

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

In the Matter of the Application of Valley	)	
Woods Water Co., Inc Request for an	)	<u>Case No. WR-2010-0139</u>
Increase in Annual Water System	)	
Operating Revenues.	)	

In the Matter of the Application of Valley	)	
Woods Water Co., Inc Request for an	)	<u>Case No. SR-2010-0140</u>
Increase in Annual Sewer System	)	
Operating Revenues.	)	

**THE 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 November 3, 2009, Valley Woods Water Company, Inc. (Valley Woods) initiated small company rate increase proceedings with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting increases in its annual water and sewer operating revenues of \$2,880 and \$1,488, respectively.
2. On April 2, 2010, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a *Notice of Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Water Company Revenue Increase Request* and a *Notice of Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Sewer Company Revenue Increase Request* (Company/Staff Agreements) in the above stated cases indicating agreement between Staff and Valley Woods for a water rate increase of \$8,169 (approximately 113%) and a sewer rate increase of \$11,569 annually (approximately 110%). Public Counsel did not join in the agreements.

3. Revised tariff sheets reflecting the proposed rates agreed to in the Company/Staff Agreements were filed by Valley Woods on April 7, 2010.

4. As the Company/Staff Agreements were executed by only Valley Woods and Staff, 4 CSR 240-3.050(15) requires Public Counsel to file a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff Agreement and the related tariff revisions, or requesting a local public hearing or an evidentiary hearing no later than five (5) working days after the end of the comment period for the written customer notice contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14). The comment period ended on May 2, 2010.

5. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process. According to the Company/Staff Agreements, customers are now being asked to bear a 113% water rate increase as well as a 110% sewer rate increase, which is significantly more than Valley Woods originally requested. Given these difficult economic times, Public Counsel believes it is important that the customers be provided a forum to present comments regarding quality of service as well as the reasonableness and affordability of these significant potential increases above current rates. Therefore, Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing to allow customer comments on the newly proposed increase.

6. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the hearing promptly, as long as customers are given at least 7 calendar days notice before the local public hearing is to be held.

**WHEREFORE,** Public Counsel respectfully submits its Local Public Hearing Request.

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010:

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**/s/ Christina L. Baker**

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