

1 STATE OF MISSOURI
2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

3 PREHEARING CONFERENCE

4 August 31, 2000
5 Jefferson City, Missouri
6 Volume 1
7

8 In the Matter of the Application)
9 of St. Joseph Light & Power) Case
Company for the Issuance of an) No. EO-2000-845
10 Accounting Authority Order)
Relating to Its Electrical)
11 Operations.)

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15 BEFORE:

16 MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding,
17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
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FOR: Staff of the Missouri Public Service
Commission.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Written Entries of Appearance filed.)

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's go ahead and go on
4 the record.

5 Greetings everyone and welcome to our new
6 small hearing room. This is my first chance to be
7 here, and I hope everybody is comfortable. It looks
8 like everybody is settling in pretty well.

9 We're here for the prehearing conference in
10 the case No. EO-2000-845, which is in the matter of
11 the application of St. Joseph Light & Power Company
12 for issuance of an accounting authority order relating
13 to its electrical operations.

14 My name is Morris Woodruff. I'll be the
15 Regulatory Law Judge in this case.

16 Let's go ahead and start by taking entries
17 of appearance. We will start with St. Joseph Light &
18 Power.

19 MR. DUFFY: Gary Duffy, Brydon, Swearengen &
20 England, P.C., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri,
21 65102, appearing for St. Joseph Light & Power.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

23 And for Staff?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams and Steve
25 Dottheim, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri,

1 65102, appearing for Staff.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And Public Counsel?

3 MR. MICHEEL: Douglas E. Micheel, appearing

4 on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the

5 Public, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri,

6 65102-7800.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for AGP?

8 MR. PETERSON: Ed Peterson and Stuart

9 Conrad, Finnegan, Conrad & Peterson, 3100 Broadway,

10 Suite 1209, Kansas City, Missouri, 64111.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

12 I believe that's all of the parties.

13 Of course, the main reason we're here today

14 is to prepare a proposed procedural schedule, and we

15 do have some time constraints in this case. It's my

16 understanding that St. Joseph Light & Power needs to

17 have a decision by the end of the year.

18 Is that right, Mr. Duffy?

19 MR. DUFFY: That's our position, yes, your

20 Honor.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Otherwise, there is no

22 point to it?

23 MR. DUFFY: That's right.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: So we will need to have a

25 hearing date fairly promptly. We're looking at

1 probably late October.

2 Have the parties discussed possible hearing
3 dates yet?

4 MR. DUFFY: Your Honor, I faxed some -- a
5 proposed procedural schedule to the other parties, and
6 I think the Staff was made aware of it also.

7 MR. DOTTHEIM: We didn't receive in General
8 Counsel's Office the procedural schedule. We had to
9 obtain a copy from Office of the Public Counsel.

10 MR. DUFFY: Well, it was my understanding
11 that Tim Rush sent a copy to Mr. Schallenberg, and
12 Mr. Schallenberg assured us he would make a copy
13 available to you.

14 MR. DOTTHEIM: We subsequently got a copy,
15 but we got a copy the prior date from the Office of
16 the Public Counsel, so --

17 MR. DUFFY: Well, in any event, we're
18 suggesting a hearing Thursday, October 26th, and
19 Friday, October 27th, I think, if necessary.

20 I had previously talked to another
21 Regulatory Law Judge --

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ms. Dippell, I believe.

23 MR. DUFFY: Yeah, Ms. Dippell. Excuse me.

24 And she had indicated at that time that
25 those dates were open on the schedule. I'm hoping

1 they are still open, but, you know, the other parties
2 haven't had a chance to tell us whether they are
3 agreeable to that -- to the schedule that we proposed
4 or not.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. DUFFY: But it's our goal to have the
7 case briefed and submitted to the Commission by the
8 first week in December so that they would have time to
9 issue an order by the end of the year.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That sounds good to me.

11 MR. MICHEEL: I can tell you, your Honor,
12 that we're not amenable to the schedule proposed.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

14 MR. MICHEEL: It's just way, way, way, way
15 too short.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What does Public Counsel
17 suggest?

18 MR. MICHEEL: Well, I mean, we'll talk about
19 it. And I, quite frankly, question the need for a
20 decision before the end of the year.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Staff is also opposed to the
23 schedule that the Company has proposed, basically,
24 because of the -- we'll need some time to review
25 information, and we're still receiving information

1 from the Company, so --

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, I did check
3 the chart upstairs. The 26th and 27th is available.
4 I'm not going to make a decision on that today since
5 apparently it's -- the parties are wanting to submit
6 contrary views. But that is available. I have not
7 checked November.

8 Of course, you-all are aware that the
9 calendar is now up on the ninth floor, so if you need
10 to check that, it can be changed if an agreement is
11 reached today.

12 If you cannot reach an agreement, submit a
13 proposed procedural schedule by one week from today,
14 and the Commission will decide on what is an
15 appropriate schedule. Again, if you can agree, that's
16 great. If not, you can submit competing schedules and
17 the Commission will make a decision.

18 Okay. Any other matters that need to be
19 taken up while we're on the record?

20 (No response.)

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. With that,
22 we're off the record.

23 WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of the
24 prehearing conference was concluded.

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