

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

In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC and)
Ozark International, Inc., Concerning an Agreement to)
Acquire the Assets of Bilyeau Ridge Water Company, LLC)
Midland Water Company, Inc., Moore Bend Water Utility,)
LLC, Riverfork Water Company, Taney County Water, LLC,)
And Valley Woods Utility)

File No. WM-2018-0023

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO LATE-FILE COMMENT AND
ACKNOWLEDGING SCHEDULED FILING OF TESTIMONY**

Issue Date: January 17, 2018

Effective Date: January 17, 2018

Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC d/b/a Liberty Utilities and Ozark International, Inc. filed a joint application asking the Commission to authorize Liberty Utilities to acquire the franchise and operating assets of six water and sewer companies that are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Ozark International. As required by the established procedural schedule, Staff filed its recommendation regarding the joint application on January 5, 2018. Staff supports approval of the application, with certain conditions. The procedural schedule required that anyone wishing to respond to Staff's recommendation do so by January 15.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources filed a response on January 11, indicating its support for Staff's recommendation that the sale be approved and taking no position on Staff's recommended conditions. The Joint Applicants filed a response on January 15, accepting Staff's recommended conditions, but disagreeing with Staff's recommendation that the Joint Applicants' proposal to consolidate the rates of all the

acquired companies into a single tariff be rejected. Finally, Public Counsel filed a comment on January 16, expressing support for Staff's recommendation, including all the conditions proposed by Staff.

Public Counsel's comment was accompanied by a motion seeking leave to late-file the comment, recognizing that the procedural schedule directed that the comment be filed by January 15. The Commission will grant that motion.

Since the parties are not yet in complete agreement on Staff's recommendation, this matter will need to proceed toward hearing. The established procedural schedule calls for the filing of direct testimony by February 20.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Public Counsel's Motion to Late-File Comment is granted.
2. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 17th day of January, 2018.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 17th day of January 2018.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 17, 2018

File/Case No. WM-2018-0023

Missouri Public Service Commission

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.