

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

In the Matter of the Application of Tri-State)
Utility, Inc., for a Certificate of Convenience)
and Necessity Authorizing It to Enlarge and)
Extend Its Service Area and to Construct,)
Install, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and)
Maintain a Water System for the Public)
Located in an Unincorporated Area in Taney)
County, Missouri)

Case No. WA-2006-0241

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through counsel, and for its Status Report states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission").

1. On April 11, 2006, the Commission issued its **Order Directing the Staff of the Commission to File a Status Report**, ordering the Staff to advise the Commission, no later than April 18, 2006, of the progress regarding the implementation and approval by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of Tri State's (Company's) Cross Connection Control program,.

2. The Staff reports that its representative and a representative from DNR attended a meeting with the Company at its office on March 16, 2006 to begin discussions of the Company's draft Cross Connection Control Program and its compliance plan. Copies of the draft program were provided at the meeting. On April 6, 2006, the Staff provided its comments to the company, which included an electronic "markup" draft document with substantive, clarifying, and cosmetic suggestions. On April 13, 2006, DNR provided a letter to the Company with substantive and clarification suggestions, along with some other guidance material.

3. The Company reports to the Staff that it is in the process of revising its draft policy based on the Staff's and DNR's comments. Additionally the Company has: 1) identified approximately 200 residential customers with plumbing systems that will require backflow prevention devices; 2) consulted with its computer programmer and modified its record keeping system to include the capability of tracking the customer-owned backflow prevention devices and their periodic testing; 3) has committed to hiring an additional office person on a part-time temporary basis in order to be able to accomplish this and other necessary office tasks; and, 4) has begun obtaining testing records and communicating with some commercial and condominium customers who have backflow prevention devices installed and are now conducting the required tests.

4. The Staff agrees with the Company that implementation of the Cross Connection Control Program, while not yet in place, is on schedule as the Company had originally intended when it began planning the program. The Company plan is to formally notify customers in June of this year, with a goal of customer compliance in August of this year.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully submits this Status Report for the Commission's information and consideration in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of this Response have been mailed with first class postage, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or transmitted via e-mail to all counsel and/or parties of record this 18th day of April 2006.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin