

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing

January 9, 2008
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

10 The Staff of the Commission,)
)
11 Petitioner,)
)
12 vs.) Case No. WC-2007-0042
)
13 Mike Ward)
)
14 Respondent.)

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Good morning. We're
3 on the record. This is the prehearing conference in
4 Case No. WC-2007-0042, Staff of the Commission versus Mike
5 Ward.

6 I am Ron Pridgin. I am the Regulatory Law Judge
7 assigned to preside over this prehearing conference that's
8 being held on January 9th, 2008, at approximately 10:00 in
9 the morning. And we are in the Governor Office Building
10 in Jefferson City, Missouri, with counsel for Mr. Ward
11 appearing by telephone. I would like to get entries of
12 appearance from counsel, please, beginning with the Staff
13 of the Commission?

14 MR. REED: Judge, Steve Reed and Blane Baker for
15 Staff, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Reed, thank you. On behalf
17 of Mike Ward, please?

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. My name is J. Patrick
19 Sullivan. I'll an attorney in Stone County, Missouri. My
20 address is P.O. Box 2175, Branson West, 65737.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Sullivan, thank you. Any
22 other counsel wishing to enter an appearance? All right.
23 Hearing none, we are here because of my December 18th,
24 2007, Order setting the prehearing conference.

25 I believe the Staff of the Commission had filed

1 a motion for hearing and -- and thought that a prehearing
2 conference might be a good idea. So that's why I set this
3 conference.

4 I am not aware of any other pending motions or
5 anything that counsel needs to bring to my attention. Is
6 there anything counsel wants to talk to me about?

7 MR. REED: Judge?

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir, Mr. Reed.

9 MR. REED: I was wondering, the prehearing --
10 the proposed procedure schedule would be due next week.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir.

12 MR. REED: What about a hearing date? Is there
13 -- is there any particular time? Is the -- is the
14 Commission's calendar -- is it booked up, or can we find a
15 day?

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I -- I just glanced at the
17 calendar this morning, and I don't recall exactly what is
18 free. Obviously, every week's going to have at least a
19 few days taken away for hearings.

20 And I don't know if the parties were thinking
21 about something in January or -- or later in the winter.
22 I don't recall -- it seemed like January is fairly full,
23 but not completely. And --

24 MR. SULLIVAN: Judge, it would have to be later.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. And I think -- of course,

1 as the months progress, February, March, there are still
2 going to be some -- some dates that are free. But I think
3 almost every week would have at least one day free. And I
4 don't know how much time the parties anticipate the -- the
5 hearing might take. I don't know if that -- that's
6 probably not very helpful at all to you.

7 MR. REED: That's all right. We'll talk about
8 that, and we can come up and check the Commission's
9 calendar, I guess.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure. Sure.

11 MR. REED: All right.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And -- and anything else from
13 counsel? And, obviously, if you need more time than that
14 week to -- to discuss the schedule, if you'll just file a
15 motion asking for additional time, I'm sure I would grant
16 that.

17 MR. REED: Okay.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Sure.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Is there anything else from
20 counsel?

21 MR. SULLIVAN: I don't believe so, Judge.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. All right. Well, not
23 hearing anything, what I'll do is I'll wrap up my portion
24 here in just a second, and we'll go off the record, and
25 I'll leave you to talk.

1 And as Mr. Reed already pointed out, we have the
2 Commission's hearing calendar up in our building, and you
3 may need to -- to either leave and come back or disconnect
4 the call and -- and -- and call you back later,
5 Mr. Sullivan, to talk about some potential dates for a
6 hearing.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: That would be fine.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. If there's nothing
9 further from counsel -- all right. Hearing nothing
10 further, that concludes the on-the-record portion of this
11 prehearing conference. Thank you very much. We're off
12 the record.

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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3 STATE OF MISSOURI)
4) ss.
5 COUNTY OF OSAGE)

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7 I, Monnie S. VanZant, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
8 Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered
9 Professional Reporter, and Notary Public, within and for
10 the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was
11 personally present at the proceedings as set forth in the
12 caption sheet hereof; that I then and there took down in
13 stenotype the proceedings had at said time and was
14 thereafter transcribed by me, and is fully and accurately
15 set forth in the preceding pages.

16

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
18 seal on January 28, 2008.

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Monnie S. VanZant, CSR, CCR #0539

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Registered Professional Reporter

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