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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing
September 10, 2019
Perryville, Missouri
Volume I

In the Matter Of the Application)
Of Confluence Rivers Utility)
Operating Company, Inc., For)
Authority to Acquire Certain) File No. WA-2019-0299
Water and Sewer Assets And For A)
Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity)

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
SCOTT RUPP
COMMISSIONER

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1 ***PROCEEDINGS***

2

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go ahead and go
4 on the record. Today is September 10th, 2019. The
5 Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time
6 for a Local Public Hearing in Case No. WA-2019-0299.
7 That also includes Case SA-2019-0300, which is
8 captioned as In the Matter of Confluence Rivers
9 Utility Operating Company, Inc. for Authority to
10 Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets and for
11 Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

12 The Commission has scheduled this Local
13 Public Hearing to give members of the public a
14 chance to comment about Confluence Rivers Utility's
15 Application.

16 The Missouri Public Service Commission
17 regulates the rates charged by public utility
18 companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are
19 just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates
20 the qualify of service and safety of the operations
21 of public utilities.

22 The Commission is made up of five
23 Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by
24 the Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the
25 Senate.

1 The Commissioners employ staff of
2 engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
3 analysts, and other specialists in the field of
4 utility regulation.

5 My name is Charles Hatcher. I'm the
6 Regulatory Law Judge and will preside over this
7 Hearing. With me today is Commissioner Scott Rupp.

8 This is an Official Hearing of the
9 Missouri Public Service Commission and the
10 statements and testimony of witnesses will be
11 recorded by the Court Reporter and must be given
12 under oath.

13 All of the Commissioners will have the
14 opportunity to read all of the witnesses'
15 statements, and additionally I will brief the
16 Commissioners on what was said here this afternoon.
17 The Commissioners do value your comments and input.

18 Commissioner Rupp, any opening
19 comments?

20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Sure.

21 Welcome. Thank you for coming today.
22 Apparently I didn't wear red. I didn't get that
23 memo.

24 Anyway, I wanted to let you know a
25 couple things up front. I cannot answer any

1 questions, so if you come up and you want to pose
2 any questions to me, I cannot respond, because we're
3 technically considered to be Judges.

4 So if you were to be at Schnucks or the
5 grocery store and see a Judge and go up and ask him
6 about a case that's pending before him, he can't
7 talk about it. So it's the same thing here.

8 So sometimes people think we're being,
9 you know, obtuse or flippant and just not answering.
10 I just cannot answer any questions to that. That is
11 why we had the question and answer period
12 beforehand, and there's also people from the Staff
13 of the Public Commission, the Company, and Office of
14 Public Counsel that can answer questions for you.

15 I may have a question for you, just to
16 kind of clarify and help me understand what you're
17 saying and things of that nature, so maybe it would
18 seem a little unfair that I can ask you questions
19 but -- you can ask me questions, you just won't get
20 an answer if you do that.

21 But I want to say thank you for coming
22 out today. Don't read anything into the fact that
23 there's only one of the five Commissioners here. We
24 have Local Public Hearings all across the state and
25 stuff, and we always just try to cover them.

1 They will get copies of everything that
2 you are saying that's given to the Court Reporter.
3 We get a copy of that, plus the Judge is also gonna
4 brief them.

5 Also, if you know of anyone in your
6 community that was unable to make it here today,
7 they can file their own comments via the Public
8 Service Commission's website, which will also get to
9 us, and we will get to read those comments as well.

10 So thank you for coming out. I would
11 love to hear your thoughts on that matter, and just
12 feel free to come up and tell us what is on your
13 mind, and we are here to listen.

14 If you do want to follow this process,
15 it is a lengthy process. This is the beginning,
16 then this will eventually culminate into a Hearing
17 in Jefferson City with multiple different attorneys
18 and different witnesses and different evidence being
19 entered in.

20 You can watch all of those proceedings
21 online. We stream everything online so that you can
22 have as much access and transparency as possible.
23 But I'm gonna hand it back over to the Judge and
24 we're gonna go ahead and get started. Thank you.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Let's go

1 ahead and ask Counsel to enter their appearance for
2 the record. First, Confluence Rivers Utility
3 Operating Company, please.

4 MR. MITTEN: Your Honor, let the record
5 reflect the appearance of Russ Mitten for Confluence
6 Rivers Utility Operating Company. I provided the
7 address information to the Court Reporter.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Lake Perry
9 Lot Owners' Association.

10 MR. LINTON: Good afternoon, Your
11 Honor, Commissioner Rupp. David Linton of the law
12 firm McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer on behalf of the
13 Association, 314 Romaine Spring View, Fenton,
14 Missouri 63026.

15 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And the
16 Commission's Staff Counsel.

17 MS. BRETZ: Karen Bretz for Staff. The
18 Court Reporter has my information too.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And Office
20 of the Public Counsel.

21 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer on behalf of
22 the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. I will
23 supply my contact information with the Court
24 Reporter.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you all.

1 The process this evening is I'm going
2 to call the names listed on the sign-up sheet in the
3 order that they appear. When I call your name,
4 please come on down to the podium. I will place you
5 under oath and ask you to state and spell your name,
6 and then you can offer your comments to the
7 Commission.

8 Given the number of people here today,
9 we will use a five minute timer so that everyone has
10 a chance to testify. Now, also please do remain at
11 the podium after your remarks as there may be
12 follow-up questions from the Commission or the
13 Parties.

14 And as Commissioner Rupp stated, the
15 Commissioners nor myself will be able to answer any
16 questions today. We do want to remain impartial
17 until after all of the evidence is presented.

18 The Commission has not made any
19 decisions in this case and is interested in your
20 comments and will use your comments in helping them
21 make their decision.

22 If you do have any questions, please
23 speak to the representatives of the Company, the
24 Commission's Staff, the Office of the Public
25 Counsel, or the other parties who are also here.

1 My final request is for everyone to
2 please be courteous and treat others as you would
3 like to be treated.

4 The first name on the list is Vincent
5 Reinacher, and I do apologize in advance for all of
6 the mispronunciations I'm gonna make this afternoon.

7 Vincent, can you come on down to the
8 microphone, and watch the cord, sir, it's right
9 there. Mr. Reinacher, could you spell your last
10 name, please?

11 MR. REINACHER: R-e-i-n-a-c-h-e-r.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And would
13 you please raise your right hand.

14 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
15 the testimony you are about to give is the truth,
16 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

17 MR. REINACHER: I do.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, and you may
19 proceed with your comments.

20 MR. REINACHER: Well, my statement has
21 got to do with maintenance and stuff. So basically
22 the maintenance and repairs that could cause us to
23 experience systematic and spontaneous outages, I
24 feel that we have heard from many, many other
25 customers of Confluence Rivers how outrageous the

1 outages are, boil orders that are not communicated
2 in advance and happen all the time. Our system is
3 not a bad system, but this company has a reputation
4 of making expensive repairs because they get a
5 financial benefit from it.

6 We don't need that kind of help. I
7 believe in having a locally owned and operated
8 company, which will help keep rates lower, employ
9 local people and company, and be available
10 immediately should a problem occur.

11 Thank you.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you,
13 Mr. Reinacher. Are there any questions?

14 MR. MITTEN: Your Honor, I have some
15 questions. I have a document I would like to hand
16 Mr. Reinacher.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

18 MR. MITTEN: If you'd like to have it
19 marked as an exhibit, I'm happy to do that.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Are you going to
21 introduce it as an exhibit?

22 MR. MITTEN: Not necessarily. Not yet
23 anyway.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Let's go ahead.

25 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Reinacher, my name is

1 Russ Mitten. I'm the Counsel for Confluence Rivers
2 Utility Operating Company.

3 Mr. Reinacher, the document I've handed
4 you is an August 2019 newsletter, which I believe
5 was sent to all the members of the Port Perry Lot
6 Owners' Association.

7 Have you ever seen this document
8 before?

9 MR. REINACHER: Yeah.

10 MR. MITTEN: If you could turn to the
11 second page, about the middle of the page there's a
12 highlighted section and it states, we will be
13 looking for speakers at the PSC local hearing at
14 Perryville. We cannot have all of you speak, but
15 would like some spokespersons to address the
16 Commission. We will also assist you with talking
17 points.

18 Did I read that correctly?

19 MR. REINACHER: Yes.

20 MR. MITTEN: Were you asked to testify
21 today by the Port Perry Lot Owners' Association?

22 MR. REINACHER: No.

23 MR. MITTEN: Did they assist you with
24 any talking points?

25 MR. REINACHER: Yes.

1 MR. MITTEN: And who assisted you with
2 those talking points?

3 MR. REINACHER: Rich.

4 MR. MITTEN: Anybody else?

5 MR. REINACHER: No.

6 MR. MITTEN: And were those the -- did
7 you read what Mr. Dewilde provided as your statement
8 today?

9 MR. REINACHER: Part of it was, yes.

10 MR. MITTEN: Okay. No further
11 questions. Thank you, Your Honor.

12 COURT REPORTER: Could I get the name
13 of Rich? Does somebody know Rich's name?

14 MR. REINACHER: Dewilde.

15 COURT REPORTER: Yes. How do you spell
16 it?

17 MR. REINACHER: D-e-w-i-l-d-e.

18 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

19 MR. MITTEN: If you could just leave
20 that on the chair, because I may be asking other
21 witnesses about the same thing. Thank you.

22 JUDGE HATCHER: Are there any other
23 questions?

24 MS. BRETZ: Yes, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Reinacher, if

1 you'll hold on for just a moment.

2 MR. REINACHER: Okay.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Sorry.

4 MS. BRETZ: Good afternoon,

5 Mr. Reinacher. My name is Karen Bretz. I represent

6 Staff for the Public Service Commission, and I just

7 happened to notice that you have a 618 area code --

8 MR. REINACHER: Yes.

9 MS. BRETZ: -- for your phone?

10 My parents live in St. Clair County,

11 Illinois, so I recognize that area code. But

12 anyway, I don't mean to be daft, but do you receive

13 water or sewer service from Port Perry currently?

14 MR. REINACHER: Yes.

15 MS. BRETZ: Which ones do you receive?

16 MR. REINACHER: Both.

17 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thank you.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Any other questions?

19 Thank you, Mr. Reinacher. You're dismissed.

20 James Dyer, please come down to the

21 microphone.

22 MR. DYER: My name is James Dyer,

23 that's D-y-e-r.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Dyer.

25 Let me go ahead and swear you in.

1 Would you please raise your right hand.
2 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony
3 you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth,
4 and nothing but the truth?

5 MR. DYER: I do.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

7 MR. DYER: Right now I am retired. I
8 am not on a fixed income. I still have an annuity,
9 which will run about three or four more years.
10 After that the annuity will run out and I will be
11 totally on fixed income.

12 The costs that are going to be hoisted
13 on us, it looks like, are going to be considerable,
14 and I think they will cause me some challenge to my
15 budget, to say the least. I can still deal with it,
16 but it's gonna be tougher.

17 I think there will be others at Port
18 Perry in the coming years who will probably have the
19 same situation, because I suspect there will be
20 other people retiring to Port Perry in the future.
21 And, so, the cost is, I think, a major concern for
22 me and for those of my fellow people who are here
23 today.

24 There's a second problem, and that is
25 generally I would prefer to deal with those people

1 who are neighbors, who I have been around and who I
2 trust. A stranger who comes in who buys a company
3 and says that he's going to do wonderful things for
4 us and his company will, I have yet to see that. We
5 will see.

6 However, generally I find that as the
7 company gets larger and larger, it gets less
8 responsive to the needs of the people beneath it,
9 and I think over time that is likely to happen as
10 well.

11 The third problem that I have is
12 essentially that I have only a few more years,
13 probably, to enjoy Port Perry before I pass on to
14 our Lord. I am 79 right now, and so I'm getting up
15 there in age.

16 I'd like those last few years to be
17 ones where not everything is torn up at Port Perry,
18 where they're having to make incredible amounts of
19 changes to the scenery so that sometime after I die
20 everything will be put back in order again.

21 I prefer to have local control. I feel
22 that I can deal more effectively with people that I
23 know than people I don't know. That's my testimony,
24 and I thank you for listening, and I am available
25 for any questions.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Dyer.

2 Any questions?

3 MR. MITTEN: I have some questions.

4 Thank you, Your Honor.

5 Mr. Dyer, were you asked to be a
6 witness today by anyone with the Port Perry Lot
7 Owners' Association?

8 MR. DYER: I was not directly asked,
9 no.

10 MR. MITTEN: Were you indirectly asked?

11 MR. DYER: Indirectly, yes, because we
12 had a meeting about this a few -- a few nights ago,
13 and it was discussed and peop -- they said at that
14 time you could testify if you wished, but I was
15 never approached directly to testify.

16 MR. MITTEN: Were you given any talking
17 points with regard --

18 MR. DYER: I was not. This is all
19 mine.

20 MR. MITTEN: Did you discuss your
21 testimony prior to giving it today with anyone from
22 the Port Perry Lot Owners' Association?

23 MR. DYER: I discussed it with no one,
24 sir.

25 MR. MITTEN: Thank you very much.

1 MR. DYER: You're welcome.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

3 MS. BRETZ: Good afternoon.

4 MR. DYER: Good afternoon.

5 MS. BRETZ: It sounds like you are a
6 resident of Port --

7 MR. DYER: I am a resident of Port
8 Perry.

9 MS. BRETZ: And you receive water and
10 sewer service from Port Perry?

11 MR. DYER: I do.

12 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thank you.

13 MR. DYER: You're welcome. I've been
14 there now, I think, about four years.

15 MS. BRETZ: Okay.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Dyer.

17 MR. DYER: You're welcome.

18 Bob Pelker. Please come to the
19 microphone, Mr. Pelker.

20 MR. PELKER: My name is Bob Pelker,
21 P-as in Paul-e-l-k-e-r.

22 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir.

23 Please raise your right hand. Do you
24 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you're
25 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and

1 nothing but the truth?

2 MR. PELKER: I do.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go
4 ahead and give us your comments.

5 MR. PELKER: Well, my wife and I have
6 lived here or had a residence here for 30 years and
7 moved in here in 1990. And at that time we were
8 owned by some organization, I don't -- can't
9 remember the name, but matter of fact, the first 14
10 years of our 30 years started with different
11 organizations, owned us.

12 We paid our monthly assessments and
13 we've never seen any improvements structurally to
14 the property or to the infrastructure, and there was
15 quite a lot of discussion among the current lot
16 owners, where's our fees going?

17 Now we did have a committee elected by
18 those lot owners, and I was on that committee, and
19 the representative from the company would be there
20 and/or the manager, I guess he would be, and we were
21 wasting our time.

22 We'd propose things, we'd ask
23 questions, and he would just kind of wave them off;
24 you know? So there was a lot of conflict with the
25 outside ownership of Lake Perry.

1 Well, 16 years ago the lot owners
2 turned over Lake Perry and its properties, I think
3 630 properties, and since then we've elected a board
4 of trustees, a very qualified board of trustees, by
5 the way, and there has been many improvements to
6 the -- to the property and to the lake.

7 We've got a new gate entrance. We've
8 got a new office building. We've got asphalt roads.
9 We maintain our dam with thousands of tons of rock.
10 And we have a new maintenance building. We maintain
11 our swimming pool and the restaurant. And there's
12 many other improvements that we have made because we
13 have a proactive board.

14 I want to say this to the
15 PSC Committee, because I want you to know that we
16 are capable of purchasing and maintaining our own
17 water and sewer company.

18 We know bills will go up, but if we run
19 the company we know two things. One, our money will
20 be spent on us for us, not the problem of some other
21 systems that we -- I'm gonna lose my voice here in a
22 minute -- that we potentially get lumped into.

23 The second thing is, we will be paying
24 no interest, no money, to investors. We'll be
25 paying it to ourselves. Repairs and emergencies

1 will probably be handled locally, well, they would
2 be handled locally and probably more expeditiously
3 than an outside company or 800 number. We have a
4 sound business plan and sound financial options
5 backed by investors of our own community.

6 In summary, if I can get that far, Lake
7 Perry has a proactive board who's made substantial
8 improvements since we took over the complex 16 years
9 ago. We want our money to go into our own system,
10 not into some other system a big conglomerate might
11 own and not to investors other than ourselves.

12 We want local response time for repairs
13 and emergencies, and we have a sound business plan
14 in place run by capable people we trust and that's a
15 not-for-profit to boot. It's a no-brainer.

16 It's in the best interest of the Lake
17 Perry community to have Lake Perry Service Company
18 own and run our water company and sewer company, and
19 we want to control the destiny of Lake Perry. Thank
20 you.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Any questions for Mr.
22 Pelker?

23 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Pelker, good
24 afternoon. Were you asked to testify by anybody
25 from the Lake Perry Lot Owners' Association?

1 MR. PELKER: No.

2 MR. MITTEN: I couldn't help but notice
3 that you were reading a portion of your statement
4 off a typed document you have. Who provided you
5 that typed document?

6 MR. PELKER: My wife typed it, but I
7 provided her the information.

8 MR. MITTEN: Did anybody give you the
9 information that was put on that document?

10 MR. PELKER: Yes. I asked Rich Dewilde
11 before the meeting how many years have we owned this
12 property. I thought it was 13, but it's 16.

13 MR. MITTEN: And that was the only
14 input Mr. Dewilde had?

15 MR. PELKER: Right.

16 MR. MITTEN: Did anybody else have
17 input on that document other than you and your wife?

18 MR. PELKER: No.

19 MR. MITTEN: Thank you very much.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

21 MS. BRETZ: Do you receive water or
22 sewer service from Port Perry Service?

23 MR. PELKER: Both.

24 MS. BRETZ: Both. Okay. Thank you.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Pelker, thank you

1 very much.

2 Gary Schumer.

3 Mr. Schumer, would you please raise
4 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
5 that the testimony you are about to give is the
6 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

7 MR. SCHUMER: Yes, sir.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
9 and spell your last name, sir.

10 MR. SCHUMER: My name is Gary Schumer,
11 S-c-h-u-m-e-r.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

13 MR. SCHUMER: We currently have a lot
14 and a cabin (Address given but the Judge asks for it
15 to be redacted) at Lake Perry.

16 We've been long members of Lake Perry.
17 My dad was in the plumping and heating and cooling
18 business, and back in the '70's when the original
19 swimming pool was built, my father actually took a
20 lot in exchange for work that he had done at the
21 swimming pool. So we've had this lot since the
22 early '70's when the pool was built.

23 We camped on it for years and years, my
24 wife and I and family. We camped on it nearly every
25 year. A couple of years ago, though, we got tired

1 of camping so we decided to build our retirement
2 home. So my wife and I built a retirement home at
3 Lake Perry two years ago.

4 I'm retired now. I do not live out
5 there full-time yet. I'm still living in
6 Perryville, but our intention is to move out there.
7 We've got a couple of grandkids we're raising that
8 are still in high school, and we don't really want
9 them driving T Road every day.

10 As soon as they get out of high school,
11 we plan to sell our place in Perryville and become
12 permanent residents and join the family that we've
13 already got at Lake Perry. Lake Perry truly is like
14 a family.

15 I personally worked at Lake Perry with
16 my father since the early '70's on the sewer and
17 water lines. So I've been there through the whole
18 build of Lake Perry, through the good times and the
19 bad times, through the bankruptcies and everything
20 that went on.

21 We've currently built a very, very nice
22 community, and we have very good people out there.
23 And we put together a lot owners' association that
24 is very viable and has paved a lot of the roads and
25 knows how to take care of the place.

1 Most of the properties out there belong
2 to working class families or small entrepreneurs.
3 The average home out there, I would venture to say,
4 the property is not worth over a couple hundred
5 thousand dollars. It's not a Lake of the Ozarks
6 where you have multimillion dollar homes. There's
7 probably not one property in the entire development
8 that's worth over a million dollars.

9 Most of these people are double income
10 or double home families. A lot of them, some of
11 them live there, but a lot of them don't have any
12 extra income, so they're either on fixed income or
13 on a permanent, kind of a stationary income and
14 wouldn't have the money to pay for a big inflated
15 utility bill.

16 We have a proven track record of our
17 lot owners' association. We know how -- we feel
18 like we can do a very good job of running our sewer
19 and water system. We have engineers that live out
20 there. I personally have worked on the system since
21 the early '70's.

22 I also was an alderman for the City of
23 Perryville for 24 years and was chairman of the
24 public service or the public utility, Public Works
25 Company for the City of Perryville for almost all

1 those years.

2 So I'm very familiar with the way it
3 works, and I would be more than happy to help with
4 the running of this operation. I ask you to give us
5 the opportunity to run our own system in order to
6 keep our rates more affordable.

7 One of my major concerns and the
8 concerns of some of the other people here is the
9 fact that Confluence can pay a highly inflated price
10 for this system, and I don't blame the owners for
11 wanting to sell to them, but Confluence can take
12 that price and put it in with the whole cost of the
13 operation, and then we end up paying that highly
14 inflated price through our increased rates.

15 So I think if we can keep those rates
16 stable, I think we're gonna be -- it would be a lot
17 better to serve the public and serve the citizens of
18 Lake Perry if we were owned by our own
19 not-for-profit association. And we are more than
20 capable of running it, rather than an
21 investment-owned utility company that's for-profit.
22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Schumer.
24 Mr. Mitten?

25 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Schumer, did anyone

1 ask you to testify today as a spokesman for the Lake
2 Perry Lot Owner's Association?

3 MR. SCHUMER: I attended the other
4 meetings that the Lot Owners' Association had, and
5 they indirectly asked us.

6 But directly I was not asked, but as
7 soon as I was happy to hear that we were gonna have
8 a public service -- or Public Service Commission
9 Hearing today, I made my mind up that I was gonna
10 speak.

11 MR. MITTEN: Did anyone provide you
12 with talking points or otherwise assist you with
13 your testimony?

14 MR. SCHUMER: No, they did not. Those
15 are all my own words.

16 MR. MITTEN: I have no further
17 questions. Thank you, Mr. Schumer.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

19 MS. BRETZ: Mr. Schumer, are you
20 familiar with the terms dry cabin and wet cabin?

21 MR. SCHUMER: Well, we have a cabin
22 that has plumbing and all the utilities, and I don't
23 know what the difference is.

24 MS. BRETZ: Okay. Well, you have a wet
25 cabin then.

1 MR. SCHUMER: I figured that was what
2 it was. Yeah, we have public -- we have water and
3 sewer in our cabin.

4 MS. BRETZ: And you receive service
5 from Port Perry?

6 MR. SCHUMER: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thanks.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Schumer.

9 MR. SCHUMER: Thank you.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Janet Hadler.

11 Ms. Hadler, would you please raise your
12 right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
13 the testimony you are about to give is the truth,
14 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

15 MS. HADLER: I do.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Would you please state
17 your name and spell your last name?

18 MS. HADLER: Janet Hadler, H-a-d-l-e-r.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Please go ahead.

20 MS. HADLER: I'm going to read it. My
21 memory isn't very long at this age. My name is
22 Janet Hadler. My husband, Elbert, and I have owned
23 property at Lake Perry since October 1973 and look
24 forward to spending more years enjoying the
25 development.

1 In the not too distant future, we plan
2 to pass this property on to our family as they are
3 nearing retirement. We have been retired for over
4 20 years and do not see an increase coming to our
5 fixed income. Our family plans to build a cabin and
6 make other improvements to our lot.

7 We would like to see expenses at Port
8 Perry as near as possible to what they are at
9 present, not only to help us and our family, but to
10 help other newcomers.

11 It has been explained, to our
12 understanding, if Confluence Rivers is permitted to
13 purchase Lake Perry Service Company, the cost to
14 property owners could possibly be greatly increased.
15 Since Confluence Rivers is not a local company, they
16 may not have the best interest of the community in
17 their plans. Thank you.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Hadler.

19 Mr. Mitten?

20 MR. MITTEN: Ms. Hadler, were you asked
21 to testify today as a spokesperson for the Lake
22 Perry Lot Owners' Association?

23 MS. HADLER: Not directly. I was at
24 the other two meetings and given the opportunity if
25 I wanted to volunteer.

1 MR. MITTEN: But no one specifically
2 asked you to testify? Did anybody give you talking
3 points or otherwise assist you with your testimony?

4 MS. HADLER: There were just
5 suggestions made.

6 MR. MITTEN: And who made those
7 suggestions?

8 MS. HADLER: Rich Dewilde and the
9 other -- I don't know the lady's name that was
10 handling our meeting.

11 MR. MITTEN: Peggy Ladd, does that --

12 MS. HADLER: Yes.

13 MR. MITTEN: And do you know who Ms.
14 Ladd is?

15 MS. HADLER: I do.

16 MR. MITTEN: Who is she?

17 MS. HADLER: She worked at one time for
18 our public service. I'm not sure where she worked.

19 MR. MITTEN: But in the context of this
20 case, she was hired by the Lake Perry Lot owners'
21 Association as a consultant; is that correct?

22 MS. HADLER: I think so.

23 MR. MITTEN: And Mr. Dewilde is the
24 president of the Lot owners' Association?

25 MS. HADLER: Yes.

1 MR. MITTEN: I have no further
2 questions. Thank you.

3 MR. LINTON: Yes, ma'am. David Linton.
4 Did anybody force you to come up and comment today?

5 MS. HADLER: No.

6 MR. LINTON: Are those your thoughts
7 that you spoke?

8 MS. HADLER: Those are my thoughts.

9 MR. LINTON: And you agree with those
10 thoughts?

11 MS. HADLER: I agree with them.

12 MR. LINTON: Thank you.

13 MS. BRETZ: Do you receive water or
14 sewer service from Port Perry currently?

15 A We do not. We always -- I didn't want
16 to have two homes to take care of, so we bought a
17 motor home and we take it out there.

18 MS. BRETZ: Okay.

19 MS. HADLER: We take our water and we
20 take our sewer.

21 MS. BRETZ: Okay. So you bring your
22 water in and take your sewer out?

23 MS. HADLER: Yes.

24 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thank you.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Hadler.

1 Ruth Harmon, please. Ms. Harmon,
2 please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear
3 or affirm that the testimony you are about to give
4 is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
5 truth?

6 MS. HARMON: I do.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And please
8 state and spell your last name.

9 MS. HARMON: My name is Ruth Harmon,
10 H-a-r-m-o-n.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead and
12 give us your comments.

13 MS. HARMON: Well, I first want to say
14 that I concur with the previous statements. We have
15 been lot owners since 1984, and we don't currently
16 have water and sewer on our lot.

17 Our big concern is the price increase.
18 We're retired. My husband lost his job a couple
19 years ago and, so, we are concerned about increased
20 costs. And had hopefully thought maybe we would
21 retire down there someday, but if the costs are
22 outrageous, we won't be able to do that.

23 The other thing is our lot, due to the
24 association's takeover of Port Perry, has
25 appreciated quite a bit, and it's part of our

1 retirement savings. And, so, if it comes to a point
2 where people don't want to buy there or don't want
3 to build there, our lot value will decrease, and
4 that's another big concern we have.

5 And we've been very, very pleased with
6 our lot owners' association. I didn't realize it's
7 been 16 years. But since they've taken over, the
8 whole community has just developed into a really,
9 really nice place to be.

10 We've always enjoyed going to the lake,
11 and they've taken so much better care. We've gotten
12 paved roads. We've gotten shower houses -- that's
13 what we use when we're down there -- that are much
14 better taken care of than they had ever been before.

15 And the pool is much nicer, much
16 clearer, than it had been previous with our lot
17 owners' association. They've been great stewards of
18 our community.

19 And we really feel like if they have
20 the opportunity to set up a not-for-profit board to
21 run our utilities, I know they will do a wonderful
22 job. They've proven that over and over again the
23 last 16 years.

24 I really think this is a question of
25 self-determination, and we would like to have that

1 opportunity. Thank you.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Hadler.

3 MS. HARMON: Harmon.

4 JUDGE HATCHER: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 MR. MITTEN: Ms. Hadler --

6 MS. HARMON: It's Harmon.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Harmon.

8 MR. MITTEN: Ms. Harmon, excuse me.

9 Did anyone from the Lake Perry Lot Owners'
10 Association ask or encourage you to testify today?

11 MS. HARMON: I was at the meetings and
12 they had mentioned that it would be a good idea if
13 we had an opinion that we should state it, and they
14 said either way, if you were for it or against this
15 sale.

16 MR. MITTEN: Did anyone from the Lot
17 owners' Association provide you talking points or
18 otherwise assist you with the content --

19 MS. HARMON: No, they did not.

20 MR. MITTEN: -- of your testimony?

21 MS. HARMON: They -- they said if we
22 were interested that we could talk to them. But,
23 no, I mean, I have my own opinions.

24 MR. MITTEN: Thank you very much. No
25 further questions.

1 MS. HARMON: Thank you.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Harmon.

3 Mr. David Harmon, please. Please raise
4 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
5 that the testimony you are about to give is the
6 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

7 MR. HARMON: Yes, I do.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
9 state your name and spell your last name.

10 MR. HARMON: It's David Harmon,
11 H-a-r-m-o-n.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Harmon, please go
13 ahead with your comments.

14 MR. HARMON: Just want to say that I've
15 been an owner since the early '80's with my wife,
16 and we're at -- (Address given, but the Judge asks
17 for it to be redacted) -- right on the lake.

18 And we bought that lot, because to me,
19 lakefront property never goes down in value. This
20 issue might have the concern to us that it could
21 cause it to go down in value, and we are both
22 retired, and that would be part of our savings is
23 that lake lot.

24 I feel like a nonprofit running it
25 would be much better than a for-profit. I think

1 they'll hold the prices lower. And with the control
2 of the nonprofit being local lot owners, to a vast
3 majority, I can say is a great benefit to everyone
4 at the lake. We don't have to worry about concerns
5 from other parts of the country.

6 Confluence Rivers seems to have a
7 history of incredible price increases, and based on
8 their expenses, which they can create whatever kind
9 of expense they want, whether it be interest or
10 capital expenditures, with no oversight from the
11 local owners.

12 I would like to thank the Lake
13 Association that took over the operation, and I
14 think they would do a good job taking over the water
15 and sewer as well. They have done a fantastic job
16 over the decades to manage and improve the whole
17 community.

18 The vast majority of the audience are
19 wearing red shirts in opposition to Confluence
20 Rivers. I just want it stated for the record, that
21 a vast majority are wearing red shirts. And second
22 of all, I think land values will definitely go down
23 if our rates go up substantially. Thank you.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Harmon, if you
25 could hold on for just a second.

1 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Harmon, just a few
2 questions. Did anyone from the Lake Perry Lot
3 Owners' Association ask or encourage you to testify
4 today as a spokesperson?

5 MR. HARMON: No. I attended the
6 meetings, and I was informed there would be a
7 meeting.

8 MR. MITTEN: Did they provide you any
9 talking points or otherwise assist you with your
10 testimony?

11 MR. HARMON: No, they did not.

12 MR. MITTEN: The information that you
13 have about rate increases for other Central States
14 Affiliated Companies, is that -- did they come from
15 the information that you received from the Lot
16 Owners' Association?

17 MR. HARMON: I have that document and I
18 have seen it, but I got most of my information from
19 complaints on the Web.

20 MR. MITTEN: Did you review any of the
21 Commission Orders regarding those rate increases?

22 MR. HARMON: No.

23 MR. MITTEN: So you don't have any idea
24 what went into the Commission's decision to allow
25 rates to increase in any of those communities?

1 MR. HARMON: No, only comments from
2 people at those communities about how the rates
3 increased by sometimes five and six times what they
4 were.

5 MR. MITTEN: Do you know the Commission
6 is legally required to set rates that are fair and
7 reasonable, not only for customers but also for the
8 utilities that provide service?

9 MR. HARMON: I think they set rates
10 based on the information they are given.

11 MR. MITTEN: And you don't --

12 MR. HARMON: Not necessarily what is
13 fair.

14 MR. MITTEN: And you don't think they
15 got good information in any of those cases?

16 MR. HARMON: I cannot say.

17 MR. MITTEN: Thank you.

18 MR. HARMON: And I take great offense
19 to being asked who I talked to and who I haven't
20 talked to.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

22 Kathleen Haden, if you could come to
23 the microphone. Ms. Haden, if you would please
24 raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or
25 affirm that the testimony you are about to give is

1 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
2 truth?

3 MS. HAYDEN: I do.

4 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go
5 ahead and give us your comments.

6 MS. HAYDEN: Okay. Do I need --

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Oh, I'm sorry. Give us
8 your name and spell your last name, please.

9 MS. HAYDEN: It's -- well, my first
10 name's Kathleen with a K, K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n, last name
11 is Hayden, H-a-y-d-e-n.

12 So I'm here as a lot owner at Lake
13 Perry. We built a home out there 13 years ago, a
14 second home. We made the decision that we would
15 sell our home out there and sell our 42 year old
16 home here and downsize to move out there.

17 We bought three lots as investments for
18 our retirement, and we're at retirement age now, but
19 we sold our house in July and we put it on hold to
20 build because we are afraid of what is going to
21 happen with this increase and how it's gonna be
22 taken care of.

23 And we happen to be lucky that we were
24 in the middle and have not started our home, so we
25 could put it on hold. It breaks my heart; I love it

1 out there. But going into retirement, it's a little
2 hard when you're trying to work on a fixed budget as
3 to you don't know what the rates are gonna be.

4 I'm not naive that I don't understand
5 that even if Lake Perry has the opportunity to buy
6 this, that there won't be rate increases. However,
7 I believe and trust in the people who will be part
8 of that community that will make decisions for what
9 those rate increases are.

10 I also understand that there's
11 infrastructure and things that need to be done, but
12 there's a difference in using pipes with gold
13 linings versus something that will do the same job.

14 So, yes, I understand the Commission
15 does set those rates, but I also know they have to
16 get their information. So I can tell you this is
17 what it costs me, this is how much I have to pay my
18 investors, and that's what I need to recoup. That
19 goes into it.

20 So that's my opinion. I would like for
21 Lake Perry Lot Owners to have the opportunity to buy
22 this. I would like for Confluence to be taken out
23 of the running. Thank you.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Hayden.
25 Any questions, Mr. Mitten?

1 MR. MITTEN: Ms. Hayden, did anyone
2 from the Port Perry Lot Owners' Association ask you
3 to testify today as a spokesperson?

4 MS. HAYDEN: No, sir, I'm my own
5 person. I make those decisions.

6 MR. MITTEN: Did they provide you any
7 talking points?

8 MS. HAYDEN: They did not.

9 MR. MITTEN: Are you aware that when
10 the Commission considers a proposed rate increase
11 they review investments that the utility makes to
12 make sure that they're not putting in gold plated
13 pipes?

14 MS. HAYDEN: I also -- yes, I am aware
15 of that. But I also know there are places where
16 maybe something else could have been used, maybe
17 there's -- you still have to have decisions made at
18 a company level; right?

19 So they don't have time to go out and
20 inspect every single pipe to see what we use or not.
21 I'm just using that as -- saying that it can be
22 influenced that way.

23 Or investors, the investors could be
24 paid more than a not-for-profit organization would
25 be.

1 MR. MITTEN: No further questions,
2 thank you.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Any other
4 questions? Ms. Bretz?

5 MS. BRETZ: Thank you. Just to make
6 sure, you are not a Port Perry Service Company water
7 or sewer customer?

8 MS. HAYDEN: Not since the end of July
9 since we sold our home. We do have three lots out
10 there that we can hook up at any time --

11 MS. BRETZ: Okay. But currently --

12 MS. HAYDEN: -- and will. But
13 currently I am not.

14 MS. BRETZ: Okay.

15 MS. HAYDEN: Just as of the end of
16 July.

17 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thanks.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Hayden.

19 Linda Logan, please come to the
20 microphone. Ms. Logan, please raise your right
21 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
22 testimony you are about to give is the truth, the
23 whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

24 MS. LOGAN: I do.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state and spell

1 your last name, please.

2 MS. LOGAN: Logan, L-o-g-a-n.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead with
4 your comments.

5 MS. LOGAN: We -- my husband and I
6 bought a lot out here in 1985, and then expanded it
7 again a couple years later, so that we live on the
8 lake. We built a home in 2002.

9 At the time we were working, both of
10 us, in Cape Girardeau, and traveled back and forth
11 for several years, but meant for this to be our
12 retirement home. We have since retired and live out
13 here full-time on the lake.

14 During that period of time, I'm
15 reiterating things that I've already heard and agree
16 with as far as our Lake Perry Association, our
17 Board, they have provided excellent leadership.

18 Both Bill and I are very well pleased
19 with what they've done around the lake, and we feel,
20 believe, that this type of representation will
21 continue if we, as Lake Association, will be able to
22 purchase the sewer and water rights.

23 The second thing, as other people have
24 said, that we are on a fixed income now. We no
25 longer work. And any increases are felt on a

1 monthly basis, and we are very concerned that the
2 rates may increase considerably and that we may not
3 be able to afford that any longer, which would
4 disappoint us if we were not able to continue to be
5 here. That's it.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you very much,
7 Ms. Logan. Any questions? Mr. Mitten?

8 MR. MITTEN: Just a couple. Ms. Logan,
9 were you asked to appear today --

10 MS. LOGAN: No.

11 MR. MITTEN: -- as a spokesperson?

12 MS. LOGAN: No.

13 MR. MITTEN: And were you given any
14 talking points?

15 MS. LOGAN: No, sir, I was not.

16 MR. MITTEN: No further questions.

17 Thank you.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

19 MR. MITTEN: Do you receive water and
20 sewer service from --

21 MS. LOGAN: Full-time.

22 MS. BRETZ: You receive it; okay.

23 MS. LOGAN: Thank you.

24 MS. BRETZ: Thank you.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Logan.

1 If Lori Courtney could please come to the
2 microphone, please? Thank you.

3 Please raise your right hand. Do you
4 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
5 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
6 nothing but the truth?

7 MS. COURTNEY: I do.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
9 state your name and spell your last name.

10 MS. COURTNEY: My name is Lori
11 Courtney. My last name, C-o-u-r-t-n-e-y.

12 My husband and I are much involved in
13 Lake Perry. We live in St. Louis but have a weekend
14 home that we built in 1996, and we have future plans
15 to retire and expand our lake house.

16 We love the community of Lake Perry and
17 thanks for taking time today to hear our concerns.
18 Tom and I would like to see the success of Lake
19 Perry continue. It is unique.

20 We are a business type of small city in
21 operation, it seems like. We are run by a Board
22 very well. We have a very balanced budget and roads
23 have been paved and paid for, mostly.

24 Improvements are too many to name, but
25 like Bob and Gary had mentioned, some other benefits

1 that we have improved on. We are a lake community
2 that is thriving where many lake communities in the
3 past currently are not.

4 So I know we can run a water/sewer
5 system. We have a good water/sewer system already,
6 and we have a good business plan in the works, ready
7 for this emergency of being bought out and owned by
8 Confluence.

9 We have contracting options in
10 Perryville and local areas to hire to lend their
11 professional help, and I trust our Board of Trustees
12 and their mission.

13 Many of us don't trust Confluence from
14 their past actions, and we totally expect them to
15 raise our rates, profit from us, and use our money
16 to help the failing distressed communities that
17 they're involved in otherwise.

18 So Tom and I don't like what we see
19 online either when we researched Confluence. I know
20 Missouri has challenges to solve small community
21 water and sewer systems. They need a lot of help
22 and that costs money and needs good plans and
23 leadership.

24 If self-interest seeking for-profit
25 companies easily get to acquire Missouri

1 communities, regardless of their own abilities and
2 their own community's best interest, it seems to set
3 a precedent for future plans and problem solving and
4 options in Missouri. So I ask that, you know, you
5 please help Missouri as we all hurdle these
6 challenges in the future.

7 We have neighbors in St. Louis who own
8 a house in Cuba or Indian Hills Lake, and they have
9 told us, as we discussed, when all of this came up,
10 you know, how many of the residents have had to
11 resort to even digging their own wells and that they
12 have had boil water notices.

13 And the costs have really gone up, and
14 they weren't really happy about this. And they've
15 kind of watched a lot of houses for sale kind of
16 happen out there too.

17 Our neighbor at Lake Perry is a widow
18 too that we have on our street. She's 86 years old
19 and on a limited income. And she, like many, you
20 know, is a full-time resident also for, like, 23
21 years, and she's concerned about her monthly bills.

22 So I see that Confluence would not be
23 in the best interest of Lake Perry unless they
24 really change their business model for us. Thank
25 you.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms.

2 Courtney. Any questions, Mr. Mitten?

3 MR. MITTEN: Ms. Courtney, were you
4 asked to testify today as a spokesperson for the
5 Lake Perry Lot Owners' Association?

6 MS. COURTNEY: No, not directly.

7 MR. MITTEN: Were you asked indirectly?

8 MS. COURTNEY: Indirectly when the
9 meetings were offered and I listened in, I wanted to
10 help, Tom and I, our opinions felt like we, you
11 know, could help out that way, so we looked into the
12 matters more, yeah.

13 MR. MITTEN: And did anybody provide
14 you talking points or otherwise assist you with what
15 you provided in your testimony today?

16 MS. COURTNEY: Yes. I had an
17 opportunity to talk to Rich and Peggy Ladd this
18 morning, Rich Dewilde.

19 I had written this all up beforehand,
20 and I kind of showed them and to make sure it was
21 accurate. And he confirmed, yeah, that, you know,
22 in the meetings too, the business plan that we have
23 and contracting options in Perryville. And Peggy
24 said that we are a unique community and I added
25 unique in there.

1 MR. MITTEN: You talked about the Board
2 of Directors of the Lot Owners' Association having a
3 balanced budget and providing money for improvements
4 in the area.

5 Do you have any idea how much the Lot
6 Owners' Association Board has spent on its
7 intervention in this case?

8 MS. COURTNEY: Intervention? Can
9 you --

10 MR. MITTEN: Being involved in this
11 case.

12 MS. COURTNEY: In the past?

13 MR. MITTEN: No, in this particular
14 case that we're involved in today.

15 MS. COURTNEY: I know that we've had to
16 hire some help to -- long-term benefits that we, as
17 a community, we've had to hire on some help, like
18 attorneys and things, I would assume. I don't know
19 how much though.

20 MR. MITTEN: Well, speaking
21 hypothetically, if you had spent in excess of
22 \$100,000 on your --

23 MS. COURTNEY: Personally?

24 MR. MITTEN: -- on your -- no, if the
25 Lot Owners' Association had spent in excess of

1 \$100,000 on its intervention in this case, would
2 that be of concern to you?

3 MS. COURTNEY: I'd have to know more
4 about it.

5 MR. MITTEN: Do you have any idea how
6 they might recoup that money?

7 MS. COURTNEY: No. Well, I'd have to
8 know more about it.

9 MR. MITTEN: Thank you.

10 MS. COURTNEY: Uh-huh.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

12 MS. BRETZ: So you receive water and
13 sewer service from Port Perry currently?

14 MS. COURTNEY: Currently, yes.

15 MS. BRETZ: Okay; thank you.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms.
17 Courtney. Oh, we have one question if you could
18 remain.

19 MR. CLIZER: You mentioned that you had
20 typed up your comments --

21 MS. COURTNEY: No, I handwrote them
22 this morning.

23 MR. CLIZER: I'm sorry. You had
24 handwritten them before coming, before speaking to
25 Mr. Dewilde and the other one?

1 MS. COURTNEY: Peggy, uh-huh.

2 MR. CLIZER: Peggy; yes. Okay. Thank
3 you.

4 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Lori, is it
5 L-o-r-i or L-a-u-r-i-e?

6 MR. CLIZER: L-o-r-i.

7 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

8 MS. COURTNEY: Uh-huh.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Ed Jantosik, Jr., and I
10 do apologize. I'm pretty sure I messed that up.

11 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: It's been butchered
12 worse.

13 JUDGE HATCHER: We will start with the
14 swearing in first.

15 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
16 the testimony you are about to give is the truth,
17 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

18 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: Yes.

19 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
20 state your name and spell your last name.

21 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: Okay. Ed Jantosik,
22 Jr., J-a-n-t-o-s-i-k.

23 I would like to thank the Missouri Public
24 Service Commission for granting a Public Hearing for
25 Lake Perry Lot Owners. My wife and I are a Lake

1 Perry lot owner. We built a home in Lake Perry and
2 are connected to the Port Perry Service Company
3 Water and Sewer Services. Our preference is for the
4 Missouri PSC to deny Confluence Rivers from
5 purchasing/operating the sewer and water assets from
6 Port Perry Service Company.

7 Our preference is for the Lake Perry
8 Service Company, which is locally owned and a
9 nonprofit to purchase the assets and operate the
10 sewer and water systems.

11 We feel that Lake Perry Service Company
12 operating as a nonprofit will be able to provide
13 more affordable rates, secure more affordable
14 financing, provide transparency, affordably
15 maintain/upgrade the systems as needed to comply
16 with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources
17 regulations and provide more timely service
18 utilizing local contractors.

19 While we have been connected to the
20 sewer and water systems, Port Perry Service Company
21 has maintained affordable rates for both services as
22 well as keeping both systems operating in compliance
23 with Missouri Department of Natural Resources
24 regulations.

25 To our knowledge, our system is not a

1 distressed system. Confluence Rivers is part of a
2 larger Central States Water Resources, which is an
3 investor owned company. Our concern with Confluence
4 Rivers is transparency, ability to secure financing
5 for this and other recent acquisitions, charge
6 affordable rates, maintain systems in a timely
7 manner without local contractors, and a possibility
8 of lower property values if they are successful in
9 acquiring Port Perry's Service Company's assets,
10 which in our opinion is detrimental to the public,
11 which in our case is Lake Perry Lot Owners.

12 In a Post Dispatch 6/13/2016 article,
13 Cox says he's providing a service no one else will,
14 and that acquiring more systems will allow it to
15 spread the cost to fix them up or from more
16 customers.

17 Does this mean that they will utilize
18 operating income from Lake Perry's sewer and water
19 customers to fix other construction systems?

20 In the same article Sidney Mayfield,
21 Deputy Counsel for the Office of Public Counsel
22 states that this has not been a very transparent or
23 cooperative relationship so far, referring to Cox
24 and Central States.

25 Thank you again for granting the

1 Hearing, and please do not allow the sale of the
2 aforementioned assets to Confluence Rivers, as we
3 feel it is detrimental to the community or the
4 public, which in our case is Lake Perry.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Any
6 questions for Mr. Jantosik?

7 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Jantosik, were you
8 asked to appear here today as a spokesperson for the
9 Lake Perry Lot Owners' Association?

10 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: I was not asked.
11 It was encouraged at the meeting last week if we
12 wanted to speak we could.

13 MR. MITTEN: Were you provided talking
14 points or otherwise assisted in your testimony?

15 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: No. Everything
16 here is from my research, my wife's research.

17 MR. MITTEN: Did anyone review your
18 testimony before you read it this morning?

19 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: Yes.

20 MR. MITTEN: Who?

21 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: Peggy Ladd.

22 MR. MITTEN: Did she offer any
23 suggestions?

24 MR. JANTOSIK, JR.: No.

25 MR. MITTEN: No further questions.

1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. No other
3 questions, we'll go ahead.

4 Dorothy Jantosik, please come forward.
5 Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear
6 or affirm that the testimony you are about to give
7 is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
8 truth?

9 MS. JANTOSIK: I do.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: And please state your
11 name and spell your last name.

12 MS. JANTOSIK: Dorothy J-a-n-t-o-s-i-k,
13 Jantosik.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

15 MS. JANTOSIK: I come before the
16 Commission because I want to thank you first for
17 giving us this Hearing because we had to write a lot
18 of comments to get this.

19 Unfortunately, it's at noon versus
20 6:00. I wish we would have had more people, but
21 nonetheless.

22 My husband and I, the statement that he
23 just read, I want for the record to state I concur
24 with everything that he had stated, and I agree with
25 it so I will not repeat it, because he and I worked

1 on it together.

2 Because a lot of this information about
3 Confluence and rates is out on the Internet, and you
4 can also read the direct testimony with the public,
5 that's not confidential information with the public
6 on the PSC website, you know, follow it from day one
7 from when this proceeding started.

8 And now it is raising red flags to me
9 that the rate increases are going to be out of
10 control. We've only had our home for two years, and
11 I worry about the budget in the future and will I be
12 able to maintain a lot at Lake Perry or a home
13 there? We do have water and sewer.

14 I was at lunch today in line, and a
15 gentleman said, are you going to the Cardinal game,
16 and I said, no, I'm going to the Hearing, the Public
17 Service Hearing for Lake Perry. And he said, oh, I
18 thought it was at 6:00 tonight.

19 And he said, I'm a lot owner, but a
20 camping lot. He said, I was just going to call and
21 get my sewer and water hooked up, but I'm not going
22 to do it, he said, because I don't know what the
23 rates are gonna be.

24 And I said, come to the meeting. He
25 said, I have a prior engagement. And I am concerned

1 now, today, this thought at lunch just came to my
2 mind, if all of the camping lots at Lake Perry pull
3 out and disconnect their water and sewer for the
4 homeowners, what is that gonna do to our rates,
5 because then they will not be a customer. They will
6 own a lot, but they will not be paying for water and
7 sewer, and we are going to then have to bear the
8 brunt of that.

9 That's all I have to say.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Any
11 questions?

12 MR. MITTEN: No questions.

13 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

14 Kris Mable.

15 MS. MABIE: It's actually Mabie.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: I didn't know if that
17 was an I or not. Thank you. I'm so sorry.

18 Please raise your right hand. Do you
19 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
20 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
21 nothing but the truth?

22 MS. MABIE: I do.

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Ms. Mabie,
24 please state your name and spell your last name,
25 please.

1 MS. MABIE: Kris, K-r-i-s, Mabie,
2 M-a-b-i-e.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

4 MS. MABIE: We have been homeowners at
5 Lake Perry since 2005. My permanent residence is in
6 Arnold, Missouri, and I thank you first for coming
7 today and letting us speak our piece about this.

8 This was brought to our attention and
9 we have all been very alarmed about it since we've
10 been talking about it a lot. And I know you have to
11 ask everybody who's been talking about it indirectly
12 and directly. We have been talking about it ad
13 nauseam, in a box, with a fox, every minute we're
14 talking about this, because we are so concerned.

15 I am actually originally from
16 Steelville, Missouri, and that's six miles from Cuba
17 where Indian Hills is, and I have friends that live
18 there, and they have told me some horror stories.

19 And one of the persons is Anita Brooks,
20 and she is a homeowner there, and she wrote a letter
21 to me, and I asked if she could -- if I could share
22 it on our unofficial Lake Perry Facebook page, and
23 she said yes, because we wanted to get this
24 information out there for our residents and so
25 everybody would know what's going on with another

1 community that is similar to ours.

2 Like Lori stated before, they know
3 people there. I'm sure a lot of people here do know
4 people there, and they are -- some people, she told
5 me, have been putting their house up for sale and
6 moving to Lake of the Ozarks.

7 Some people are drilling their own
8 wells, and we don't have that option here, to drill
9 our wells. We have a rule against that, so many
10 feet within the shore, so that's not an option for
11 us.

12 So if Confluence does take over, we
13 already know our rates are gonna go up, just like
14 theirs did. One person, the homeowner there, sent
15 me their rates before and after, and they were ten
16 times their original amount.

17 So I want to read her letter. To whom
18 it may concern, my husband --

19 MR. MITTEN: Your Honor, I'm gonna
20 object to reading the letter about a property that's
21 not involved in this case.

22 MS. MABIE: It's a Confluence property.

23 MR. MITTEN: But it's not involved in
24 the Port Perry case.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Linton?

1 MR. LINTON: May I respond?

2 It's completely appropriate evidence.
3 This is a Local Public Hearing, and she's expressing
4 her concerns and she's expressing the reason she has
5 those concerns, so it's completely appropriate.

6 MR. MITTEN: I think she already
7 expressed the reason she had concerns. She talked
8 to her friend. But reading a letter about issues in
9 another system, which may or may not be genuine, and
10 the witness is not here to ask questions about it,
11 would be inappropriate.

12 MS. MABIE: She would have been here
13 today, I asked her if she would come, but she owns a
14 business, and she is in Florida this whole week, or
15 she would have been here herself.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: I'm sorry, I'm not
17 gonna allow the letter reading in, just because it
18 is a different case and because she's not here to
19 give her own thoughts.

20 MS. MABIE: It's not really a case.
21 She's a customer.

22 JUDGE HATCHER: It's been brought to my
23 attention. You can file that on the Public Comment
24 Section of the Public Service Commission Website.

25 MS. MABIE: Okay, I will do that.

1 Also, I have a copy of one resident's
2 bills from when -- before Confluence took over and
3 after. His lowest bill was \$10.81. His highest,
4 after they took over, was \$106.44. And this is a
5 person who lives there permanently in a home.

6 As someone who is from a small town, I
7 like to keep things local, if at all possible. I
8 like to deal with local people. I like a local
9 business that's gonna sponsor the local Boy Scouts,
10 Girl Scouts, 4H, church, whatever.

11 I like to keep the money local. And I
12 want to call a local person. I want to call Joe
13 Blow, Jeff down the street, hey, who do you call to
14 get this fixed or that fixed? I don't know anyone
15 at Confluence. I don't want to call St. Ann, which
16 is farther away than my Arnold residence, to get
17 help at my weekend place here in Perryville.

18 As you can see, there are many red
19 shirts here. There would have been many more had it
20 been able to have been -- the meeting in the evening
21 time. So that's my talking points today. Thank you
22 very much for your time.

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Are there
24 any questions for Ms. Mabie? Mr. Mitten?

25 MR. MITTEN: Were you asked to appear

1 today as a spokesperson for the Port Perry Lot
2 Owners' Association?

3 MS. MABIE: No.

4 MR. MITTEN: Were you provided any
5 talking points?

6 MS. MABIE: No. I have been provided
7 points from residents from Indian Hills and other
8 people, and we as lot owners talk amongst ourselves
9 about this all the time. We're like a big family
10 out here. And like families, we talk.

11 MR. MITTEN: Did you discuss your
12 testimony with Mr. Dewilde or Ms. Ladd before you --

13 MS. MABIE: I --

14 MR. MITTEN: -- gave it today?

15 MS. MABIE: I discussed what I was
16 going to say.

17 MR. MITTEN: No further questions.

18 MS. MABIE: And I put this out on our
19 unofficial Lake Perry site, the billings from the
20 Indian Hills resident and the letter so the Lake
21 Perry people who are on that would be aware of it,
22 so it's public record there too.

23 MR. MITTEN: No further questions.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. MABIE: Thank you.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Okay. Ms. Mabie, just
2 a second --

3 MS. MABIE: And I do have water and
4 sewer both.

5 MS. BRETZ: At Port Perry?

6 MS. MABIE: Yes.

7 MS. BRETZ: Okay. Thank you.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: I'm sorry, Mr. Clizer.

9 MR. CLIZER: You mentioned there would
10 be many more red shirts here today, something to
11 that effect. I noticed the red shirt thing had been
12 mentioned by another speaker, but just briefly, what
13 are you referring to with the red shirts?

14 MS. MABIE: That we want to be -- show
15 a form of solidarity that we wore our red shirts,
16 that we're all lot owners here. And there would
17 have been many more people here had the meeting been
18 able to be held at, like, 6:00 after people got off
19 work.

20 MR. CLIZER: So you're claiming that
21 those wearing red shirts are indicating they do not
22 support the acquisition by Confluence?

23 MS. MABIE: Right.

24 MR. CLIZER: Okay.

25 MS. MABIE: Correct.

1 And some people took vacation days to
2 be here today. Other people wished they could have
3 been here today, but they could not take off from
4 work. Thank you.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Mabie.
6 Glenn Mabie, please.

7 Please raise your right hand. Do you
8 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
9 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
10 nothing but the truth?

11 MR. MABIE: I do.

12 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
13 and spell your last name.

14 MR. MABIE: Glenn Mabie, M-a-b-i-e.

15 JUDGE HATCHER: And please go ahead and
16 give us your comments.

17 MR. MABIE: A lot of this is just more
18 or less enforcing what everybody else has said so
19 far.

20 Thank you to the Commission for letting
21 us speak today. I think that's very important. As
22 my wife said, we have our permanent residence in
23 Arnold, Missouri.

24 We've had a place out here at Lake
25 Perry 14 years. We have a house. We have sewer and

1 water. We get out here pretty much every weekend.
2 We really like it out here, so we're out here quite
3 a bit.

4 All the activities, like everybody
5 reinforced, we are like a big family out here.
6 We've made lots of friends out here, and we really
7 enjoy being out here.

8 If you go to the Confluence Website and
9 right off the bat they say they buy underserved
10 systems, or distressed, I've heard. I would say our
11 system out here is not underserved or distressed.

12 We haven't had any issue at all since
13 we've been out here. We've -- you know, it's been
14 fine. I think it's in good working order. I'm not
15 gonna say it won't need some updating. I know it's
16 an older system.

17 But I think the fact a lot of people
18 have rehashed, personally don't want a large company
19 overseeing our system with, you know, out of town,
20 800 numbers, the talk of the bank, the borrowing of
21 the money, higher interest rate, foreign investors.

22 My wife and I own a small business in
23 St. Louis. It's been a family business for 64
24 years. We're used to operating on a smaller level,
25 and we do big companies -- I should say we do work

1 with big companies, but we enjoy working with
2 smaller companies.

3 I think you get the local feel talking
4 with the people, you get to know the people you're
5 dealing with, like everybody else has said. And I
6 just want to reinforce that.

7 We really -- we've heard -- we've seen
8 the paperwork. We've seen it for the Lake Perry
9 not-for-profit proposed entity to run it. As far as
10 the Board goes and everybody running it, I think
11 we'd be in great shape.

12 I think we'd have a way better chance
13 to handle the rate increases if we ran it ourselves
14 as opposed to Confluence and the rates, as my wife
15 just mentioned at Indian Hills and places like that.
16 That's pretty much it.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Mabie.
18 Any questions?

19 MR. MITTEN: No questions.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: No questions. Thank
21 you, Mr. Mabie. You may be excused.

22 Next I have Diane Murry. And we are
23 getting to the end of the list, and, so, just to let
24 everyone know, I will call for additional witnesses
25 once we get to the end of the list, just in case you

1 have not signed up and you would like to testify.

2 Ms. Murray, please raise your right
3 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
4 testimony you are about to give is the truth, the
5 whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

6 MS. MURRAY: I do.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
8 and spell your last name.

9 MS. MURRAY: Diane Murray, that's
10 D-i-a-n-e, M-u-r-r-a-y.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: And please go ahead
12 with your comments.

13 MS. MURRAY: So because people talked
14 before me, I've got a lot of changes. Sorry.

15 Current lot owner, current resident
16 since 2002. We've owned our lot since 1994. My
17 husband has owned property at the lake since the
18 beginning. It was called Port Perry, not Lake
19 Perry.

20 Since the inception of the Lot Owners'
21 Association, I've been the secretary/treasurer all
22 but one of the years. I also test the water daily
23 for the chlorine levels for Port Perry Service
24 Company.

25 And like Mr. Mabie said, in doing my

1 own research I came across the Central States
2 Website that states, our Company strives to
3 effectively address the challenges of providing
4 proper water and wastewater management facilities
5 for underserved communities.

6 I thought, what's an underserved
7 community? So I look up the definition. An
8 underserved community is one that is characterized
9 by poverty and a lack of access to resources.

10 Most people in an underserved community
11 live below the poverty line, belong to minority
12 demographic, and suffer from increased risk of
13 serious medical conditions.

14 I'm fairly certain most of the people
15 here with me today agree that Lake Perry is not
16 underserved.

17 It concerns me that our system could be
18 combined with other systems in the state to fund
19 their improvements.

20 And the seasonal rate increase idea
21 also concerns me because I'm a full-time resident.
22 And as you've heard from many other residents, they
23 can all attest that since the Lot Owners'
24 Association took over there have been numerous
25 improvements, like you've heard, at the paved roads,

1 better common grounds, maintenance of our common
2 areas, enforcement of restrictions as they're
3 written.

4 The Lake Perry Services Company set up
5 as a not-for-profit and being run by our own
6 community members, I feel it would better serve our
7 residents in the long run. History has proven that.
8 Thank you for your time.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Murray.
10 Any questions?

11 MR. MITTEN: Just a few. Ms. Murray,
12 so the record's clear, you're on the Board of
13 Trustees of the Lake Perry Lot owners' Association;
14 is that correct?

15 MS. MURRAY: Yes, I am.

16 MR. MITTEN: And you're also on the
17 Board of Directors of the Lake Perry Service
18 Company, which is the company that would like to buy
19 the utility assets at issue in this company; is that
20 correct?

21 MS. MURRAY: At this time, yes.

22 MR. MITTEN: And the Lake Perry Service
23 Company, if it's successful in acquiring those
24 assets, has offered you a compensation paying job;
25 is that correct?

1 MS. MURRAY: No, sir.
2 MR. MITTEN: That's not correct?
3 MS. MURRAY: No.
4 MR. MITTEN: That's not in
5 Mr. Dewilde's testimony that's been filed in this
6 case?
7 MS. MURRAY: No, sir.
8 MR. MITTEN: No further questions;
9 thank you.
10 MS. MURRAY: Don't you want to ask me
11 if anybody helped me?
12 MR. MITTEN: Sure, did anybody help you
13 with your testimony?
14 MS. MURRAY: My dog at 2:00 this
15 morning.
16 MS. BRETZ: I'm sorry, I'm hesitant to
17 ask you anything, but --
18 MS. MURRAY: And, yes, he uses the
19 water and sewer too.
20 MS. BRETZ: Which you receive from Port
21 Perry?
22 MS. MURRAY: Yes.
23 MS. BRETZ: Okay; great. Thank you.
24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Murray.
25 Michael Summers, please come to the

1 microphone. Please raise your right hand. Do you
2 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
3 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
4 nothing but the truth?

5 MR. SUMMERS: I do.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
7 and spell your last name, please.

8 MR. SUMMERS: Michael Summers,
9 S-u-m-m-e-r-s.

10 My wife and I have been lot owners at
11 Lake Perry for about 15 years, and having spent most
12 of my life in corporate America and reading the
13 Confluence information provided both on the websites
14 and by the Lake Perry Lot Owners' Association, it
15 seems like Confluence is overkill for a community
16 our size.

17 They're going to not add a lot of value
18 to what we're doing. We're not distressed right
19 now. We manage our own resources fairly well. And
20 to have a company come in with the layers of
21 bureaucracy that they have now and will continue to
22 add as they grow.

23 I've worked in IT all my life, and when
24 you start calling 1-800 numbers and you start
25 bleeding through level one, level two, level three

1 before you get to someone that can actually help
2 you, I just see that impacting the community's
3 ability to grow in the space of the water and sewers
4 and also solve problems quickly.

5 We'll also lose the ability to
6 influence our own direction. There's many ways to
7 repair a problem mandated by the government. Some
8 of them might have gold pipes, some of them might
9 not. But the Public Commission, I'm sure, is not
10 there to see that the competitive bids are done with
11 due diligence.

12 They're not there to make sure that
13 everybody's looked and found the lowest cost of
14 everything that provides the value that you need to
15 fix a problem, rather than this was the easiest way
16 for us to get the problem fixed.

17 So just reiterating, I recommend we do
18 not allow Confluence to buy the sewer and water
19 services of Lake Perry. Thank you.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Summers.
21 Any questions?

22 MR. MITTEN: Just a couple. Were you
23 asked to testify today as a spokesperson for the
24 Lake Perry Lot Owners?

25 MR. SUMMERS: I was, yes, sir.

1 MR. MITTEN: And who asked you?

2 MR. SUMMERS: Rich Dewilde did.

3 MR. MITTEN: Did anyone help you with
4 your testimony, including any pets early this
5 morning?

6 MR. SUMMERS: There were not clues --
7 there were words passed around. These are mine. I
8 did review with Peggy Ladd this morning.

9 MR. MITTEN: Did she offer any
10 suggestions to your testimony?

11 MR. SUMMERS: No, she said they looked
12 good.

13 MR. MITTEN: No further questions;
14 thank you.

15 MR. SUMMERS: And we do get sewer and
16 water; I'm sorry.

17 MS. BRETZ: From Port Perry?

18 MR. SUMMERS: Yes, we do.

19 MS. BRETZ: Thank you.

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Summers.
21 You may return to your seat.

22 Rick Bunton.

23 MR. BURTON: Burton.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Burton, please come
25 up to the microphone. Please raise your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony
2 you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth,
3 and nothing but the truth?

4 MR. BURTON: I do.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
6 state your name and spell your last name.

7 MR. BURTON: Rick Burton, B-u-r-t-o-n.

8 I've been a lot owner for a little over
9 five years. We've got a camping lot. We have both
10 sewer and water on it. And we're planning, I'm
11 gonna retire hopefully in the next three years, and
12 I'm planning to build a permanent residence out
13 there.

14 We're right on the lake. So that's
15 what we've been working for and that's what we've
16 looked for all our lives.

17 I'm against the purchase by Confluence
18 Rivers. I think it could severely impact the value
19 of the properties and the future growth of the area
20 out there.

21 I feel like a local company could do
22 the job better, a nonprofit company could do the job
23 better, keep the rates lower, keep the property
24 values up, and just help the community.

25 I believe in local, doing stuff local.

1 I want my money to stay here. I want it to better
2 the community. I want it to better the businesses
3 that are here, not St. Louis, not Arkansas or
4 wherever. I want to keep it here.

5 Confluence has a reputation of buying
6 distressed systems, and there's nothing wrong with
7 that. You know, ours is not distressed. Yes, it
8 needs some upgrades. Yes, our rates will go up even
9 if somebody else gets it.

10 But I feel a nonprofit organization,
11 like we've tried to set up here or we're trying to
12 set up here, will save everybody money, benefit the
13 community, keep the money local, and we can do just
14 as good a job if not better than what Confluence is
15 doing.

16 These people that are gonna do this are
17 gonna have a vested interest in it because they're
18 gonna be part of it. It's not gonna be like they're
19 in St. Louis or wherever, and they're going to come
20 back and say, well, we've got to make money, you
21 know, so we're just gonna -- you know, we're just
22 gonna go ahead and do this and we're gonna get that
23 14% interest or that 10% interest.

24 Nonprofit's gonna do it as cheap as
25 they can. They've still got to make a profit, but

1 that's why I feel we can do a better job than what
2 they can.

3 Let me look at my notes here. I
4 believe everything that everybody's said. I believe
5 in it. I concur to it there.

6 I think it will hurt the future growth,
7 I really do, because I've got friends in these other
8 areas, Hillcrest and -- I've got one that's been
9 trying to sell his house now for about three years.
10 He can't. It's got a bad reputation. The water
11 system's got a bad reputation down there; you know?

12 I feel like we can do as good a job if
13 not better, keep the money local, grow the local
14 community, and the lot owners will own it. They'll
15 have a vested interest in it, and they're gonna make
16 sure it's run right and it's run correctly. That's
17 basically all I've got.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Burton.
19 Any questions, Mr. Mitten?

20 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Burton, were you asked
21 to appear today as a spokesperson?

22 MR. BURTON: No, I volunteered.

23 MR. MITTEN: Did you receive any help
24 from the Lot Owners' Association with your
25 testimony?

1 MR. BURTON: No. I got a handout and I
2 looked at that, but I already had my notes wrote up.
3 My wife and my secretary wrote these up for me, so I
4 used what I had. I didn't use anything they had.

5 MR. MITTEN: There were a series of
6 town hall meetings held to prepare the Lot Owners'
7 Association members for this Public Hearing; is that
8 correct?

9 MR. BURTON: Yes.

10 MR. MITTEN: And at those town hall
11 meetings, was the issue of effects on property value
12 discussed?

13 MR. BURTON: I can't really say. I
14 can't remember, but I'm sure it probably was,
15 because that's a major issue between everybody
16 that's out there.

17 We want to make sure -- it's a growing
18 community, it's a growing area, and we want it to
19 continue. There's some nice houses out there, and
20 there's people wanting to buy out there.

21 And you know, if they feel like the
22 property values are gonna drop, then they're gonna
23 shy away from it.

24 MR. MITTEN: Was anybody from
25 Confluence Rivers invited to participate in those

1 town hall meetings to address concerns about
2 property values or other aspects of this proposed --

3 MR. BURTON: No, it was just open to
4 the lot owners only.

5 MR. MITTEN: Do you know why no one
6 from Confluence Rivers was invited?

7 MR. BURTON: I don't know. All I can
8 speak of is, you know, we wanted to talk, we wanted
9 to get our point of view.

10 There was a lot of information that was
11 shared that was on Confluence. And they do what
12 they say they are going to do. We have no doubt in
13 our mind.

14 They do what they say they're going to
15 do, but they do it at a higher cost than what we
16 feel like we can do it as, as lot owners, with this
17 nonprofit organization and we're trying to, you
18 know -- if we get it, that's what we would like to
19 do if we can buy it.

20 But we feel like we can control the
21 rates better. You know, they're gonna go up. No
22 matter what happens, they're gonna go up. But we
23 feel like a nonprofit organization may have to make
24 3-4% where Confluence is gonna be at that 10, 15 --
25 34 seconds, I'm gonna get there, you know, I was

1 trying to make that.

2 But like I say, I think we can control
3 our rates better. We can be -- you know, we've
4 still got to make money as a group, but we don't
5 have to make 14% to pay all the stockholders and the
6 other people. We are the stockholders if we get it.

7 MR. MITTEN: Would it have been helpful
8 to hear from Confluence Rivers at any of those town
9 hall meetings?

10 MR. BURTON: I've talked to -- I've
11 read a lot, and I've talked to the owner, Mike, and
12 he shared some information with me. And a lot of
13 things he says are information -- we know more now
14 than we did when we started.

15 MR. MITTEN: But you haven't actually
16 talked to anybody from Confluence Rivers?

17 MR. BURTON: No. I would love to sit
18 down and hear what they've got to say, but we've
19 heard what they said here.

20 And I researched as much as I could. I
21 talked to people who have had the water system, and
22 that was a bad system down there. And I won't
23 get -- you know, and they've come in and done some
24 improvements, but they've still got a long way to
25 go.

1 Something will happen, you know, and it
2 takes a long time to get somebody to get it fixed
3 down there. That's my concern too. If something
4 breaks, how fast are they gonna get on to fix it;
5 you know?

6 MR. MITTEN: I have no further
7 questions; thank you.

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Linton?

9 MR. LINTON: Yes. Mr. Burton, has
10 Confluence Rivers ever invited you to an open house
11 to -- for an opportunity to talk about what they're
12 doing?

13 MR. BURTON: No, they have not.

14 MR. LINTON: It sounds like you've been
15 involved in this process a long, long time?

16 MR. BURTON: Yeah, I'm a board member
17 and I've been in it from the very beginning.

18 MR. LINTON: So you've had a long time
19 to discuss this?

20 MR. BURTON: Yes. And I've talked to
21 numerous people out at the lake out there. I'm open
22 to hear anything. I want to know what's best for
23 the community.

24 When we started, I basically said, are
25 we sure this is the way we want to go? If we win do

1 we really win? And I feel now if we win, we've got
2 control of it, we actually win.

3 Before I wasn't sure, but I'm sure now.
4 If we win and we get it and go in that direction, we
5 can do what needs to be done to make sure that we
6 control it and we've got the best water system
7 possible at a good rate.

8 MR. LINTON: So as a board member, you
9 have a sense that you -- have you engaged a lot of
10 the association members?

11 MR. BURTON: Sure. Yeah, we talk about
12 this. We discuss -- we didn't take this lightly at
13 all, because we knew it was gonna be a big
14 investment, and it's gonna be a big chore.

15 We think we can handle it. We've done
16 everything else, and we think we can do this too and
17 we can do it right.

18 MR. LINTON: So your thoughts here
19 today are given on the basis of your vast
20 conversations and investigations; is that correct?

21 MR. BURTON: Sure. Research, research,
22 and research, and just talking to people, like I
23 say.

24 Because, you know, I wasn't totally for
25 it at the beginning. I had to be convinced. I've

1 talked to Mike a lot, you know, and we have nothing
2 against Mike. We have nothing against Confluence.
3 We just think we can do a better job on our own at a
4 better rate by being a nonprofit organization and
5 keep it local.

6 MR. LINTON: Has Confluence Rivers ever
7 rebuffed a request for you to talk to them about
8 this application?

9 MR. BURTON: No. I have never -- no.

10 MR. LINTON: But they haven't invited
11 you?

12 MR. BURTON: No, they haven't invited
13 me either. I never requested one.

14 MR. LINTON: Thank you. I have no
15 further questions.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

17 MS. BRETZ: Just a quick clarification.
18 Do you receive water and sewer service currently --

19 MR. BURTON: Yes, I do.

20 MS. BRETZ: -- from Port Perry?

21 Okay; thank you.

22 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Burton.
23 John Bey, if you could come to the
24 microphone, please.

25 Mr. Bey, please raise your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony
2 you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth,
3 and nothing but the truth?

4 MR. BEY: I do.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
6 state your name and spell your last name.

7 MR. BEY: John Bey. Last name is
8 spelled B-e-y.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

10 MR. BEY: Thank you. I can't think of
11 one single bullet point that has not been already
12 addressed numerous times. So I want the record to
13 show that I am in complete agreement with all of the
14 points that have been raised thus far.

15 A little bit of history on my wife and
16 myself. We have had a family presence at Lake Perry
17 since 1972. Do the math, 47 years.

18 Eleven years ago my wife and I built a
19 weekend cabin, physical address (Address given but
20 the Judge asks for it to be redacted.)

21 JUDGE HATCHER: I'm gonna ask you not
22 to give that out. If we could strike that. And
23 there was an earlier address someone had mentioned.
24 If we can make sure that those are stricken from the
25 record. We just want to protect confidentiality.

1 MR. BEY: Okay.

2 At our current location, which is a
3 weekend facility, we do currently receive water and
4 sewer services from the existing utility provider.

5 Lake Perry has been a very
6 family-oriented, family-friendly environment at,
7 thus far, affordable rates. My wife and I have
8 aspirations, one of our daughters or both may come
9 back to this area, assume ownership of the lake
10 property, and enjoy everything that we have enjoyed
11 for all these years.

12 It is my understanding that the primary
13 focus of the Public Service Commission is to do what
14 is best for the public. I think that is a true
15 statement. I know you can't answer.

16 But in this particular situation, we,
17 the lot owners, we are the public. We believe that
18 the not-for-profit proposal is the most efficient
19 cost-effective solution for the future.

20 I think we have a sound business plan.
21 We have a sound financial plan in place. I am a
22 proponent of small town company independent control.
23 I think we have a better chance of controlling our
24 rates and services long-term. I think locally our
25 contractors would be more responsive than a toll

1 free number, all right, that is my guess.

2 It was mentioned before we have red
3 shirts; of course. It is a show of our solidarity.
4 I want the record to show that we have approximately
5 55, maybe 60, present here, since that was not going
6 to go into the record.

7 I think Mr. Flentge may have a list of
8 many other people who would like to be here today
9 but could not due to their job, the timing of the
10 meeting. I think we -- I'm guessing, we may have
11 been able to double our presence. Don't know that
12 for a fact.

13 Again, I have to concur with all the
14 points that were presented previously by Mr. Pelker,
15 Mr. Schumer, Mr. Dyer, Ms. Courtney, Ms. Logan, the
16 Jantosiks, the Mabies, Ms. Murray, Mr. Summers, and
17 Mr. Burton. I don't want to review all of those,
18 but again, let the record show I concur with their
19 remarks and oppose the sale to Confluence.

20 Questions?

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Bey.
22 Mr. Mitten?

23 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Bey, did the Lot
24 Owners' Association ask you to appear today as a
25 spokesperson?

1 MR. BEY: They did not. I knew that
2 there would be an opportunity to address, and I came
3 of my own accord.

4 MR. MITTEN: Did anyone from the Lot
5 Owners' Association provide you talking points or
6 otherwise assist you with the testimony you've given
7 today?

8 MR. BEY: They did not.

9 MR. MITTEN: No further questions;
10 thank you.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Bey.
12 Brian Flentge.

13 MR. FLENTGE: Close.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: If you could please
15 raise your --

16 (Incident with man and chair in
17 audience.)

18 JUDGE HATCHER: If you could raise your
19 right hand, sir. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
20 that the testimony you are about to give is the
21 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

22 MR. FLENTGE: Yes.

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Could you
24 please state your name, spell your last name, and
25 pronounce it.

1 MR. FLENTGE: Brian Flentge,
2 F-l-e-n-t-g-e.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go
4 ahead.

5 MR. FLENTGE: Since we're at the Public
6 Service Committee here, what I have is actually all
7 the written stuff for everybody that's there. And
8 this is, like, the public itself representing
9 everybody that's there.

10 We have 253 signed Petitions here, and
11 then out of that, 201 are actually sewer and water
12 customers. And then we have -- there's actually 328
13 sewer and water customers, give or take a little
14 bit, on that.

15 And, yes, Mr. Mitten, I was given this
16 by Mr. Dewilde. And, yes, some were mailed to my
17 house, so that's how that's gonna go.

18 I, in the beginning, like Mr. Burton
19 was stating, thought it was a big overtake for us to
20 do. And then after reading, doing a little
21 research, and then the people that actually take
22 care of it now, which is Earth First out of
23 Perryville.

24 They take care of all the hookups and
25 anything that has to do with water treatments out

1 there, or the water part and sewer part. They would
2 actually be, as we see fit, the same people to do
3 that work. No out-of-town people. We don't need
4 it. We have that.

5 That's a good company right there.
6 They do work for the city. They do work for
7 individuals. So they're a good company to have to
8 do what we have now.

9 And then payroll, payroll services that
10 do the water metering and they do the billing and
11 everything, they would be in place too. So there's
12 really no change of hands on the work that's being
13 done right now.

14 Say if somebody else bought it, then
15 we -- why do we have to pay for a whole new company
16 to come in, set up billing, set up maintenance, set
17 up everything when it's already in place.

18 The only thing we're doing is having a
19 nonprofit company come in and run the thing that's
20 already being ran the way it is now. There would
21 basically be no interruption of anything.

22 So that's all I have to say about that,
23 and here is the Petitions. This is a lot better to
24 have than an e-mail, if you've got something
25 physical to hold.

1 (Handing Judge document.)

2 JUDGE HATCHER: All right; thank you.
3 I believe that we can take these as submitted
4 written comments.

5 MR. FLENTGE: Well, if you've got to
6 carry them around, you can't lose them and it's more
7 physical, and I think that's better for you guys to
8 have.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Except that everything,
10 by rule, has to be submitted to our electronic
11 filing system, but I can make sure that that
12 happens.

13 MR. FLENTGE: Okay.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Don't go anywhere. Are
15 there any questions?

16 MR. MITTEN: Just a few.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Mitten.

18 MR. MITTEN: Mr. Flentge, just so the
19 record is clear on this, you're a member of the
20 Board of Trustees --

21 MR. FLENTGE: Yes, sir.

22 MR. MITTEN: -- of the Lot Owners'
23 Association; is that correct?

24 MR. FLENTGE: And I have two lots out
25 there, uh-huh.

1 MR. MITTEN: And you're also on the
2 Board of Directors of Port Perry Service Company; is
3 that correct?

4 MR. FLENTGE: Yes.

5 MR. MITTEN: And according to
6 Mr. Dewilde's testimony, you've made a commitment to
7 work for the Port Perry Service Company if it's
8 given the opportunity to buy the assets at issue in
9 this case?

10 MR. FLENTGE: No, there won't be any --
11 repeat the question again.

12 MR. MITTEN: According to Mr. Dewilde's
13 testimony that's been filed in the case, you've made
14 a commitment to work for the Port Perry Service
15 Company if it's given the opportunity to acquire the
16 assets at issue in this case?

17 MR. FLENTGE: The only commitment I
18 gave is I would go and get my water license to help
19 out, and that would be it.

20 MR. MITTEN: Were you asked to appear
21 today as a spokesperson for the Lot Owners'
22 Association?

23 MR. FLENTGE: No, not directly.
24 Indirectly, like everybody else at the other
25 meetings that we had, the town hall, I thought,

1 well, I could maybe help out.

2 I was in Rich's office today going over
3 some personal stuff, because I had to be here by
4 noon, so I took off work a little bit. And then I
5 seen the Petitions there and I said, give me those,
6 I'm gonna do something with these, and that's how
7 that came about.

8 MR. MITTEN: And did you have any other
9 discussions with Mr. Dewilde regarding your
10 testimony?

11 MR. FLENTGE: Personally, just tax
12 things, that was it, at the office.

13 MR. MITTEN: I have no further
14 questions; thank you.

15 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Ms. Bretz?

16 MS. BRETZ: Do you receive water and
17 sewer service at your lots?

18 MR. FLENTGE: No. No, ma'am, not at
19 this time.

20 MS. BRETZ: Okay.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Mr. Clizer?

22 MR. CLIZER: Not necessarily a question
23 but mostly a clarification.

24 He has handed you a list of documents.
25 Is the Commission's intention that those documents

1 be recorded as written for admission electronically?

2 Is that the ruling currently?

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes.

4 MR. CLIZER: Okay. I wanted to clarify
5 that; thank you.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: All right. Thank you,
7 Mr. Flentge.

8 Alan Frentzel. Please raise your right
9 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
10 testimony you are about to give is the truth, the
11 whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

12 MR. FRENTZEL: I do.

13 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
14 state your name and spell your last name.

15 MR. FRENTZEL: Alan Frentzel. That's
16 F-r-e-n-t-z-e-l.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go
18 ahead.

19 MR. FRENTZEL: All right. I am a
20 full-time resident at Lake Perry. We've been there
21 about 25 years, my wife and I. I am also a member
22 of the Board of Trustees and a real estate agent.

23 And from the testimony I heard, I may
24 have to start looking for a new job, because it's
25 kind of up in the air about who wants to buy and

1 sell at the lake anymore.

2 But we did discuss three town hall
3 meetings that we had that there were approximately
4 200 people there. I have a list of another 30
5 people they have indicated that they would like to
6 be here. However, the Tuesday at noon did not work
7 into their work schedule, so if I could present that
8 to you, I would do that just --

9 (Handing Judge document.)

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you.

11 MR. FRENTZEL: Thank you.

12 The testimony that's been given today,
13 I can't disagree with it. I would agree with the
14 testimony that I've heard. I think that everybody is
15 in agreement that Confluence is not the best program
16 for us, so I would agree with that as well.

17 Not that we're the best. There is
18 probably other sources that we could consider. The
19 distressed systems, I think the gentleman talked
20 about that we do have to have somebody to come in
21 and take care of those programs or those distressed
22 systems, I would agree with that.

23 I think we're okay. I think we can
24 handle what we've done. We have taken on bigger
25 projects than this and we succeeded with them. Let

1 some other company be handled by them. I think
2 we're okay.

3 I have really nothing else other than
4 agreeing with the testimony that has been presented
5 today.

6 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. Any
7 questions?

8 MR. MITTEN: No questions.

9 MR. FRENTZEL: And I do have water and
10 sewer from --

11 MS. BRETZ: Okay.

12 MR. FRENTZEL: -- Port Perry.

13 MS. BRETZ: Thank you.

14 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Alan,
15 A-l-a-n, or A-l-l-e-n?

16 MR. FRENTZEL: A-l-a-n, yes.

17 COURT REPORTER: A-l-a-n; thank you.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: And the last witness I
19 have on the list is Ann Kelly, and again, if anyone
20 else would like to testify after Ms. Kelly, I will
21 be calling for one last call before we end the
22 Hearing.

23 Ms. Kelly, please raise your right
24 hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
25 testimony you are about to give is the truth, the

1 whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

2 MS. KELLY: Yes.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please
4 state your name and spell your last name.

5 MS. KELLY: It's Ann Kelly, A-n-n,
6 K-e-l-l-y.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. Please go
8 ahead.

9 MS. KELLY: Yeah, I, as lake owner, I
10 was kayaking this morning and I found out that we
11 should be wearing red shirts. I have a pink shirt,
12 so I'm the only one with no Cardinal red, but I
13 oppose the sale to Confluence as do the rest of the
14 folks here at the meeting.

15 I'm a nine year seasonal homeowner. We
16 do receive water and sewer from Port Perry. And
17 kind of three concerns that I have is just, first
18 concern would be the quality and service that
19 Confluence would be providing to us, based on
20 information that I've gathered from the fellow
21 community members as well as I did attend a town
22 hall meeting.

23 I've never really given much thought to
24 water and sewer, other than you turn the tap on, the
25 water pours. So I have been giving more thought to

1 it as of late.

2 Certainly increased cost is a concern
3 for me as well, both kind of at monthly utility
4 bills as well as if there's any potential impact on
5 the value of home ownership in the community.

6 And I think, you know, local ownership
7 is very important, to have a nonprofit and to have
8 control of our own destiny. As others have
9 mentioned, kind of it's in the community's best
10 interest that you don't approve the sale and
11 understanding that if you don't approve the sale
12 that doesn't mean that the nonprofit will
13 automatically have that opportunity, but we
14 certainly would love to have that opportunity to
15 take that next step.

16 You know, very -- I -- my full-time
17 residence is in St. Louis, so I can't imagine really
18 to be part of a community that could come together
19 and say, hey, we want to, you know, manage and take
20 care of this sewer and water, and this is in our
21 best interest, so I applaud the community for doing
22 that.

23 And, you know, from what I hear and
24 from all those Petitions that you've received, and
25 certainly based on the -- you know, the majority do

1 not want this sale. So if you guys were to put it
2 to a community vote, the vote says please don't
3 sell.

4 And I wrote my comments this morning
5 while I was sitting in the meeting. And as
6 mentioned, I attended town hall and did, you know,
7 receive information, but nobody has asked me to come
8 and speak here, and I appreciate your time here
9 today, and I hope you guys will support us.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Kelly.
11 Any questions?

12 MR. MITTEN: No questions, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Ms. Kelly.
14 And as promised, we are at the end of the list. The
15 Hearing will be over in just a few minutes. I do
16 want to ask if anyone else -- please come forward,
17 sir.

18 If anyone else after this would like to
19 testify, please come forward right after this, and
20 I'll make sure and hold that open for you.

21 Thank you. Do you solemnly swear or
22 affirm that the testimony you are about to give is
23 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
24 truth?

25 MR. JOHNSON: I do, Your Honor.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And please
2 tell us your name and spell your last name.

3 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Robert
4 Johnson, J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
6 Go ahead.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I have two lots in
8 Tanglewood Trails, which is on the east end of the
9 lake. It's a camping community, all trailers.
10 There's probably 100 residents that have camping
11 lots there. We use very little water.

12 Out of that hundred people, a majority
13 of us live in St. Louis, so they are unable to take
14 off and be here at noon. I think me and Vince, who
15 was up here earlier, are the only ones from these
16 hundred people being represented right now.

17 I pay for water on two different lots.
18 I have a fifth-wheel on one and a parking lot on the
19 other. I use, probably, 100 gallons of water a
20 month, three months a year, so I'm paying, over 12
21 months, over \$2 a gallon for each gallon of water I
22 use.

23 By looking at the rates of what's gonna
24 happen here, if it's like what everything else on
25 this chart is, my bill is gonna go from 30 on each

1 meter to close to 100. So \$200 a month, that's
2 almost, well, \$2,400 a year, using that number, for
3 300 gallons of water. That's awful expensive.

4 Like they mentioned, one of the
5 full-time residents, a lot of the campers have the
6 option of probably not hooking up to water and
7 sewer, hauling in water and hauling out sewer.

8 Which then you're losing 100 customers,
9 or probably not all are on water and sewer there,
10 but you're losing a large percentage of everyone
11 over there who will find rain barrels or something,
12 because we don't drink and cook with the water, we
13 flush the toilet.

14 So that's going to cause more strain on
15 the people who have houses out there, that less
16 people are paying into it, so rates might go up even
17 more for them.

18 And I've looked at this information.
19 I've researched the Internet on the company that's
20 wanting to buy it, and I'm not seeing nothing
21 positive.

22 I've been a lot owner out there for 15
23 years. Mr. Dewilde has been the President of the
24 Association the whole time I've been out there. I
25 don't always agree with everything he's done, but he

1 has the best interest of the whole community in
2 mind. And I realize when he makes those decisions,
3 it's not just me and him personally, it's for the
4 whole area.

5 In the 15 years we've been there,
6 almost all the roads are blacktopped. Ours --
7 hopefully they won't spend too much money on this
8 case where we don't get ours blacktopped, but all
9 that's been improved.

10 The pool's been improved. The
11 restaurant has been improved. The common grounds
12 have been improved. The playground's been improved,
13 the bathrooms, everything. It's 100% better than it
14 was 15 years ago.

15 So when I have issues, the beach
16 washing out, or it needs a new rope around the beach
17 or something like that, if I e-mail and say, please,
18 President, usually within a week I get a response
19 from him, and he has the maintenance guy come over
20 and it's taken care of.

21 It's someone local that you're asking
22 this from, and they are also the same people who are
23 wanting to be in charge of our water. So it's
24 someone that I can pick up the phone or send an
25 e-mail to that I've met and I know, and I know I'll

1 get a positive response, because they're looking out
2 for the best for the whole community.

3 Where everything I've read about the
4 company wanting to take over, I've not read a lot of
5 positive things, so I'd rather go with someone I
6 know.

7 JUDGE HATCHER: All right. Thank you,
8 Mr. Johnson. Are there any questions?

9 MR. MITTEN: No questions.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Ms. Bretz?

11 MR. JOHNSON: I have sewer and water I
12 pay for on two different lots.

13 MR. MITTEN: Okay, great. Thanks.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: All right. Thank you,
15 Mr. Johnson. We had one other hand raised?

16 Please raise your right hand. Do you
17 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
18 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
19 nothing but the truth?

20 MR. SCHOMMER: I do.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
22 and spell your last.

23 MR. SCHOMMER: Patrick Schommer. The
24 last name is spelled S-c-h-o-m-m-e-r.

25 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

1 MR. SCHOMMER: Okay. Commissioner Rupp
2 and Judge Hatcher, I appreciate the opportunity to
3 speak and for you to have this Hearing here to hear
4 the concerns of the Port Perry Lot Owners'
5 Association.

6 And I speak in support of their
7 position, even though I don't wear a red shirt. I'm
8 here in support of the Board and their proposal to
9 operate a nonprofit to run the water and sewer
10 treatment.

11 I'm reluctant to wear red because I'm a
12 retired jail superintendent where signifying red is
13 a gang affiliation, so I apologize. I think that
14 the desire to operate and keep local the sewer and
15 water treatment plant is emblematic of Port Perry
16 and the Perryville community where Perryville also
17 operates their own water and sewer company.

18 And they have a very robust economic
19 development system here where they actually buy into
20 companies that move here. They actually buy their
21 stock, and that's very unusual for a community, and
22 that demonstrates the caliber of people that live in
23 Perryville and the leadership that's here and
24 available to run such a company.

25 So that's all that I have to say.

1 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you,
2 Mr. Schommer. Any questions?

3 MR. MITTEN: No questions.

4 MS. BRETZ: Do you receive water and
5 sewer service currently?

6 MR. SCHOMMER: Yes, I do. I'm a wet
7 lot. Not a house, just the lot.

8 MS. BRETZ: Okay, great. Thank you.

9 MR. SCHOMMER: Anyone else?

10 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you,
11 Mr. Schommer. All right. Last call. Are there any
12 other witnesses? Please come forward.

13 Please raise your right hand. Do you
14 solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are
15 about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and
16 nothing but the truth?

17 MR. ROZIER: Yes, sir.

18 JUDGE HATCHER: Please state your name
19 and spell your last name.

20 MR. ROZIER: Stephen Rozier,
21 R-o-z-i-e-r.

22 JUDGE HATCHER: Please go ahead.

23 MR. ROZIER: Okay. My thing is, I
24 think it's better to have a vested interest with our
25 local control instead of having a private entity,

1 and I agree with everything that's been said here
2 today.

3 So basically I moved out there five
4 years ago, and I use the water and sewer. And, so,
5 I think the vested interest of local control, we
6 have a vested interest where we can decide our owner
7 matters and where we can go. Any questions?

8 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Rozier.

9 MR. ROZIER: Thank you.

10 JUDGE HATCHER: I would like to thank
11 all the participants today for their testimony. If
12 you do have any additional comments or someone who
13 could not be present would like to comment, you may
14 make written comments by contacting the Office of
15 the Public Counsel by going to the Public Service
16 Commission's web page, which is PSC.MO.GOV. This
17 Hearing is now adjourned, and we are off the record.

18 (This is the conclusion of the Local
19 Public Hearing.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KIM BRUHN, RPR, CSR (IL), CCR (MO), do hereby certify that the testimony appearing in the foregoing Hearing was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am not related to nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this Hearing was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of anyone employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Dated this 10th day of August 2019.



KIM BRUHN, RPR, CSR (IL), CCR (MO)

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