

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

In the Matter of Missouri Utilities Company)
Small Company Rate Increase.)

**Case Nos. WR-2009-0150 &
SR-2009-0153**

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S REQUEST
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Request for Local Public Hearing states as follows:

1. On October 23, 2008, Missouri Utilities Company (MO Utilities), through its court appointed receiver, Mr. Gary V. Cover, Esq., initiated small company revenue increase requests for its water and sewer services in Pettis County, Missouri.
2. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process.
3. The proposed 100% increase is a very large increase and the effect on the customers will be immense.
4. Because the court found it necessary to appoint a receiver for this utility, Public Counsel has concerns regarding system management, quality of service and the reasonableness of the proposed increase.
5. Public Counsel believes that scheduling a local public hearing at this stage of the case will allow the Commission and its Staff the opportunity to gather information which may be crucial in setting fair and reasonable rates in this case.
6. An additional concern of the customers is the fact that their utility is now under the control of a court appointed receiver. The question and answer session normally scheduled

before a local public hearing will give Staff, Public Counsel and Mr. Cover the opportunity to meet with the customers and provide information regarding the receivership process.

7. Therefore, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-3.050, Public Counsel requests a local public hearing be scheduled in this matter.

8. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the hearing promptly, as long as customers are given sufficient notice.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Christina L. Baker

By:_____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 19th day of March 2009:

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