

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

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water)
Company for a Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to Install, Own,)
Acquire, Construct, Operate, Control, Manage) **File No. WA-2022-0311¹**
and Maintain a Water System and Sewer)
System in and around the City of)
Stewartsville)

**STAFF’S EXPLANATION OF THE STIPULATION’S
WATER RATES FOR STEWARTSVILLE CUSTOMERS**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through counsel, and makes the following Response to the Commission’s Order Directing Response issued on January 9, 2023 (Order).

On December 29, 2022, Missouri-American Water Company (“MAWC”) and Staff filed a Stipulation and Agreement (Agreement). On January 9, 2023, the Commission issued its Order requiring Staff to address a possible discrepancy concerning the water rates to be applied to the Stewartsville System. The Commission noted that Condition 2 of the Agreement states that the existing water rates applicable to customers outside the St. Louis County region will be applied, but that condition 19 then references rates currently applicable to MAWC’s St. Joseph Service area.

Condition 2 states:

[The Commission should] Approve MAWC using existing water rates applicable to customers outside the St. Louis County region and existing sewer rates applicable to customers in the Trimble service area for approved service areas.

Condition 19 states:

MAWC shall include the following language in MAWC’s post-closing letter to Stewartsville customers:

¹ Consolidated with File No.: SA-2022-0312

MAWC will provide water service pursuant to the rates currently applicable to MAWC's St. Joseph Service Area. It will utilize the rules governing the rendering of water service currently found in MAWC's water tariff, P.S.C. MO No. 13. MAWC will provide sewer service pursuant to the rates currently applicable to MAWC's Trimble Service Area and to utilize the rules governing the rendering of sewer service currently found in MAWC's sewer tariff P.S.C. MO No. 26.

MAWC has filed a water and sewer rate case before the Missouri Public Service Commission, File No. WR-2022-0303, in which these rates and rules will be reviewed. It is expected that any change in rates as a result of this case will be effective by June 1, 2023.

Staff directs the Commission's attention to the fact that Condition 19 concerns the content of a notice going out to Stewartsville *customers*. The language in that notice is calculated to be understandable for the customers. The water rate which they understand they are paying now and are being told they will continue to pay is the same as that now paid in the *St. Joseph Service Area*. Condition 19 states that the *customers* will be provided that assurance in words they understand.

Thus, to be perfectly clear, there is no separate and distinct St. Joseph Service Area water rate. St. Joseph and environs is outside the St. Louis County region, and so the water rate paid by customers in the St. Joseph Service Area is the same as the "existing water rates applicable to customers outside the St. Louis County region"

In summary, Condition 2 states what the Commission should order MAWC to charge in the terms which the Commission should use, while Condition 19 states what the Commission should order MAWC to tell the affected customers in the terms which the Company should use so as to be understood by those customers.

Staff advises the Commission that MAWC and the Office of Public Counsel have reviewed and do not disagree with the explanation of the Agreement set out in this pleading.

WHEREFORE, the Staff prays the Commission to accept the foregoing explanation in response to its Order of January 9, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Paul T. Graham #30416

Senior Staff Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, Mo 65102-0360

(573) 522-8459

Paul.graham@psc.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned by his signature below certifies that the foregoing pleading was served upon all counsel of record on this January 10, 2023, by electronic filing in EFIS, electronic mail, hand-delivery, or U.S. postage prepaid.

/s/ Paul T. Graham