Page 1 STATE OF MISSOURI 1 2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 3 4 Local Public Hearing 5 Thursday, April 21, 2022 6 6:41 p.m. 7 8 In the Matter of S.K.& M. 9 10 Water and Sewer Company's SR-2022-0239 11 Application For an Increase 12 in Annual Sewer System Operating 13 Revenues 14 15 In the Matter of S.K.& M. 16 Water and Sewer Company's WR - 2022 - 024017 Application For an Increase in Annual Water System Operating 18 19 Revenues 20 21 2.2 23 Reported by: Riley Lammert 24 Job No.: 5167129 25

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1	A P P E A R A N C E S
2	List of Attendees:
3	Ken Seyer, Regulatory Law Judge
4	Commissioner Maida Coleman
5	Commissioner Jason Holsman
6	Commissioner Glen Kolkmeyer
7	Jackie Keely, Missouri Public Service Commission
8	Lindsay VanGerpen, Esquire, Office of Public Counsel
9	Karen Bretz, Esquire, Missouri Public Service
10	Commission
11	Curtis Gately
12	David Spratt
13	Deborah Quick
14	Brian Lamons
15	Patrick Naeger
16	Rodney LaRose, S.K.& M
17	Susan LaRose, S.K.& M.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE SEYER: First, I would ask that
3	everyone mute themselves on their phone or their
4	computer unless you're speaking. That will cut down
5	on the noise level and prevent any audio feedback. If
6	you don't have the mute button, or perhaps you can't
7	find it, I believe that star six will also mute and
8	unmute your phone.
9	So today is April 21, 2022. The
10	Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time
11	for a local public hearing for two related cases, file
12	number SR-22-0239 which is captioned In the Matter of
13	S.K.& M. Water and Sewer Company's Application For an
14	Increase in Annual Sewer System Operating Revenues.
15	And then also file number WR-2022-0240, which is
16	captioned as In the Matter of S.K.& M. Water and Sewer
17	Company's Application For an Increase in Its Annual
18	Water System Operating Revenues.
19	The Commission has scheduled this local
20	public hearing to give members of the public a chance
21	to comment about S.K.& M's, two applications. The
22	Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the rates
23	charged by public utility companies in Missouri to
24	ensure that those rates are just and reasonable. The
25	Commission also regulates the quality of service and

1 safety of the operations of public utilities. The Commission is made up of five Commissioners. 2 The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to fixed 3 terms and are confirmed by the Senate. 4 5 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, 6 7 and other specialists in the field of utility regulation. My name is Ken Seyer. I'm a regulatory 8 9 law judge for the Commission and will preside over 10 this hearing. With me today are Commissioners Coleman

and Holsman, and possibly Commissioner Kolkmeyer.

MR. KOLKMEYER: Kolkmeyer is here. 13 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Commissioner. This is an official hearing of the Missouri Public 14 15 Service Commission. And the statements and testimony 16 of witnesses will be recorded by a court reporter and 17 must be given under oath. All of the Commissioners 18 will have the opportunity to read all of the 19 witnesses' remarks.

20 And additionally, I will brief the 21 Commissioners on what was said here tonight. The 2.2 Commissioners do value your comments and input. Would 23 any of the Commissioners like to make an opening 24 remark? I hear none. Then I will begin by asking 25 any Counsel that are present to enter their appearance

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1 for the record.

2 MS. VANGERPEN: Hello, this is Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the Office of the Public 3 4 Counsel. 5 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. 6 MS. BRETZ: And I'm Karen Bretz, 7 B-R-E-T-Z, for staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission. 8 9 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. We will --10 we'll -- excuse me, the way we will proceed is anyone 11 who would like to make a comment will be placed under 12 And I will ask you to state and spell your oath. 13 name. And then you can offer your comments to the Commission. Note that the Commissioners won't be able 14 15 to answer any of your questions today because they 16 have to remain impartial until all of the evidence is 17 presented at evidentiary hearing. The Commission has not made any decisions in this case. The Commission 18 19 is interested in your comments and will use them to 20 help make their decision. 21 If you have any questions or comments

after the hearing, you can use the same email address that you used to register for this hearing, which is watersewercomments@psc.mo.gov for the staff, and mopco@opc.mo.gov for the Office of Public Counsel. So

Page 7 1 is there anyone present tonight who would like to make comments on the record for the Commission? All right. 2 If there is none --3 4 MR. NAEGER: Okay. I had to unmute. 5 Sorry, I thought --6 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. 7 MR. NAEGER: -- I was being heard. 8 Your Honor -- Your Honor, Patrick Naeger here. 9 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Mr. Naeger, 10 could you spell your last name, please? 11 MR. NAEGER: N-A-E-G-E-R. 12 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Go ahead, Mr. 13 Naeger. Oh, excuse me. Let me place you under oath first. 14 15 MR. NAEGER: Okay. 16 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. 17 WHEREUPON, 18 PATRICK NAEGER, called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn 19 20 to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but 21 the truth, was examined and testified as follows: 2.2 JUDGE SEYER: All right. What would 23 you like to tell the Commissioners? MR. NAEGER: Yes, Your Honor. 24 Good evening, and good evening, Commissioners. And I know 25

2 2019. And I appreciate you being on the panel again, and and your presence at at this hearing this evening. I I simply want to reiterate, you know, from back in 2019, my wife and I own Parkwood Village Mobile Home Park. And it's a a 48 or about a 40-acre parcel that is located within the S.K. & M. Water and Sewer Company service area. We we have the great distinct honor of having about 50 families in our in our mobile home park. And the the rate increase that that they received back in 2019 was was pretty impactful. But I I also know Rodney and Susan LaRose. I I think they're good people. I I think when they purchased S.K. & M., they they bit off a lot more than they can chew, because there was a lot of capital improvements that needed to be made. And and so I I understood why they they came before the PSC in in at that time. And although they had asked for a \$300,000 increase, the increase that they were given was about about 200,000. And and I think that's for and I don't know the particulars about 300	1	Commissioner Coleman. I know you were here back in
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25 water customers and and substantially less than	25	water customers and and substantially less than

1 that sewer customers. So as you can imagine, the --2 the rate increase was -- was quite shocking to all 3 those in the service area.

And - and probably most have adjusted to it. But still today, they're significantly higher than -- than most utilities around us. And I would simply ask one -- then I received a letter. And I'll probably make a written comment as well. But I received a letter just last week from Mr. and Mrs. Larose.

11 And -- and I -- I was struck by how the 12 letter sounded. Because then I -- and I can read for 13 the Commission as well. And -- and hopefully, this letter is part of the record also. But it states in 14 15 here during the -- the rate case of 2019, the 16 Commission presented and encouraged the company to 17 become the first in the state to take part in a 18 special fund known as Environmental Improvement 19 Contingency Fund.

This fund is in place for small water and sewer utilities to build up reserves for improvements to the system necessitated by environmental regulations. I would -- I would hope that there's some record of how those funds have been invested. And I would also hope that the Commission

takes into consideration the -- the amount of 1 investment or lack thereof from the previous rate 2 increase to improve the -- the capital infrastructure. 3 4 Also in the letter, they -- they let us 5 know that they initiated a rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission. And that, I quote, "We are 6 7 all aware of the stress and concern that came with the emergency rate case in 2019 and want to assure you 8 9 going for a rate case at this time was not something 10 we wanted to do." 11 So I guess -- you know, and --and the 12 other question -- and it was -- I think it was 13 answered in the previous question and answer period 14 that -- that they are not required to go for a rate 15 increase. And so I'm -- I'm kind of puzzled at -- at 16 this statement, because the statement clearly implies 17 that they are required to do this. 18 And although this increase isn't nearly 19 as significant as the -- the previous increase in 2019, I -- I would just ask that whatever the -- the 20 21 fund -- the EICF plan -- and -- and it -- I -- I 2.2 haven't studied this significantly enough, but I know 23 that it -- it's in statute, and it's covered under the 24 rules and regulations. And IT requires investment of 25 a certain percentage.

1	And I just hope that that all of
2	that is taken into consideration as to what
3	investments have been made. And if clearly a
4	substantial amount of investment has been made and
5	there's still a need, then I I think you can take
6	that into consideration as well. But I would say that
7	in the in the time since I mean, I I know
8	there's a lot of improvements that were needed back in
9	2019 in my park. And Mr. LaRose referred to water
10	leakage and and many of those have yet to be
11	repaired or reconstructed.
12	And I know now goods and services
13	are are much more expensive. And and that's
14	happened in the last year or so. But but anyway, I
15	just want to share that information. And and at
16	the end of the day, I'm I'm really just trying to
17	look out for the tenants that that make that
18	call my mobile home park their home. And try to keep
19	the rates affordable. 'Cause it does it does
20	hinder my ability to attract tenants if the rates go
21	too high. That's all I have, Your Honor.
22	JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Thank you
23	MR. NAEGER: And
24	JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Naeger. Are there
25	any questions from the attorneys? Any questions from

1 the Commissioners?

2 MR. HOLSMAN: No questions, Judge. 3 Thank you. 4 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. 5 All right. Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Naeger. And you can stay on, or go back on mute, or you can 6 7 drop off. Thank you. MR. NAEGER: All right, Your Honor. 8 9 Thank you. Appreciate it. Bye-bye. 10 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Is there 11 anyone else who would like to provide testimony today? 12 All right. Then I would just like to thank all who 13 participated today. And if you have any additional comments, or if there is -- if you know of someone who 14 15 could not be present and would like to comment, you 16 can make those written comments by contacting the same 17 email address used to register for the hearing, 18 watersewercomments@psc.mo.gov for the staff. Or for 19 the Office of Public Counsel, mopco@opc.mo.gov. Or by going to the Public Service Commission's webpage. 20 21 Anything further on behalf of the Commissioners? All 2.2 right. Then hearing is now adjourned. And we are off 23 the record. 24 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 25 6:55 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER 2 I, RILEY LAMMERT, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby 3 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing 4 5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and 6 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified 7 transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of 8 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the 9 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am 10 11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any 12 of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of 13 14 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties 15 hereto, nor financially or ley annest outcome of this action. 16 17 RILEY LAMMERT Notary Public in and for the 18 19 State of Missouri 20 21 22 23 24 25

1	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER
2	I, DENISE CROSS MOORE, do hereby certify
3	that this transcript was prepared from the digital
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8	nor employed by any of the parties to the action in
9	which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a
10	relative or employee of any counsel or attorney
11	employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
12	otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.
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