

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Taney County Utilities Corporation and)
Taney County Water, LLC for Authority of)
Taney County Utilities Corporation to Sell)
Certain Assets to Taney County Water, LLC)

Case No. WM-2011-0143

STAFF'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S ORDER

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and for its *Response to the Commission's Order* states to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) as follows:

1. On November 18, 2010, Taney County Utilities Corporation (TCU) and Taney County Water, LLC (TCW) (jointly referred to hereafter as the Applicants) filed a *Joint Application* seeking to sell and transfer water utility assets owned and operated by TCU to TCW.

2. On March 4, 2011, Staff filed its *Staff Recommendation* recommending the Commission enter an Order that incorporates Staff's recommendations.

3. On March 14, 2011, the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) filed its *Response to Staff's Recommendation* opposing certain aspects of Staff's Recommendation and concerns using the purchase price for the rate base.

4. On March 15, 2011, the Commission issued an *Order Directing Filing* directing each party, separately or jointly, to file a response to include procedural suggestions.

5. In discussions held subsequent to the above-referenced filings, it appears that this matter may be amicably resolved, though there is no resolution in principal at this time.

6. At this point, Staff states that there is no need for a procedural schedule. Should the situation change and the parties fail to come to a satisfactory resolution, Staff agrees to file

notice to the Commission and request a procedural schedule at that point or, alternatively, Staff agrees to provide a status update to the Commission within any specific time frame established by the Commission.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits its *Response to the Commission's Order* for the Commission's information and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rachel M. Lewis
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Deputy Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 56073

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record on this 30th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Rachel M. Lewis