BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., to Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets, and For Certificates of Convenience and Necessity))) <u>File No. WM-2020-0282</u>)
In the Matter of the Application of Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., to Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets, and For Certificates of Convenience and Necessity)) File No. SM-2020-0283)

ORDER CONSOLIDATING CASES

Issue Date: April 17, 2020 Effective Date: April 17, 2020

On March 11, 2020, Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., applied for authority to acquire sewer and water utility assets¹ in multiple transactions from various entities in the following Missouri counties: Audrain, Lincoln, Madison, Polk, St. Francois, Taney, Warren, and Washington. In addition, Confluence Rivers seeks to expand a sewer utility certificate in Franklin County and to acquire, if necessary, new water or sewer utility certificates of convenience and necessity.

On March 19, 2020, Confluence Rivers filed a motion to consolidate File No. WM-2020-0282 and File No. SM-2020-0283. The motion indicates Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel do not object to consolidation. Applications to intervene in both matters were due no later than April 16, 2020, and no applications have been received.

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¹ Confluence Rivers' application proposes acquisition of water utility assets, sewer utility assets and assets held by entities that own both water and sewer assets. File No. WM-2020-0282 concerns Confluence Rivers' application as to water utility assets; File No. SM-2020-0283 concerns Confluence Rivers' application as to sewer utility assets.

Confluence Rivers' motion proposes these two cases will "reference similar parties, contain common questions of law and fact, and will contain primarily the same filings." Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.110(3) allows the Commission to conduct joint hearings and make other orders to avoid unnecessary costs or delay when pending cases involve related questions of law or fact. Because Confluence Rivers' applications in these two cases will share some common issues of law and fact and no party has presented any objection, the Commission will grant Confluence Rivers' consolidation request.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. File No. SM-2020-0283 is consolidated into File No. WM-2020-0282.
- 2. All future filings shall be made in File No. WM-2020-0282.
- This order shall be effective when issued.

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BY THE COMMISSION

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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Jana C. Jacobs, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo (2016).

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 17th day of April, 2020.