

**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) **File No. WM-2020-0282**
and Sewer Assets, and For Certificates of)
Convenience and Necessity)

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and for its *Status Report*, states as follows:

1. On March 11, 2020, Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc. (“Confluence Rivers”), filed an *Application and Motion for Waiver* with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting approval of its acquisition of the water and/or sewer assets and associated certificates of convenience and necessity (“CCNs”), operated and held by multiple entities in St. Francois, Taney, and Washington Counties, along with the acquisition of the water and/or sewer assets of certain non-certificated entities, and approval of associated new CCNs, in Audrain, Lincoln, Madison, Polk, and Warren Counties. Confluence Rivers also requests a waiver of the Commission’s 60-day notice requirement under 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

2. On March 16, 2020, the Commission issued its *Orders Directing Notice and Setting Dates for Submission of Intervention Requests and Staff’s Recommendation* in File Nos. WM-2020-0282 and SM-2020-0283; in its Orders, the Commission set intervention deadlines of April 16, 2020, and directed Staff to file, no later than April 30, 2020, a recommendation regarding Confluence Rivers’ Application, or a status report advising when it expects to file a recommendation.

3. As no applications to intervene were submitted in either File No. WM-2020-0282 or File No. SM-2020-0283, on April 17, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Consolidating Cases* consolidating both cases, and directing all future filings be made in File No. WM-2020-0282.

4. In the course of its review of Confluence Rivers' Application, Staff has issued a number of data requests; however, several responses provided by Confluence Rivers have led to additional data requests being issued by Staff, several of which remain outstanding.

5. In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the surrounding uncertainty it has caused, Staff has been unable to complete necessary inspections of the selling systems. However, with Governor Parson's recent announcement of the gradual reopening of economic and social activities in the state, set to begin on May 4, 2020, Staff hopes to complete its inspections in the coming weeks observing appropriate distancing and safety recommendations.

6. In considering the necessary time to coordinate and conduct inspections of the multiple systems Confluence Rivers seeks to acquire in this proceeding, and to allow for additional time to finalize its review, Staff anticipates it will be prepared to submit its Recommendation no later than June 30, 2020. That being said, Staff will aim to complete its Recommendation as soon as is practically possible.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this *Status Report* for the Commission's information and consideration and hereby requests the Commission order Staff to file its Recommendation no later than June 30, 2020; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

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Missouri Public Service Commission**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile, or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 30th day of April, 2020.

/s/ Mark Johnson