

**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)	<u>Case No. WM-2020-0403</u>
Water and Sewer Assets of Terre)	
Du Lac Utilities Corporation)	

PROPOSAL FOR CONDUCTING VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel and on behalf of all parties to this matter, and states:

1. Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc. (“Confluence Rivers”), filed an *Application* to acquire the water and sewer assets of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation (“TDLU”) on June 12, 2020. Staff conducted an investigation and filed its *Recommendation* on September 18, 2020. The Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) filed a *Motion to Suspend Current Schedule, Request for Notice to Customers and Request for Public Hearing* on September 21, 2020. In response to OPC’s *Motion* the parties devised a procedural schedule, which the Commission ordered on November 4, 2020. The Commission also asked the parties to file a proposal for how to conduct the proposed local public hearing no later than November 12, 2020.

2. The parties propose the following procedures for the local public hearing, presently ordered by the Commission to be held virtually through WebEx on December 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Notice and Registration

- Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company will send a public notice out to customers, detailing how to register in advance to provide testimony at the local public hearing.
- In order to register participants, the parties propose that the notice of a virtual hearing include an email address, confluencecommets@psc.mo.gov, for customers to contact to indicate if they would like to provide testimony to the Commission, ask questions, and/or received an invite to the virtual public hearing.
- Notice should be provided to customers no less than 15 days prior to the December 15, 2020, hearing.
- The notice should also include instructions for how to submit written, telephone, or electronic comments to the Commission and how to view the live stream of the hearing on the Commission's website.
- The notice should summarize the companies' requests, potential effects on the customers and generally where the case is procedurally. If the parties wish to include hand-outs, outlining their positions, the hand-outs will be sent out with the notice.
- The notice should also instruct customers as to how to view the electronic filings made in the docket for this case.
- Staff will ensure that a copy of the public notice is filed in the docket for this case.

- The parties propose that the participant roster of those participants who pre-register, including full names and email addresses, be submitted to the regulatory law judge and the Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department no later than three (3) days prior to the virtual hearing. Any registrations received after this point will be forwarded to the regulatory law judge as they are received.
- The parties propose that the regulatory law judge email invitations to those participants who pre-registered upon receipt of the participant roster from the parties.

Hearing Procedures

- The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall conduct a question-and-answer session at the beginning of the public hearing.
- Confluence Rivers, TDLU, OPC, and Staff shall each make a representative available to address substantive issues during the question-and-answer session.
- OPC has proposed that the hearing should include an open portion in which any customer may testify who has not pre-registered to provide testimony.¹
- The Commission should provide an opportunity for anyone requiring accommodations to contact the Commission in advance and a press release regarding the Commission's order should be sent to local news media and the local county commission for TDLU customers.

¹ The parties agree that this is proper if the Commission has the technical capabilities to offer such an option.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept this *Proposal*; issue an order in accordance with the elements outlined in this filing including the email address for registration, confluencecommets@psc.mo.gov; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne

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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 12th day of November, 2020, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne