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

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The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

Complainant,

v.

Missouri Utilities Company,

Case No. WC-2006-0029

Respondent.

## THIRTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through counsel, and for its <u>Thirteenth Progress Report</u> states the following to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission").

1. On August 30, 2005, the Commission issued its <u>Order Directing Staff To File A</u> <u>Progress Report</u>, ("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. Regarding the identification of a potential receiver for MU, the Staff is pleased to report the following new information. During a telephone conference call on March 1, the Staff received an oral commitment from Mr. Robert Meyer to act as the interim receiver for MU. Mr. Meyer is the individual that the Staff has previously referred to as someone possibly willing to act in this capacity. Additional information regarding Mr. Meyer's agreement to act as the interim receiver for MU and his qualifications for doing so, and additional information regarding the contract operations arrangements, will be provided in the formal Staff recommendation regarding the appointment of an interim receiver (see Paragraph 9 for information regarding the filing of that recommendation).

6. Regarding the identification of a contract operator for MU's systems, Mr. Meyer advised the Staff during the above-referenced March 1 telephone conference call that he has reached an agreement in principal with the local contract operator that has expressed the most interest in operating MU's systems, and with whom he has been in contact over the last few weeks. While there are still some details to be worked out regarding this contract operator's operation of the systems, Mr. Meyer is confident those details will be worked out soon.

7. In order for the details regarding the interim receivership to be finalized, the Staff and Mr. Meyer have agreed to meet at MU's system, hopefully sometime during the week of March 6, to further discuss this situation. If possible, the contract operator will also attend that meeting.

8. Mr. Meyer will also be contacting the owner of MU, Mr. Pat Mitchell, to attempt to make arrangements for the transfer of necessary information from Mr. Mitchell to Mr. Meyer.

To the extent that Mr. Mitchell is not cooperative in this regard, the Staff will address the transfer of such information in its recommendation to the Commission regarding the appointment of the interim receiver.

9. The Staff will file a recommendation to the Commission pertaining to the appointment of Mr. Meyer as the interim receiver as soon as possible after the meeting referenced in Paragraph 7 is held and the arrangements for the interim receivership and the contract operation are finalized.

10. The Staff 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 not be filed for a given week. However, unless ordered otherwise, the Staff will move its filing date for such reports to Friday of each week until it files its recommendation.

**WHERFORE**, the Staff respectfully submits its <u>Thirteenth Progress Report</u> 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 <u>Thirteenth Progress Report</u> 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 2nd day of March 2006.

/s/ Keith R. Krueger