes. 2 And the fact that he's been an officer of 3 this company since 1995 and been involved in the -- on the board of directors with it is --4 5 That's correct. And you also have to -other factors play into that, the size of the company. 6 7 You're looking at a 1,500-customer company with four employees, counting Mr. Sherry. It's not exactly a 8 large entity. 10 Ο. But this entity has to provide the same 11 sewer service that a large service, does it -- does it 12 not? That's the basic premise. 13 Α. 14 And it has to provide it as economically Q. 15 and efficiently as it can? That's the basic premise also. 16 Α. 17 A lot of that falls on the operation 0. 18 manager? 19 Α. I'm sorry? 20 A lot of that falls on a general manager, Q. 21 does it not? 22 Α. It does. 23 So if you were to say, Well, he was 0. experienced, then it's \$121,389 to start with. Right? 24 25 First off, you have to look at what Α.

1 those -- those dollars represent. As I said in my 2 testimony, there are various sized companies, some large, some small, some unionized, some not. Those 3 dollars are maybe starting points to look at trying to 4 find a market rate for the position, but the -- just 5 by picking out and saying the experienced amount is 6 the amount you should put in for this small utility I 7 don't believe is valid. 8

- And this is -- that's in your opinion? 0.
- 10 Α. That's my professional opinion, yes.
- Q. Okay. On the second page of Exhibit 25, you have office and administrative support occupations. And this is what you use for the office 14 manager?
 - It is. Α.

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- You're familiar with what the office 16 0. 17 manager's duties are?
 - I read the information that was provided Α. by Mr. Sherry. I believe it's also attached to Mr. Prenger's testimony. The reason I used this position is because the information that Mr. Sherry relied on was for a secretary and not for an office administrator. So I was trying to find a more -- a position that was more representative of what the employee held.

1 Did you see the -- Mr. Sherry's office Q. 2 manager proposed salary in his testimony? 3 Okay. Now we're talking about the office Α. manager versus -- okay. Go ahead. Say it again. 4 5 There's only one. Q. 6 Right. You're right. I misunderstood Α. 7 what you were saying. There's only one person. The office 8 Q. manager --10 Α. I was thinking operations --11 Q. -- or office clerk. 12 -- the operational manager. Go ahead Α. 13 with your question. 14 I'm talking about the officer manager. Q. 15 Okay. Α. wouldn't there be one of these 16 0. 17 occupational employment statistics for office 18 managers? Actually, if you look through -- now, 19 Α. 20 this -- what you provided here and what I provided 21 work papers is just a summary -- just a title for that 22 position. But in the category of office help, there's a whole listing of different types of positions. And 23 there's a great number of them for different types of 24 25 office positions. And there was not a position

1 that -- specifically named as that category. 2 You said you looked at Mr. Prenger's 3 listing of what the office manager's duties were? Yes. Α. 4 5 And I think that's contained on page 11 0. of -- of Exhibit 8, his direct testimony. And it 6 7 tells what the office manager's duties are -- job duties are? 8 Α. Okay. 10 Ο. Office and administrative support could 11 be just a clerk, couldn't it be? 12 Α. I don't think so. Not -- not -- not at 13 the range of salary that it's at. If it is, it could be a possibility of a clerk on the low end or it could 14 15 be the administrative secretary as -- as described by the job position in Mr. Prenger's testimony. This --16 17 I would admit that this is not probably the best position, but out of the data that we were able to 18 19 find, this was probably the best position we could find. 20 21 Well, it has no description of what an Q. 22 office and administrative support occupation is, 23 does -- is there? 24 No, it does not. Α. Whereas, the other four that you utilized 25 Q.

1	do have some kind of description of what these people
2	might be doing. And if you could is that correct?
3	A. Just one second, please. That that is
4	correct.
5	Q. Okay. Looking at the fourth page, the
6	wastewater and liquid wastewater treatment and system
7	operator, I'm assuming you're comparing this to the
8	position of yeah, plant and system collection
9	the collection system operator?
10	A. The assistant system operator, yes.
11	Q. And have you looked at the duties of the
12	plant and collection system operator as set forth in
13	Mr. Prenger's testimony?
14	A. As I said, I have read all those for all
15	the positions.
16	Q. And it seems like there's a lot more
17	duties involved than just sitting there and looking at
18	a control board?
19	A. Well, that and this description says
20	control boards, but it also says to operate, control
21	the entire process or system of machines.
22	Q. A system of machines?
23	A. Yeah. Well, pumps are machines.
24	Q. Pumps
25	A. Wastewater treatment facilities are

1 machines. It's machinery. 2 There's quite a few machines -- pumps on 3 the system, aren't there? 4 There are usually a number, yes, but it 5 is machinery, yes. 6 And there's some wastewater treatment Ο. facilities that are also involved in this? 7 It is a mechanized process, there's no 8 Α. doubt. Biological also. On page 10 of Mr. Prenger's testimony it 10 Ο. 11 says, The system operator's job description -- there's 12 a whole list of things he does starting on -- at line 9 at page 10 carrying over to line 3 of page 11; 13 is that correct? 14 15 Do you want me to go there? Α. 16 I just want you to look at it, yeah. Ο. 17 Okay. Which is this? His rebuttal Α. 18 again? 19 Q. No, it's in his direct. 20 Okay. Just one second. And the page Α. 21 number? 22 Page 10 and 11. Ο. 23 Α. Okav. Seems like there's a lot more duties here 24 Ο. than operator control of the system and machines, but 25

1 this is the one that you chose. Correct? 2 I did choose this. In addition to this. 3 I also went out and looked for other substantiating evidence in which case I found a job offer -- job 4 advertisement from the City of Kansas City for a -- a 5 similar position and approximately the same wage rate 6 7 and salary wage, so yes. Do you know if that job was taken? 8 Ο. At the time I put it in testimony, it was 9 Α. 10 currently open. 11 Q. Now, if you would turn to page 12 for the 12 position of general manager. Are we still on Prenger's testimony? 13 14 On Prenger's testimony. And starting on Q. line 5, going through line 14 on page 14 is a list of 15 the general manager's duties for this company? 16 17 I'm sorry. Where are we at now? Α. Page 12 -- starting on page 12, general 18 Q. 19 manager. 20 Α. All right. 21 There's quite a list of items that the Q. 22 general manager does for this company; is that 23 correct? According to the information Mr. Sherry 24 Α. 25 provided, yes.

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1	Q. And wouldn't it be take an experienced
2	person to do this kind of work?
3	A. I he does have experience.
4	Q. He does, doesn't he?
5	A. Three years' worth.
6	Q. With this company?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Before that, he was a consultant for the
9	company. Before that, he was with the Johnson County
10	Wastewater group 15 years a number of years. When
11	is it enough experience for you to be satisfied?
12	A. I am satisfied. That's the reason I put
13	in the rate of for him of approximately \$53,000 a
14	year to run a company of 1,500 customers
15	Q. Based on an entry level
16	A and 3 additional employees.
17	Q. Based on an entry level position you
18	adjusted
19	A. No, no. Started entry level, increased
20	for cost of living for the three years he's been
21	there, yes. I think that \$53,000 a year is fairly
22	sufficient for a company of this size. And I provided
23	sufficient information from MERIC and actually job
24	offerings in the City of Kansas City that substantiate
25	it.

1 Did you provide a job offering for the Q. 2 general manager in Kansas City? 3 I believe so. Α. General manager --4 0. 5 For the -- no, not for general manager. Α. 6 -- job? Q. 7 No, you're correct. Not for the general Α. 8 manager. And if you look at pages 14 and 15 of 9 Q. Mr. Prenger's direct testimony where it lists the job 10 11 duties of the plant manager. And you've determined 12 that the plant manager is a first-line supervisor or the manager of production and whatever else is based 13 on page 3 of your schedule of Exhibit 25? 14 15 Α. Yes. There was no position of plant manager 16 0. 17 that was in this thing that you could have referred 18 to? 19 Α. I would have to go through and look 20 again. I don't recall seeing a plant manager that fit 21 the category as well as what the employee of the 22 company is. 23 So you selected these four out of a list Q. of how many? 24 Oh, I -- there's a bunch for the 25 Α.

1	individual
2	Q. Hundreds?
3	A. Well, without there's probably in
4	that category, probably close to a hundred different
5	job classifications, yes.
6	Q. And you there's some that may also
7	you could have selected instead of the ones you did?
8	A. That's a possibility. But I'd say this
9	was the best fit from the job job categories that
LO	were listed in the in the study.
11	Q. With respect to Exhibit 26, basically
L2	this is just your breakdown from Exhibit 25. Am I
L3	correct?
L4	A. That's that's true. What it is and
L5	what threw me when you first showed it to me, I'm used
L6	to seeing it in an Excel file. All it is is just
L7	shows the the Exhibit 25 data and I put it in an
L8	Excel file to show what the different amounts were and
L9	then what Public Counsel recommended.
20	Q. Now, you work for the Office of Public
21	Counsel. Right?
22	A. That's correct.
23	Q. And you're not in a working for a
24	utility or anything like that at this point?
25	A. I think that would be a conflict of

interest.

- Q. Do you think perhaps that if the

 Commission were to reduce the salaries of these

 employees as you propose, that there might not be

 these employees here anymore, or at least some of them

 may go elsewhere to greener pastures?
- A. Well, Mr. Sherry has threatened that a time or two. The other employees, I don't know. But my position is and my job is to go out and see what the market rates for these type of positions would be.

After doing that, I make recommendations to the Commission. What happens after that, whether the Commission accepts that amount -- those amounts or salaries or not, that -- that becomes what the company has to deal with. But right now I think the company is paying excessive rates to their employees.

- Q. Based on your opinion?
- A. Well, apparently Staff agrees at least with me on the operations manager, that he's at the very high end of what they believe the rate should be too.
- Q. He is, but they still recommended a gercent increase for his salary, didn't they?
- A. Well, what Staff did is they took the company's current payroll, which I believe is

1 inflated, and for him they bumped him up by 3 percent, 2 which they also did for the -- I believe for the -the office manager. Mr. Sherry they bumped it up 3 6 percent. And then, of course, they did with the 4 5 assistant operator they worked around him, included some overtime for him. So that's how they developed 6 7 their calculation of what they believed the annualized salary should be. 8

Q. And you don't agree with the Staff?

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- A. I don't. I think -- I think the basis base -- their basic premise of starting with the current salaries and then adjusting upward was -- should not have been done, because I think the basic salaries -- the current salaries are inflated.
- Q. And do you know the reputation of this company as far as being an excellent sewer company?
- A. Having met Mr. Sherry and talked with him the last couple years, I -- and also his father and his brother, I believe they try to do a very good job. But that still -- still has nothing to do with the fact what the market rate for the salary should be.
- Q. And if these people were to leave there and someone else came in, you may not know what you're going to have, would you?
 - A. Well, that happens everywhere. I presume

1 somewhere down the line I'll be gone and somebody else 2 will take my place. Maybe they'll be better. 3 MR. FINNEGAN: I think that's all the questions I have. I would like to offer Exhibit 25 4 5 and 26. JUDGE STEARLEY: Any objections to the 6 7 offering of Exhibits 25 and 26? 8 MS. BAKER: No. 9 JUDGE STEARLEY: Hearing none, they shall be received and admitted into the record. 10 11 (Exhibit No. 25 and 26 were received into 12 evidence.) JUDGE STEARLEY: Ouestions from the Bench 13 for Mr. Robertson. Commissioner Jarrett? 14 15 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER JARRETT: 16 Good morning -- or afternoon, 0. 17 Mr. Robertson. 18 Α. Afternoon to you. 19 Q. I just had one question. Did you take a 20 position -- did you take a position on the time -- the 21 time sheet issue? 22 Α. I did. Yes, I did. 23 And do you -- what is that? Ο. 24 My position is that the company should be Α. doing time sheets. I think that the -- the Commission 25

1 approved Uniform System of Accounts requires them to. 2 In addition not only to requiring them to, I just think it's good business practice. Most companies of 3 any size with any number of employees, and 4 particularly the way this company is growing, needs to have as many management controls as they possibly can 6 to help them manage that growth and see what they're 7 actually doing. 8 9 And without the controls, the recording 10 of the information management's going to have a real 11 hard time knowing what really went on in the company. 12 I mean, they're going to sit there and say, Well, 13 there's only four of us, we can track it. 14 But my memory is only as good as probably 15 the last month if that much. So what happens six months down the road or a year and a half down the 16 road, without documentation -- the more documentation, 17 the better. 18 As -- and I'm not talking about 19 burdensome documentation. Time sheet -- we all fill 20 21 out time sheets in our office and I think Staff does 22 It's a matter of a few minutes a day, a week, too. 23 whatever. So --24 All right. That's the only question I 0. 25 had. Thanks, Mr. Robertson.

1	JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Gunn?
2	QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER GUNN:
3	Q. Yeah. I just have a couple. Just to be
4	clear, so you're actually recommending a reduction in
5	some of the salaries from where they were set
6	previously?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. And those were set in the last rate case?
9	A. Per stipulation and agreement. There was
10	a stipulation and agreement in the last agreement.
11	Q. Right. And was OPC's a signator to that
12	stipulation and agreement?
13	A. Honestly, I don't remember. I think we
14	did sign off.
15	MS. BAKER: I believe so.
16	THE WITNESS: But I'm not sure.
17	BY COMMISSIONER GUNN:
18	Q. I can check that. I just I didn't
19	know.
20	A. I was involved in it, but I just don't
21	remember specifically.
22	Q. I can look that up. That's not a
23	problem.
24	I'm not going to not going to ask you
25	to list the conditions any conditions. Let me put

it this way. Are there any circumstances under which you would be comfortable with -- and we'll put aside legal -- legal authority and we'll put aside how it relates to other -- other utilities.

But in this particular case are there any conditions under which you would be comfortable with a contingency fee or contingency fund being set up? You don't have to list what those conditions are. I'm just asking are there -- are you potentially comfortable with it or are there -- under no circumstances do you believe it would be appropriate?

- A. I can answer that fairly quickly.
- Q. I'm guessing you could.
- A. I won't have to beat around the bush. No pun intended. No. There's no way it's going to happen that we could become comfortable in this case doing that.

reasons. It has not been proven that this company even needs a contingency fund. I mean, there are probably smaller utilities out there that don't have the financial wherewithal to come up with repair monies to make a repair on a pump failure or something like that. For this company, that's not been proven. I mean, that would be the starting point and we

1	haven't even crossed that threshold yet.
2	Q. All right. Fair point. I appreciate it.
3	COMMISSIONER GUNN: I don't have anything
4	further.
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: Recross after questions
6	from the Bench starting with Staff?
7	MS. OTT: I don't have any. Thank you.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Timber Creek?
9	MR. FINNEGAN: Am I up?
10	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. FINNEGAN:
11	Q. Just one question. You just indicated
12	you didn't think this company's proven a contingency
13	fund was needed. Did you prepare any testimony on
14	that or did you ask any data requests of the company
15	or anything else on that question?
16	A. Did I ask a data request of whether the
17	company needs the money?
18	Q. Yeah.
19	A. Not specifically a data request, no. I
20	looked at the company's financials. And O&M expense
21	has been annualized in the case, the company didn't
22	challenge it. So apparently the company also
23	believes, it became part of the stipulation, that the
24	O&M expense as determined by the parties is okay with
25	the company.

1 The purpose of the contingency fund, as I 2 understand it, was to provide the company with a 3 source of funds in the event some operation went -failed quickly and they -- so they could take the 4 5 money and repair it. That's what an annualized O&M expense does so --6 7 This is for extraordinary and emergency. Q. That's what I just said. 8 Α. Yeah. Oh, it is? 9 Q. 10 Α. well, I thought that's what I just said. 11 Q. well, you said there's a level for -- for 12 repairs --Uh-huh. 13 Α. -- in the cost of service. 14 Q. 15 Okay. Α. But that doesn't necessarily include 16 Q. 17 anything emergency-wise. Doesn't exclude it either. 18 Α. 19 Q. Doesn't necessarily include it either, 20 does it? So we don't know what was in that particular 21 year. 22 If you put a level of annualized O&M Α. expense in and the parties agree to it and this 23 Commission authorizes it, that is the appropriate 24 25 amount.

1 Are you familiar with Section 393.270.5? Q. 2 You may have to read that to me. I don't Α. 3 have it memorized. 4 Well, you had it in your testimony, but I Q. think you called it .4. 5 Perhaps you can point to me in my 6 7 testimony and I'll look. well, that's harder than finding it right 8 Ο. here, but I'll look for it. So I can look at what the content it was 10 Α. 11 used in. 12 Q. Yeah. I think it's -- yeah, I found it. 13 Page 31 of your Exhibit 23, your rebuttal testimony. 14 Page again? Α. 15 Thirty-one. 0. 16 Thirty-one? Α. 17 Starting on line A -- 11, A's the answer. 0. Perhaps I need to change that to .5, huh? 18 Α. You do at this point. But it is the same 19 Q. 20 language. And your -- I think you had this issue --21 or this in here because of single-issue rate-making. 22 But the next issue that you go onto is contingency 23 emergency repair fund. And this statute appears to say that the Commission is setting rates in addition 24 25 to considering all relevant facts and a average return

1	upon the value of the property actually used in public
2	service and to the necessity of making reservations
3	out of income for surplus and contingencies.
4	And this appears to say the Commission
5	has authority to make or should make reservations
6	out of income for surplus and contingencies. Do you
7	agree with that?
8	A. What are you asking me?
9	Q. I'm asking if you agree with that.
10	A. Agree with what? With what the language
11	says?
12	Q. That this language says that the
13	Commission should in the rate case should consider
14	the necessity of making reservations out of income for
15	surplus and contingencies.
16	A. And the language says what it says.
17	Q. Okay.
18	A. My belief at what it means may be
19	different from what you think it means.
20	Q. Okay. And you're not a lawyer, so
21	A. There you go. I was going to state that,
22	but
23	Q. And you're probably happy you're not one.
24	A. I don't know. Sometimes I wish I was.
25	Q. Sometimes you wish you were over here

1	asking the questions.
2	A. I was going to qualify that I'm not an
3	attorney. It's just my opinion.
4	MR. FINNEGAN: That's all the questions I
5	have.
6	JUDGE STEARLEY: Redirect, Ms. Baker?
7	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. BAKER:
8	Q. Could you explain what the MERIC data is
9	and where it comes from?
10	A. It's my understanding the Department of
11	Economic Development goes out and does a survey at
12	least annually, perhaps even more, and does a salary
13	wage type survey in different geographical regions of
14	the state. They have it separated into many
15	geographic regions.
16	And the reason for that is because there
17	are salary or wage rate differences between the
18	different regions, rural versus metropolitan and
19	whatever. They send out questionnaires as I
20	understand, they send out questionnaires, ask the
21	companies to respond to them, what wage rates are for
22	different positions within the companies.
23	They take the information and aggregate
24	it according to according to what those described
25	positions are or however the positions are defined.

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- And can you explain the steps that you Ο. took in evaluating the different job descriptions and

- Okay. Did you explain a little bit about Q. your delineation about union versus nonunion in your testimonv?
- The point I was making there was that Α. when you look at the headings of the summary data for an individual position, you had the -- where it says the mean, the median, the entry level, the experienced level, that's an amalgamation of all the positions that were responded to in the survey.

And within those positions are many different sized companies that respond to it. And those many different sized companies of that, some of them are probably unionized versus nonunionized. it's been my experienced that the unionized companies usually have higher wage rates.

And even -- you get the larger companies, even the larger companies, their executives usually have higher salaries for a larger company. example, if you were to look at Ameren or something like that or even KCPL, certainly the salaries for their executives are far higher than they would be for a utility with 1,500 customers, a small company, very small company.

1 how you came up with your position? 2 well, unlike Staff and the company, which had dollar amounts and then tried to find the 3 information to support it --4 5 MS. OTT: I'm going to ob-- I'm sorry. Never mind. 6 7 MR. FINNEGAN: I'll join. MS. OTT: Sorry. I apologize. 8 9 THE WITNESS: What I tried to do was go 10 out in my analysis to find information -- supporting 11 information in the market for what the wage and salary 12 rates would be for the positions at the utility. The -- we use the MERIC database a lot simply because 13 we've found it to be fairly reliable and often very 14 15 close in what the rates are being by -- for the individuals in the different geographic areas. 16 17 From that, I was able to identify four positions which I thought, based on the information 18 19 that was available, was fairly close to the type of 20 positions that -- by -- that are held by the people at 21 the utility -- by the employees there. 22 I then went looking for additional information to support that and I was able to find 23 24 some information for the plant manager, the position 25 by the job advertisement with the City of Kansas City,

1 the -- the wage that was proposed for an employee that 2 held exactly the same licensing that the -- this utility's employee had. And it was very close, it was 3 within a couple thousand dollars on an annual basis. 4 5 For the -- for the office manager, Mr. Finnegan is correct, there was no position that 6 specifically described her title as her title is 7 listed, so I chose a position that was fairly close to 8 it which I thought was more close to it than what Mr. Sherry had done since he had based his on what he 10 11 called an executive secretary, which I think did not 12 fit at all. Used that for the -- the assistant 13 manager or assistant operator. And I thought the 14 15 first line operator that was found in MERIC was very close for the type of position that this -- this 16 17 person held. In addition, we've also used that position in other utility cases to set up or try to 18 19 develop annual salaries for employees in those various 20 other cases. 21 with that, I looked at the information, I 22 then looked at how long these folks had been employed, 23 what their experience level was. And, of course, once -- once you did that, it became a bit subjective. 24 But the idea was to find the market information and 25

1	then from that, try to better define a recommendation
2	for the Commission. And that's what I did.
3	Commission can look at the market data
4	that I looked at and they can look at my
5	recommendation and determine whether it's reasonable
6	or not. But essentially the idea was to first find
7	out what the market range is for those employees and
8	then then we made that recommendation based on the
9	experience level, as I did also for the general
10	manager.
11	Q. And each of those were based on job
12	descriptions that were given to you by the company?
13	A. Those job descriptions that Mr. Finnegan
14	was referring to a few moments ago were provided by
15	Mr. Sherry to I believe to a Staff data request.
16	And I believe Mr. Prenger also has them in his
17	testimony, his schedules.
18	MS. BAKER: I have no further questions.
19	Thank you.
20	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you,
21	Mr. Robertson, for your testimony.
22	I believe that concludes our witness
23	list. We have a few housekeeping matters to take up.
24	Before I go into those, are there any other matters
25	that you all need to bring to my attention?

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1	All right. We currently have a schedule
2	set to expedite the transcripts so that they will be
3	available Monday, January 10th, for briefs and
4	proposed findings of fact and conclusion of law to be
5	filed on February 4th.
6	And, Ms. Ott, I believe I asked you to
7	get a an affidavit for a late-filed exhibit
8	explaining a portion of the capital structure and
9	Staff's accounting schedules earlier. If that could
10	be filed by is January 14th, next Friday, is that
11	possible or would you need more time?
12	MS. OTT: I believe so. I'm not sure of
13	Ms. Atkinson's Staff demands right now, but if it's
14	going to be a problem, I will file something
15	indicating that.
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Are there
17	any other matters we need to take up at this time?
18	Well, hearing none, the evidentiary hearing in File
19	No. SR-2010-0320 hereby adjourned. I thank you all
20	very much.
21	(Hearing adjourned.)
22	
23	
24	
25	

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the 4 testimony appearing in the foregoing matter was duly 5 sworn by me; that the testimony of said witnesses was 6 taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter 7 reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am 8 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this matter was 10 11 taken, and further, that I am not a relative or 12 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise 13 interested in the outcome of the action. 14 15 16 17 Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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