

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

The Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission

Complainant,

v.

Missouri Utilities Company,

Respondent.

Case No. WC-2006-0029

THIRD PROGRESS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through Counsel, and states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission).

1. On August 30, 2005, the Commission issued an Order Directing Staff To File A Progress Report, wherein it ordered 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 August 30, 2005, Order, the Staff filed a Progress Report detailing its efforts to identify a potential interim receiver for Missouri Utilities Company (MU) on September 6, 2005. As a part of that 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.

3. Consistent with the commitment made in its September 6, 2005, Progress Report, the Staff filed a Notice Regarding Progress Report on September 13, 2005, and its second Progress Report on September 20, 2005.

4. Regarding the identification of a potential receiver for MU, the Staff provides the following additional/updated information. On September 21, 2005, the Staff received information from the contract operator at the Lake of the Ozarks with which it has been in contact regarding this matter. That information included the contract operator's estimate for operating MU's water and wastewater systems. The contract operator's estimate for operating MU's system, which included two on-site visits per week, payment of the system's estimated electric bill, worker's compensation insurance, estimated minor repairs and customer billing, is \$2,340 per month. This estimate exceeds the estimated available monthly revenues somewhere in the range of \$250 to \$550 per month. Additionally, this estimate does not include responses to emergency calls requiring on-site visits or responses to requests for facility locates.

5. The Staff is attempting to obtain additional information from MU's owner regarding the system's actual normal operating revenues and is also working with the contract operator to see what options might be available to reduce the cost of operating MU's system. One of the options being discussed is the contract operator making arrangements with someone living in or near MU's service area to make some of the on-site visits.

6. The Staff again notes that it will continue to file weekly progress reports, or will advise the Commission that additional information is not available and that a progress report will thus not be filed for a given week.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully submits its third Progress Report for the Commission's information.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ Mary E. Weston

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Missouri Public Service Commission

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing 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 27th day of September 2005.

/s/ Mary E. Weston