# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc. to Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets, For a Certificate Of Convenience and Necessity, and, in Connection Therewith, To Issue Indebtedness and Encumber Assets

Case No. WM-2018-0116

### **STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TARIFF SHEETS**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and for its *Recommendation to Approve Tariff Sheets* in this matter, hereby states:

1. The Commission on February 14, 2019, issued its Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Granting Certificates of Convenience and Necessity in the above-referenced matter. Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., (Confluence Rivers or Company) on June 24, 2019, filed proposed tariff sheets (*YS-2019-0228*), based on the Commission's Order, to incorporate the Lake Virginia Sewer system into the existing sewer tariff currently in effect for Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company applicable to the Mill Creek and Villa Ridge service areas. The tariff sheets for the Lake Virginia service area are proposed to become effective on July 24, 2019.

2. Staff has reviewed all of the tariff sheets and finds them to be compliant with the *Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement* and the Commission's *Order*.

3. In support of its *Recommendation*, Staff has attached the Affidavit of James Merciel to this pleading and incorporates the same herein by reference.

1

4. The Company on May 13, 2019, filed a *Motion to Change Tariff Book for MPB's Villa Ridge Sewer Tariff Sheets* which explained that Confluence Rivers was unable to adopt the M.P.B., Inc. tariff due to an issue involving the Lake Virginia service area. The Company went on to ask for Commission approval to include the applicable tariff sheets for the Villa Ridge service area in the tariff book applicable to the Mill Creek service area and to leave the M.P.B., Inc. tariff book in place until such time as the issue related to Lake Virginia could be resolved and applicable tariff sheets related to Lake Virginia be filed. The proposed tariff sheets filed by Confluence Rivers regarding Lake Virginia are proposed to also be included in the tariff book applicable to the Mill Creek service area. Therefore, should the Commission now approve the Company's proposed tariff sheets regarding the Lake Virginia service area, the M.P.B., Inc. tariff book will no longer be necessary. Staff recommends that should the Commission approve the proposed tariff sheets regarding the Lake Virginia service area then the Commission should also cancel the applicable tariff of M.P.B., Inc.

5. Staff notes that with this filing Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company has filed to either adopt existing or implement new appropriate tariff sheets for all of the water and sewer systems approved by the Commission to comprise Confluence Rivers. Should the Commission approve the tariff sheets for Lake Virginia, there should be no further actions to take in this docket.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff prays that the Commission will accept Staff's *Recommendation;* approve Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company's proposed tariff sheets; cancel the applicable tariff of M.P.B., Inc.; close this docket unless a party objects in the applicable time frame for responses; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

2

Respectively submitted,

#### <u>/s/ Whitney Payne</u>

Whitney Payne Senior Counsel Missouri Bar No. 64078 Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-8706 (Telephone) (573) 751-9285 (Fax) whitney.payne@psc.mo.gov

## **S CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019, to all counsel of record.

### <u>/s/Whitney Payne</u>

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Case No. WM-2018-0116

#### AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES A. MERCIEL, JR.

STATE OF MISSOURI	)	SS
COUNTY OF COLE	)	55

**COMES NOW** James A. Merciel, Jr., and on his oath states that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the foregoing *Staff's Recommendation to Approve Tariff Sheets*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.

erciel, Jr.

#### JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 264 day of June, 2019.

Dranke L. Vaurt-Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri Commissioned for Cole County My Commission Expires: June 28, 2019 Commission Number: 15207377