

In the Matter of:

Linda Beecham

v.

Missouri-American Water Company

WC-2020-0181 VOL 1

March 20, 2020



www.tigercr.com 573.999.2662

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Procedural Conference
March 20, 2020
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 1

Linda Beecham,)
)
Complainant,) File No. WC-2020-0181
)
v.)
)
Missouri-American Water)
Company,)
)
Respondent.)

PAUL T. GRAHAM, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:
Beverly Jean Bentch, CCR No. 640
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A P P E A R A N C E S

KAREN BRETZ, Staff Counsel
Suite 800
200 Madison Street
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

FOR: Staff of the Public Service Commission

JENNIFER L. HERNANDEZ, Attorney at Law (By phone)
BRYDON SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

FOR: Missouri-American Water Company

Participating by phone: Linda Beecham

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 JUDGE GRAHAM: Let's go on the record. All
3 right. This is Paul Graham speaking. I'm the
4 Regulatory Law Judge in this case. This case has been
5 set for a Procedural Conference today, March 20, 2020.
6 By this case, I mean Case WC-2020-0181. The style of
7 this case is Linda Beecham vs. Missouri-American Water.
8 And at this time I'm going to ask the parties to enter
9 their appearance. Ms. Beecham, can you hear me?

10 MS. BEECHAM: I can hear you.

11 JUDGE GRAHAM: Ms. Beecham, would you simply
12 state your full name for the record?

13 MS. BEECHAM: My full name is Linda Beecham.
14 It's B-e-e-c-h-a-m.

15 JUDGE GRAHAM: All right. Thank you very
16 much. And Ms. Hernandez, can you hear me?

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes, sir.

18 JUDGE GRAHAM: Would you go ahead and enter
19 your appearance on behalf of MAWC?

20 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes. This is Jennifer
21 Hernandez with the law firm of Brydon Swearngen and
22 England. Our address is 312 East Capitol Avenue, Post
23 Office Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, and I'm
24 appearing today on behalf of Missouri-American Water
25 Company.

1 JUDGE GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Ms.
2 Hernandez. Before I go on and have staff or anyone else
3 enter their appearances, is Timothy, is it Luft or Luft?

4 MS. HERNANDEZ: Luft. It's just myself today.
5 He has entered his appearance as an attorney of record
6 as well.

7 JUDGE GRAHAM: Okay. Thank you very much.
8 That answers my question. And would staff go ahead and
9 enter its appearance?

10 MS. BRETZ: Karen Bretz for staff of the
11 Missouri Public Service Commission, and I believe the
12 court reporter has my information.

13 JUDGE GRAHAM: All right. Thank you very,
14 very much. Are there any preliminary or other matters
15 that I need to address or the Commission needs to
16 address before we go off the record?

17 Well, I'm anticipating, what is going to be
18 the position with respect to prefiled testimony or is
19 that something you'll just hash out and present in a
20 proposed procedural order?

21 MR. BRETZ: That's what I was thinking we
22 would do is talk about it.

23 JUDGE GRAHAM: It might be a little too soon to
24 say. I do anticipate, though, that this hearing -- I
25 think the chances are very, very great that this hearing

1 is going to occur in the same way that we're conducting
2 this hearing this morning, hopefully not with our
3 individual cell phones. Keeping that in mind, the
4 parties may move to do prefiled testimony, and the
5 problem that I see with that is that Ms. Beecham is
6 without an attorney. She's pro se. And so how we are
7 going to handle her direct examination if we're going to
8 have to do this remotely is perhaps something you will
9 want to address in this conference.

10 Likewise, I've read through this file and as
11 usual it strikes me that I think this is about an
12 excessive billing allegation and so it's probably going
13 to be or possibly going to be record intensive. And so
14 I would invite you all to discuss the nature and extent
15 of prefiled exhibits, because I don't want to get the
16 Commission into a situation necessarily where we're
17 hashing through a lot of details concerning records of
18 bills, and so forth, remotely in a hearing where I do
19 not have or the Commission does not have those documents
20 immediately in front of the Commission to review them in
21 the course of the hearing.

22 So I guess what I'm saying, friends, is I think
23 you should proceed today on the presupposition that
24 we're going to be doing this hearing remotely in all
25 respects and that means that all testimony is going to

1 be presented remotely, including exhibits and oral
2 testimony, and just take that into consideration,
3 please, in your procedural conference and sort of
4 presuppose that that's the way the hearing is going to
5 be conducted and I think we'll save a lot of
6 difficulties later on. Now, I've talked about five
7 times more than I usually talk in one of these
8 procedural conferences, but let me ask you, and Ms.
9 Beecham, you're certainly entitled to chime in at any
10 time here. We probably should do it in an orderly way,
11 but we're operating under extraordinary circumstances
12 today. If you've got a question for me, just throw it
13 out there. Otherwise, the statements I've made may have
14 triggered some things in your minds, Ms. Hernandez, Ms.
15 Bretz, if you want to sound off now or just take them up
16 in the course of your conference.

17 Okay. I don't hear anything being said at this
18 point. So that being said, I'm just going to go off the
19 record. I've got 10:12 now on March 20, 2020 and we're
20 going off the record. That doesn't mean hang up, Ms.
21 Beecham. Don't go away.

22 MS. BEECHAM: Okay.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Judge.

24 JUDGE GRAHAM: We'll see you all later.

25 (Off the record.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, Certified Court Reporter with the firm of Tiger Court Reporting, LLC, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was personally present at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such time and place.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

1	B	consideration 6:2	great 4:25
10:12 6:19	B-E-E-C-H-A-M 3:14	correct 7:10	guess 5:22
2	Beecham 3:7,9,10, 11,13 5:5 6:9,21,22	court 4:12 7:4	H
20 3:5 6:19	behalf 3:19,24	D	handle 5:7
2020 3:5 6:19	Bentch 7:3,15	details 5:17	hang 6:20
3	Beverly 7:3,15	difficulties 6:6	hash 4:19
312 3:22	billing 5:12	direct 5:7	hashing 5:17
4	bills 5:18	discuss 5:14	hear 3:9,10,16 6:17
456 3:23	Box 3:23	documents 5:19	hearing 4:24,25 5:2, 18,21,24 6:4
6	Bretz 4:10,21 6:15	E	Hernandez 3:16,17, 20,21 4:2,4 6:14,23
640 7:3,15	Brydon 3:21	East 3:22	I
65102 3:23	C	England 3:22	immediately 5:20
A	Capitol 3:22	enter 3:8,18 4:3,9	including 6:1
above-entitled 7:7	caption 7:8	entered 4:5	individual 5:3
address 3:22 4:15,16 5:9	case 3:4,6,7	entitled 6:9	information 4:12
ahead 3:18 4:8	CCR 7:3,15	examination 5:7	intensive 5:13
allegation 5:12	cell 5:3	excessive 5:12	invite 5:14
answers 4:8	CERTIFICATE 7:1	exhibits 5:15 6:1	J
anticipate 4:24	Certified 7:4	extent 5:14	Jean 7:3,15
anticipating 4:17	certify 7:6	extraordinary 6:11	Jefferson 3:23
appearance 3:9,19 4:5,9	chances 4:25	F	Jennifer 3:20
appearances 4:3	chime 6:9	file 5:10	Judge 3:2,4,11,15,18 4:1,7,13,23 6:23,24
appearing 3:24	circumstances 6:11	firm 3:21 7:4	K
attorney 4:5 5:6	City 3:23	foregoing 7:10	Karen 4:10
Avenue 3:22	Commission 4:11,15 5:16,19,20	friends 5:22	Keeping 5:3
	Company 3:25	front 5:20	L
	conducted 6:5	full 3:12,13 7:10	law 3:4,21
	conducting 5:1	G	
	conference 3:5 5:9 6:3,16	Graham 3:2,3,11,15, 18 4:1,7,13,23 6:24	
	conferences 6:8		

Likewise 5:10		remotely 5:8,18,24 6:1	thinking 4:21
Linda 3:7,13		reporter 4:12 7:1,4	throw 6:12
LLC 7:5		Reporting 7:5	Tiger 7:4
lot 5:17 6:5		respect 4:18	time 3:8 6:10 7:7,11
Luft 4:3,4		respects 5:25	times 6:7
	<hr/> M <hr/>	review 5:20	Timothy 4:3
made 6:13 7:11	parties 3:8 5:4	RPR 7:3,15	today 3:5,24 4:4 5:23 6:12
March 3:5 6:19	Paul 3:3		transcript 7:11
matters 4:14	personally 7:6	<hr/> S <hr/>	triggered 6:14
MAWC 3:19	phones 5:3	save 6:5	true 7:10
means 5:25	place 7:7,12	Service 4:11	
mind 5:3	point 6:18	set 3:5 7:8	<hr/> U <hr/>
minds 6:14	position 4:18	sheet 7:8	usual 5:11
Missouri 3:23 4:11 7:5	possibly 5:13	simply 3:11	
Missouri-american 3:7,24	Post 3:22	sir 3:17	<hr/> W <hr/>
morning 5:2	prefiled 4:18 5:4,15	situation 5:16	Water 3:7,24
move 5:4	preliminary 4:14	sort 6:3	WC-2020-0181 3:6
	present 4:19 7:6	sound 6:15	
	presented 6:1	speaking 3:3	
	presuppose 6:4	staff 4:2,8,10	
	presupposition 5:23	state 3:12 7:5	
	pro 5:6	statements 6:13	
	problem 5:5	Stenotype 7:9,11	
	procedural 3:5 4:20 6:3,8	strikes 5:11	
	proceed 5:23	style 3:6	
	proceedings 7:6,9	Swearengen 3:21	
	proposed 4:20		
	Public 4:11	<hr/> T <hr/>	
		talk 4:22 6:7	
	<hr/> Q <hr/>	talked 6:6	
	question 4:8 6:12	testimony 4:18 5:4, 25 6:2	
		thereof 7:8	
	<hr/> R <hr/>	things 6:14	
	read 5:10		
	record 3:2,12 4:5,16 5:13 6:19,20,25		
	records 5:17		
	Regulatory 3:4		