

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

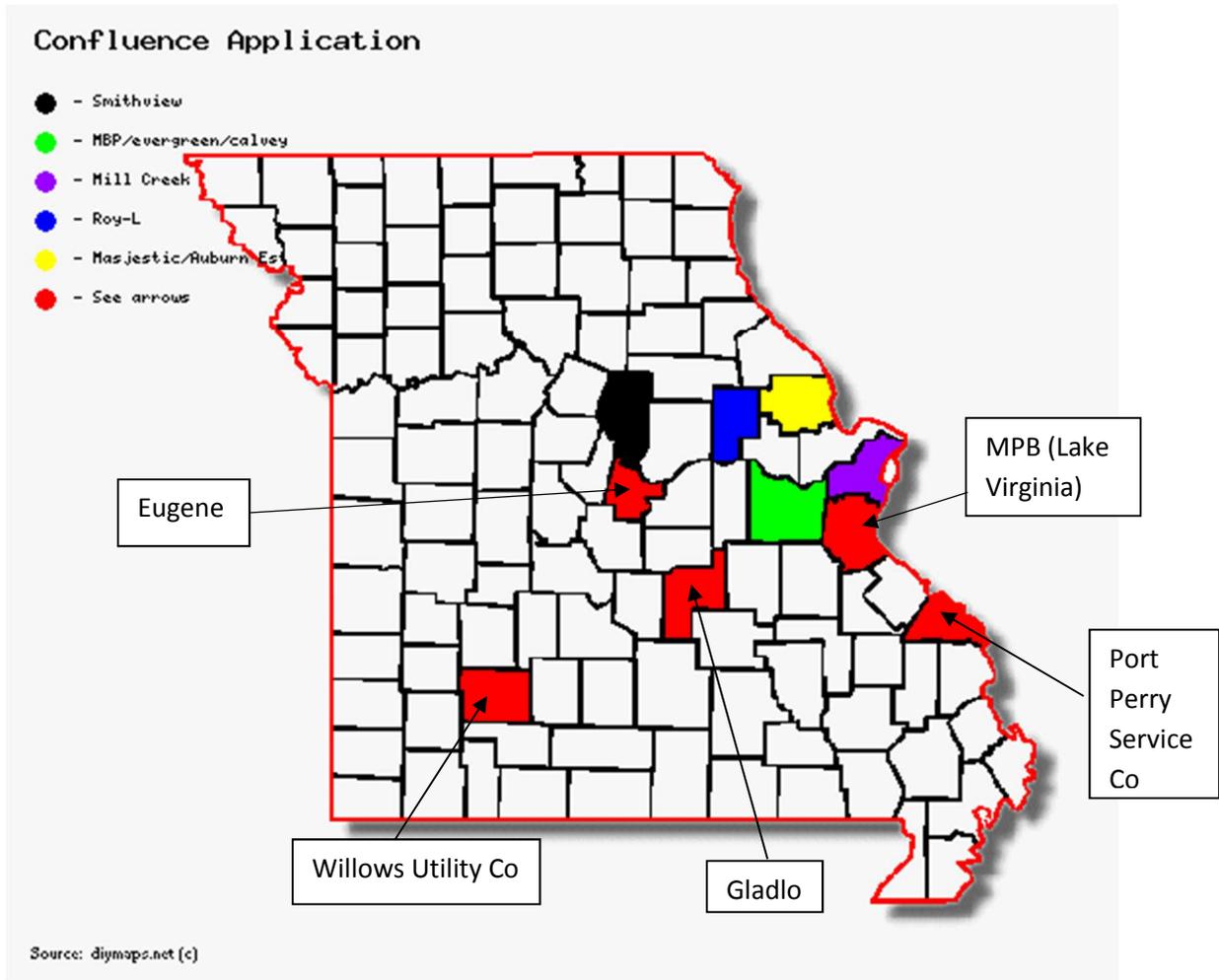
In the Matter of the Application of Confluence)	
Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc. to)	
Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets,)	Case No. WM-2018-0116
For a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity,)	Case No. SM02018-0117
And, in Connection Therewith, To Issue)	
Indebtedness and Encumber Assets.)	

**OPC’S RESPONSE TO STAFF’S SECOND RECOMMENDATION
AND OPC’S SECOND MOTION FOR HEARING**

COMES NOW, the Office of the Public Counsel for its Response to Staff’s Second Recommendation and OPC’s Second Motion for Hearing, does request that a contested hearing be scheduled and the Commission order a prehearing conference. In addition, the OPC states as follows:

For substantially the same reasons stated in the *Public Counsel Response to Staff’s Recommendation and Motion for Hearing* filed on March 15, 2018 and for others, the OPC continues to ask the Commission to hold a contested hearing. The OPC can agree, however, that no hearing is necessary to grant the Staff’s request to “Deny approval of the issuance of a CCN to CRU for the Wolf Creek Crossing service area, for the reasons outlined above in this memorandum.”

In addition to this response and request for a hearing, the OPC also represents that it has complied with the Commission’s Order because it has filed suggestions relating to local public hearings on the same day of this filing. Because the Applicant is seeking Commission authority to acquire a large number of water and/or sewer systems in ten (10) different counties, there may be a large number of local public hearings requested. To further illustrate the geographic disparity of these systems, the OPC has included a map below.



The OPC is hopeful that it can work with the parties to balance the interest of ratepayers and efficiency in resources in the scheduling of local public hearings.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel submits OPC's Response to Staff's Second Recommendation and OPC's Second Motion for Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ryan Smith

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ATTORNEY FOR THE OFFICE
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was sent by electronic mail or by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on September 27, 2018 to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ryan D. Smith