## **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 of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation

File No. WM-2020-0403

## <u>CONFLUENCE RIVERS' RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING RESPONSES TO</u> <u>REQUEST FOR NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING</u>

**COMES NOW** Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., ("Confluence Rivers" or "Company) and, in response to the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") Order Directing Responses to Request for Notice and Request for Public Hearing, states as follows:

1. On September 21, 2020, the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") filed a *Motion to Suspend Current Schedule, Request for Notice to Customers, and Request for Local Public Hearing.* Thereafter, on September 22, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Responses to Request for Notice and Request for Public Hearing*, wherein it directed Confluence Rivers and Staff to file responses to OPC's requests for notice and local public hearing.

2. Confluence Rivers states that on August 12, 2020, the Company sent the attached customer letter (provided herewith as <u>Appendix A</u>), to current customers of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation ("Terre Du Lac"). The letter provided customers with notice of the joint application filed with the Commission and the proposed acquisition of the Terre Du Lac water and sewer systems by Confluence Rivers. The letter included information on how customers could submit written comments regarding the proposed sale. Confluence Rivers also included the contact information for both OPC and the Commission within the letter, and asked that customers contact the Company, the Commission or OPC with any questions.

3. Confluence Rivers does not object to OPC's request for a virtual public hearing and is willing to work with the parties to develop a proposed schedule for such virtual public hearing.

4. However, the Company does not believe that the schedule in this matter needs to be suspended until such time as that hearing has taken place. Confluence Rivers intends to propose a procedural schedule, after discussion with the parties, that would include an evidentiary hearing, such that a virtual public hearing and an evidentiary hearing may move forward on parallel paths.

**WHEREFORE**, Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., respectfully submits this response to the Commission's *Order Directing Responses to Request for Notice and Request for Public Hearing*.

Respectfully submitted,

**BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.** 

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## ATTORNEYS FOR CONFLUENCE RIVERS UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, INC.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020 to all counsel of record.

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Dean L. Cooper



Dear Resident.

Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company (Confluence Rivers UOC) and Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation (Terre Du Lac) have filed a joint application with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking authorization for Terre Du Lac to sell its water and sewer systems to Confluence Rivers UOC. Terre Du Lac Utilities currently serves 1,294 water customers and 1,294 sewer customers like you.

We have proposed that your rates remain the same. In the future, rates may change based on improvements to treatment plants. Due to the amount of distress and the deteriorating condition of the Terre Du Lac systems, Confluence Rivers UOC has requested an Acquisition Credit with the Public Service Commission. After we complete the proposed acquisition, we plan to make improvements to the systems to address degradation due to age and environmental compliance issues. These improvements will make it possible for us to bring you clean, safe and reliable water resources 24/7.

Customers may provide comments to the Missouri Public Service Commission Staff and/or the Office of the Public Counsel, which represents the public in matters before the Commission regarding this proposed sale. Your comments should include a reference to Case Number WM-2020-0403. The Commission Staff and the Public Counsel will review all customer comments submitted in response to this notice. All comments will also be filed in the official case file for review by the Commissioners.

Missouri Public Service Commission Attn: Water/Sewer Dept. P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: 800-392-4211 Fax: 573-751-1847 E-Mail: watersewercomments@psc.mo.gov Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: 866-922-2959 Fax: 573-751-1847 E-Mail: mopco@opc.mo.gov

To submit your comments via the Commission's website:

- 1.) Go to http://www.psc.mo.gov
- 2.) Click on the "Submit Comments" box under the "How Do I..." heading on the top right of the page
- 3.) From this page, click on the "submit comment" link found under "Submit Comments in Writing"
- 4.) Fill out the "Submit the Public Comments" form, including Case Number WM-2020-0403. If you want to attach a document, before clicking the "Submit" button, click the "Attach" button. You'll find instructions for attaching the document and returning to the previous screen.
- 5.) Click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page.

If you have questions, please contact Confluence Rivers UOC at (314) 736-4672, the Missouri Public Commission or the Office of Public Counsel.

Josiah Cox.

President, Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company





