

In the Matter of:

**The Application of Osage Utility Operating Company, Inc., etc.**

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**WA-2019-0185 SA-2019-0186**

*February 20, 2019*

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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
Pre-Hearing Conference  
February 20, 2019  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Volume 1

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In The Matter Of The )  
Application Of Osage Utility )  
Operating Company, Inc. To ) File Nos.  
Acquire Certain Water And ) WA-2019-0185 and  
Sewer Assets And For A ) SA-2019-0186  
Certificate of Convenience )  
And Necessity )

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding  
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY:  
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TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We are on the record. This is  
3 the pre-hearing in File Nos. WA-2019-0185 and  
4 SA-2019-0186. This is In The Matter Of The Application  
5 Of Osage Utility Operating Company, Inc. To Acquire  
6 Certain Water and Sewer Assets And For A Certificate of  
7 Convenience and Necessity.

8 I'm Ron Pridgin. I'm the Regulatory Law Judge  
9 assigned to preside over this pre-hearing conference  
10 that's being held February 20, 2019 in the Governor  
11 Office Building in Jefferson City, Missouri. The time  
12 is 1:05 p.m. I would like to get oral entries of  
13 appearance from counsel. I will start with those  
14 actually physically in the room with me and then I'll  
15 see if there's anybody on the phone who would like to  
16 enter an appearance.

17 Let me begin with the Applicant, please?

18 MR. MITTEN: Your Honor, appearing on behalf  
19 of the Applicant are Russ Mitten and Diana Carter,  
20 Brydon, Swearngen & England, 312 East Capitol Avenue,  
21 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Mitten, thank you. On  
23 behalf of the Staff of the Commission, please?

24 MS. PAYNE: Whitney Payne and Mark Johnson on  
25 behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public Service

1 Commission.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Payne, thank you. On  
3 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, please?

4 MR. HALL: Good afternoon, Judge. Thank you.  
5 Caleb Hall on behalf of the Office of the Public  
6 Counsel. My contact information has been provided to  
7 the court reporter.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hall, thank you and good  
9 afternoon. Let me just see who is in the room with me  
10 who would like to enter an appearance for counsel.  
11 Ma'am, I'm sorry, we met earlier but I've forgotten.

12 MS. TURNER: Alicia Embley Turner. I'm here  
13 for Cedar Glen Homeowners Association, Newman, Comley &  
14 Ruth Law Firm.

15 MR. PRIDGIN: Ms. Turner, thank you. Yes,  
16 sir?

17 MR. ELLSWORTH: My name is Aaron Ellsworth.  
18 I'm here on behalf of the Public Water Supply District  
19 #5 of Camden County and also Lake Area Wastewater  
20 Association, Inc. and Missouri Water Association, Inc.  
21 who also is represented by Mr. Charlie McElyea who is  
22 not present today. We're co-counsel for those entities.  
23 My contact information has also been provided.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Ellsworth, thank you.  
25 Anybody on the phone who would like to enter an

1 appearance?

2 MR. WOODWORTH: Yes. This is Stan Woodworth  
3 with the Rouse Frets Law Firm. We represent the  
4 Reflections Condominium Owners Association.

5 MR. KURTZ: Chris Kurtz is also on the phone.  
6 He's in the same law firm with Mr. Woodworth.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. I think the court  
8 reporter may -- like when we get off the record, the  
9 court reporter may need to talk with you gentlemen  
10 because she's having a hard time hearing. We're  
11 actually on somebody's personal phone. We're having a  
12 problem with the speaker phone. She'll probably need to  
13 talk to you after we go off the record to be sure we get  
14 your contact information correct, but thank you for your  
15 appearance.

16 Really I think all I have for the parties,  
17 this is just at least one opportunity for those of you  
18 who don't practice here very often, to see that the  
19 parties at least get together once to talk about their  
20 differences and see if they can minimize or resolve any  
21 differences and also for you to start exchanging I guess  
22 information on how you want to proceed as far as  
23 discovery, hearing, that kind of thing. And normally I  
24 expect a pleading from counsel within about a week.

25 I usually order it, and I don't think I did

1 this time, but is there anyone -- I usually get that  
2 pleading from either the applicants or staff. It  
3 doesn't matter to me. But is there anyone who perceives  
4 a problem either having some sort of schedule or at  
5 least the status report to me within about a week?

6 MR. MITTEN: That's fine.

7 MS. PAYNE: I think we can do that, Judge.

8 Thanks.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If the pleading can simply say  
10 we need more time to talk, that's perfectly fine just so  
11 I'm not the one who's keeping this case from proceeding.  
12 And again, those of you on the phone, please stay on the  
13 line after I go off the record so you can continue to  
14 talk. I don't know that I have anything else for the  
15 parties. Is there anything else the parties have for me  
16 before I go off the record?

17 Okay. Hearing nothing, I believe you have  
18 access to this room pretty much the rest of the  
19 afternoon. This phone bridge is probably open for a  
20 couple of hours, but obviously feel free to use this  
21 speaker phone if that will help you communicate better.  
22 If there's nothing further from anyone else? All right.  
23 Thank you. We will go off the record.

24 (Off the record.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, Certified Court Reporter with the firm of Tiger Court Reporting, LLC, within the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was personally present at the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place set forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such time and place.

*Beverly Jean Bentch*

Beverly Jean Bentch, CCR No. 640



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