

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

In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Aquila, Inc., to )  
Implement a General Rate Increase for Retail )  
Electric Service Provided to Customers in its )  
Aquila Networks—MPS and Aquila Networks— )  
L&P Missouri Service Areas. )

**Case No. ER-2007-0004**  
Tariff No. YE-2007-0001

**STAFF’S MOTION TO DELAY START OF HEARING BY ONE DAY**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and for its motion to delay the start of the hearing scheduled to begin on Monday, April 2, 2007, by one day states:

1. In its *Order Adopting Procedural Schedule and Modifying Previously Ordered Test Year*, the Commission ordered a ten-day hearing be held the weeks of April 2-6 and 9-13, 2007. In response to that order, the parties proposed a hearing schedule encompassing seven days commencing on Monday, April 2, 2007.

2. Many of the parties and attorneys participating in this case are also parties in other cases, including Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE’s pending electric rate case, Case No. ER-2007-0002. Hearings in that case concluded about 5:30 p.m. on March 29, 2007. As a result, while some parties have engaged in some settlement discussions in this case, many were not in a position to do so. Based on the discussions between the parties thus far, including discussions the morning of March 30, 2007, it appears there is a real possibility of reaching an agreement that would resolve most of the issues in this case. To that end additional information is being exchanged between them and they are holding a teleconference tomorrow afternoon for further discussions.

3. While there is a consensus further discussions likely would prove fruitful, many of the parties do not have sufficient resources to both pursue settlement and litigate this case before the Commission at the same time. Further, some have clients they anticipate will be unavailable this weekend.

4. For the purpose of allowing the parties to engage in further meaningful settlement discussions, with the agreement and endorsement of Aquila, Inc., Public Counsel, SIEUA and AGP, AARP, DNR and the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, the Staff requests the Commission move the issues scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2007, so that the events scheduled that day through opening statements are moved to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2007, and the Generation Resources / South Harper / South Harper Expenses issues scheduled to be heard Monday, April 2, 2007, and the beginning of Tuesday, April 3, 2007, be moved to begin Wednesday, April 11, 2007, allowing flexibility for any witness availability issues.

5. Delaying the start of the April evidentiary hearing in this case by one day will permit all the parties to engage in meaningful settlement discussions on Monday, April 2, 2007, without unduly burdening any party.

**WHEREFORE** the Staff, with the agreement and endorsement of the above-named parties, moves the Commission to delay the beginning of the hearing in this case from Monday, April 2, 2007, to Tuesday, April 3, 2007, and modify the hearing schedule as suggested above.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Nathan Williams**

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### **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or emailed to all counsel of record this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2007.

**/s/ Nathan Williams**