

**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)

RESPONSE TO ORDER CONCERNING PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and, in response to the Commission’s *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 its *Motion to Suspend Current Schedule, Request for Notice to Customers, and Request for Local Public Hearing*. The following day, September, 22, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Responses to Request for Notice and Request for Public Hearing*, directing Staff and Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., (“Confluence Rivers”) to file responses to OPC’s requests.

2. On September 28, 2020, Confluence Rivers filed its *Response to Order Directing Responses to Request for Notice and Request for Public Hearing*, indicating that it had sent notice to current customers of Terre Du Lac Utilities Corporation of the proposed acquisition, stating that it does not oppose OPC’s request for a virtual public hearing, and that it does not believe that the schedule in this matter needs to be suspended, as it 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.

3. For its response, Staff states the following:
 - a. Staff has no objection to OPC's request for notice to customers and request for a virtual public hearing in this matter.
 - b. That being said, based upon Confluence Rivers' *Response*, Staff agrees that should Confluence Rivers request a hearing in this matter, a suspension of the schedule in this matter is unnecessary at this time. Staff envisions that the parties to this proceeding will be able to propose a schedule containing sufficient time to include the holding of a virtual public hearing.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits its *Response to Order Concerning Public Hearing* for the Commission's information and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Johnson

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**Attorney for the Staff of the
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 29th day of September 2020.

/s/ Mark Johnson