

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

The Staff of the Missouri)	
Public Service Commission)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	<u>Case No. WC-2006-0029</u>
v.)	
)	
Missouri Utilities Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

SEVENTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through counsel, and for its Seventeenth Progress Report states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission").

1. On August 30, 2005, the Commission issued its **Order Directing Staff To File A Progress Report**, ("08/30/05 Order") wherein it directed the Staff to file a progress report detailing its efforts to identify a potential interim receiver for Missouri Utilities Company ("MU"), with that report to be filed no later than September 6, 2005.

2. As required by the Commission's 08/30/05 Order, the Staff filed a Progress Report detailing its efforts to identify a potential interim receiver for MU on September 6, 2005 ("09/06/05 Progress Report").

3. As a part of its 09/06/05 Progress Report, the Staff committed to file either a weekly progress report regarding the identification of a potential interim receiver for MU, or a notice advising the Commission that it has no new information to report, with such filings to be made on Tuesday of each week until this matter is resolved.

4. Consistent with the commitment it made in its 09/06/05 Progress Report, the Staff has made weekly update filings in this case.

5. As an update to the information provided in its Sixteenth Progress Report regarding the planned meeting between the Staff, Robert Meyer and the potential contract operator, which was discussed in Paragraph 5 of that report, the Staff reports the following. On March 29, Martin Hummel and Jim Merciel of the Water & Sewer Department met with Robert Meyer, the potential interim receiver, and David Arl, the potential contract operator, at the location of MU's systems. Together, they observed the general conditions of the water and sewer systems, discussed plant operations in general and some operational issues specific to the particular systems, most notably including the clearing of trees and brush around the lagoon, which is needed immediately if the berms are to be properly mowed this spring and summer. They also discussed utility rates and expenses, and the challenges of funding the immediate improvements. They also reviewed the draft contract operations agreement, and discussed interim and permanent receivership procedures and issues, as well as ultimate system ownership possibilities. At the end of the meeting, both Mr. Meyer and Mr. Arl expected to be ready to proceed with the interim receivership within a few days after further discussion between them and the completion of an operations contract.

6. Regarding Mr. Meyer's planned contact with the owner of MU, Pat Mitchell, regarding the transfer of necessary information from Mr. Mitchell to Mr. Meyer, which was discussed in Paragraph 6 of its Sixteenth Progress Report, the Staff notes that Mr. Meyer has not yet contacted Mr. Mitchell about this matter. The Staff will obtain additional information regarding this matter for inclusion in the recommendation it files in this case. (See Paragraph 7 for information regarding the filing of the Staff's recommendation, or additional progress reports.)

7. The Staff notes that it will file a recommendation to the Commission pertaining to the appointment of Mr. Meyer as the interim receiver, as soon as possible after the arrangements between Mr. Meyer and Mr. Arl regarding the operation of MU's systems are completed. In the interim, the Staff will continue to file weekly progress reports in this case, or will advise the Commission that additional information is not available and that it will thus not be filing a progress report for a given week. (Unless ordered otherwise, the Staff will make these filings on Friday of each week until it files its recommendation.)

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully submits its Seventeenth Progress Report for the Commission's information and consideration in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Keith R. Krueger

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of this Seventeenth Progress Report have been mailed with first class postage, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or transmitted via e-mail to all counsel and/or parties of record this 31st of March 2006.

/s/ Keith R. Krueger _____