In the Matter of:

Claude Scott

V.

Missouri-American Water Company

WC-2020-0407, VOL. I

August 27, 2020



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             BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 2
                       STATE OF MISSOURI
 3
 4
                  TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
 5
 6
          Prehearing Conference, via videoconference
 7
                        August 27, 2020
 8
                   Jefferson City, Missouri
 9
                            Volume 1
10
11
12
    Claude Scott,
13
       Complainant,
                                   ) File No. WC-2020-0407
14
15
    vs.
    Missouri-American Water
16
    Company,
17
       Respondent.
18
19
                      JANA JACOBS, Presiding
                       REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
20
                      RON PRIDGIN,
                        DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
21
22
    REPORTED BY:
23
    Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939
    TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC
24
25
```

1		APPEARANCES
2	CLAUDE	
3	FOR:	Pro Se Complainant
4	JENNIFE	ER HERNANDEZ Brydon, Swearengen & England, PC
5		312 East Capitol Avenue Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456
6	FOR:	573.635.7166 Missouri-American Water Company
7		J. PRINGLE
8		Department of Economic Development 200 Madison Street, Suite 800
9		PO Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360
10	FOR:	573.526.4887 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission
11		
12		
13 14		
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18		
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22		
23		
24		
25		

1 JUDGE JACOBS: We are now on the record 2 for the conference scheduled for today, August 27, 2020 in this matter File Number WC-2020-0407. 3 This case concerns Mr. Claude Scott, the 4 complainant, and Missouri-American Water Company, the 5 respondent. The conference was set for 10:15 a.m. 6 7 today and the time is now 10:16 a.m. 8 My name is Jana Jacobs and I'm the 9 Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this matter. I'll note for the record that this conference is being 10 conducted by telephone and video conference. We also 11 12 have joining us on the line today to observe a Senior Judge with the Commission, Mr. Ron Pridgin. So he is 13 14 observing. 15 The Commission has set this time for a procedural conference in this case. The purpose of 16 the conference is to allow the parties to meet, to 17 establish a hearing date and discuss other procedural 18 issues. Once I leave the call, the parties may also 19 20 wish to discuss the possibility of settlement to resolve this case. 21 22 We have a court reporter present on the 23 line, as I mentioned before, who will be preparing a transcript of the on-the-record portion of this 24 conference. 25

```
1
                 So I'll begin by asking the parties to
2
    enter their appearances for the record. And lawyers,
   once you've introduced yourselves, if you could go
 3
   ahead and just also alert us to other folks that you
5
   have asked to join the conference today to help the
6
   court reporter identify those folks.
 7
                 So the first person I would typically
8
   call on is the complainant, Mr. Claude Scott. I don't
9
    see any indication that Mr. Scott has yet joined us so
   we will skip him for this time and we will proceed to
10
    the Company. For Missouri-American Water Company,
11
12
   please.
                 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, Your Honor.
13
14
    This is Jennifer Hernandez with the law firm of
    Brydon, Swearengen and England. Our address is 312
15
    East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
16
17
   And I'm appearing today on behalf of Missouri-American
18
    Water Company.
                 And also on the line is Tracie Figueroa.
19
20
    She is an employee of the company to participate on
    the on-the-record -- or on the portion of the
21
    discussion off the record.
22
23
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Thank you very
   much.
24
25
                 And then I will go to Staff now.
```

```
1
                 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, good morning, Judge.
 2
    I'm Travis Pringle, representing the Staff counsel
    department. My contact information is Governor Office
 3
    Building, Suite 800, 200 Madison Street, PO Box 360,
5
    Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
 6
                 I'm also joined on the line from Staff,
 7
    Contessa King, Scott Glasgow, and Sara Fontaine.
8
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Thank you very
   much.
9
                 I don't believe Office of Public Counsel
10
   has been involved in this case at all so I don't --
11
12
    and I don't see anyone from that office here.
                 So once again, then I would double back
13
    to Mr. Scott. We don't have another line that has not
14
15
    yet been identified so I don't think Mr. Scott has
    joined us. Obviously if Mr. Scott doesn't join us for
16
17
    this call today, we won't be able to proceed.
18
                 So what I'd like to do, if you'll just
    indulge me is, we're going to give him a couple more
19
20
    minutes to see if he can get through. And I will,
    during that time, check my e-mail to see if there's
21
    any indication of something I need to know about a
22
23
    connection problem or something else. So I appreciate
    your patience with me for just a moment. Okay?
24
                                                     Thank
25
   you.
```

```
1
                 Have we had someone else join the call?
 2
                 MR. SCOTT: Hello?
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Yes. We are now on the
 3
 4
    record in the hearing. Yes, is this Mr. Scott, by any
5
    chance?
 6
                 MR. SCOTT: This is he.
 7
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Hello, sir. Thank you
8
   very much. So just to let you know what's going on,
9
   my name is Jana Jacobs. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge
    that was assigned to this case and we are already
10
    underway in the pre-hearing conference. So up to this
11
12
   point what I had done was let everyone identify
    themselves for the record. So if you could ahead and
13
    just introduce yourself, spell your name for the court
14
    reporter and then we'll proceed.
15
16
                 MR. SCOTT: Okay. My name's Claude Scott
17
    spelled C-l-a-u-d-e, last name S-c-o-t-t.
18
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Thank you very
   much.
19
20
                 MR. SCOTT: I am the complainant.
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you. And so just
21
    for your information, we also have on the line counsel
22
23
    for the company, Missouri-American. So we have
   Ms. Hernandez on the line. We also have counsel for
24
   Staff, which is Mr. Travis Pringle. And the Company
25
```

```
brought along an individual from the Company, I
1
 2
   believe to talk to you on the off-the-record portion.
   And then there are also some members of Staff that are
 3
   also observing today.
5
                 So we got as far as having counsel
6
    introduce themselves. And now -- we were waiting to
 7
    give you a chance to join us so I'm glad that you were
8
   able to join us today.
9
                 So before we proceed any further, I would
    just ask the parties, are there any preliminary
10
   matters that folks wanted to take up before I just
11
12
   prompt you to talk about a procedural schedule to
   resolve the case? Anybody have anything they wanted
13
14
    to talk about?
15
                 MR. SCOTT: Well, I only had one thing,
    and that is that I got a note on my door yesterday
16
17
    that they brought a meter -- they removed a meter to
   be tested. They finally did that the day before the
18
   hearing. So up until this point we could not get them
19
20
    to do that.
                 So the --
21
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So --
22
                 MR. SCOTT: -- only thing I could say
23
    that they finally did.
24
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So I think that
   perhaps that would be something that you would all be
25
```

discussing once we get through this formal portion and 1 2 you and Staff and the Company could talk about whether your concerns are in the process of being resolved or 3 not and if there's possibility that you're going to 5 actually be able to resolve the case without going to 6 hearing. 7 MR. SCOTT: Sure. 8 JUDGE JACOBS: So -- okay. So one 9 question that I had as far as preliminary matters goes was -- and this is a question for Staff. When I 10 reviewed Staff's recommendation or report in this 11 12 case, I noticed that there were a couple instances where they said they -- Staff indicated that they 13 14 didn't have information from the Company. 15 So my question is, is it routine in a case like this for that report to be supplemented at 16 17 all if that information is provided later or not, 18 Mr. Pringle? We haven't really done that 19 MR. PRINGLE:

MR. PRINGLE: We haven't really done that before with submitting the report, but at a hearing usually we would address any information that was received later on. We have received -- I think the Sta-- the Company did file responses after our report was due. Nothing really chang-- impacted our ultimate conclusion.

20

21

22

23

24

25

```
1
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So thank you for
 2
    answering that question.
                 Mr. Claude Scott mentioned he had
 3
 4
    something to say here. I -- Ms. Hernandez, you didn't
   have any preliminary issues to bring up?
5
 6
                 MS. HERNANDEZ: No, Your Honor.
 7
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. And Staff does not
8
   as well?
 9
                 MR. PRINGLE: None, Your Honor.
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Thank you so much.
10
                 So then the reason that we're here is,
11
12
    for one, to get you all together to talk about if
    there's a chance to resolve this without going to
13
14
   hearing and then also to get us ready in case we do
   need to have a hearing.
15
                 So what I'd like to do is ask that the
16
17
   parties talk about a proposed procedural schedule and
18
    then I'd like to ask Staff to submit that, if you
    could do that for the parties. Can you do that,
19
    Mr. Pringle?
20
                 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, ma'am.
21
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Could you do that
22
23
    in a week? So that would be September 3rd.
24
                 MR. PRINGLE: No, that shouldn't be a
25
   problem for me.
```

1 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. If it is a problem, 2 you can always let me know why and then -- and then you can have a little bit more time if something comes 3 up. Okay? 5 MR. PRINGLE: All right. 6 JUDGE JACOBS: All right. So I would hope that -- I would ask that the procedural schedule 7 8 would include proposed dates for hearing. And you can 9 go ahead and let me know if there are dates that the parties are not available at all if that makes it 10 11 easier. 12 Also, I would ask that your proposed hearing dates include dates after October 1st. You 13 14 can go ahead and propose things before that, but I'd like you to also propose some dates after October 1st, 15 please. And you can look at the Commission's hearing 16 schedule on the website. There are a couple things 17 18 scheduled in September and they happen to be my hearings, so I have something on the 24th and the 30th 19 20 and the -- and October 1st. So in addition to possible dates for 21 hearing, if that's necessary in this case, I'd like 22 23 you to just let me know if these parties want to use pre-filed written testimony in this case. Obviously 24 we don't have to do that. Just like to know the 25

```
parties' preference on that.
1
 2
                 So those are -- that's what I'd be asking
   you to provide in a procedural schedule if you could
 3
   do that.
5
                 MR. PRINGLE: I'll make sure that's all
6
    in there.
 7
                 JUDGE JACOBS: So does anybody have any
8
    comments or questions on any of that?
9
                 MR. SCOTT: No.
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So --
10
11
                 MS. HERNANDEZ: No questions.
12
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you so much.
    then the next thing that we'll -- you know, obviously
13
    the reason you're here is so that you can all talk.
14
   And this line will be available for you to do that so
15
16
   you can talk about this possible schedule and then you
17
    can talk about whether this case can be resolved
   without a hearing.
18
                 So what I can do is just pass the host
19
20
   role onto Mr. Pringle and this WebEx line will remain
   available to you to use for as long as you need to
21
    today. So does anyone have anything else to bring up
22
23
   with me before I excuse myself and we go off the
   record?
24
2.5
                 Okay. Hearing nothing from the parties,
```

```
then what I'm going to do in this conference has
1
 2
    ended. We're now off the record.
                 (Off the record.)
 3
 4
                 JUDGE JACOBS: So we're now on the record
5
   again. And if Ms. Taylor is ready to resume, we can
6
   resume.
 7
                 Okay. Thank you very much. All right.
    Just as I was attempting to end the pre-hearing
8
9
   conference, Mr. Scott mentioned that he had something
   he wanted to say. Mr. Scott, you can go ahead now,
10
11
    sir. Thank you.
12
                 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Your Honor, in one of
    the points -- I had five points that -- that came --
13
    came to mind as I was prepping for this pre-con--
14
   pre-conference hearing. And that is and point number
15
    five is that the Respondent failed to replace the
16
17
   water meter with new equipment since they refused to
    test the old meter.
18
                 Now, they just now brought a -- a new
19
20
   meter in yesterday at a little -- looks like -- my
    door notice says around about 10:30 a.m. So that's
21
   one of the things that I'm going to strike away
22
23
    from --
24
                 JUDGE JACOBS: So --
                 MR. SCOTT: -- from the complaint itself.
25
```

```
JUDGE JACOBS: Uh-huh.
1
 2
                 MR. SCOTT: So I don't know exactly why
    they waited so long to do that.
 3
 4
                 JUDGE JACOBS: So this is really a
 5
    comment about what your substantive concerns are in
 6
    regard to the Company. And that is --
 7
                 MR. SCOTT: Correct. It's -- it's --
8
    it's them addressing the situation itself.
9
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. Right. And that,
    as confusing as it may seem, is not actually why we're
10
   here today. Why we're here today is to figure out how
11
12
    to resolve the case, which doesn't involve presenting
    the facts of the case to me in any way or any new
13
14
    developments actually. So we're just talking about
15
    the process.
                 So when -- after I'm gone, then you can
16
17
    discuss with the Company as far as possibly resolving
    the issues, these new developments, if you'd like to
18
    do that. But as far as the actual facts in this case
19
20
    go, that would be presented in a hearing.
21
                 MR. SCOTT:
                             Okav.
22
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So were you asking
23
    for something in particular there or did you just want
24
    to provide an update?
                 MR. SCOTT: Well, I -- well, that I did
25
```

want to provide an update on -- on -- in my -- on one of my complaints and mention about the water meter not being inspected and not being replaced.

And I did want to mention to the Court that yes, it did get replaced yesterday. It was like a twelfth-hour situation, but it did get replaced. So I wanted to pull that off of the complaint itself and I wanted to address the issue of the rest of the complaint --

10 JUDGE JACOBS: So --

MR. SCOTT: -- getting -- well, I should say not having that or excluding that, that particular complaint, that is gone. Now what I want to know is about the rest of the case.

JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. And if you are no longer concerned about a part of your dispute with the Company, then you can address that with them. And if you need to change your complaint, then you can submit something in writing to that effect. Or when you guys actually get to the point of having a hearing, perhaps you would agree in your agreement on the facts that certain events have taken place and there's no longer a dispute. But once again, we don't need to deal with that today.

MR. SCOTT: Okay.

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1
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. All right. So did
 2
    that take care of everything?
 3
                 MR. SCOTT: So far, yes.
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Okay. So did any of the
 4
5
    other parties want to say something, having heard all
    those comments from Mr. Scott?
6
 7
                 MR. PRINGLE: Nothing from Staff, Judge.
                 JUDGE JACOBS: Thank you all very much.
 8
9
    I appreciate your patience. So we will be going off
    the record. We are now off the record.
10
11
                 (Whereupon, the pre-hearing conference
12
   was concluded.)
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR

2.2

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