

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Brandco)	
Investments LLC and Hillcrest Utility Operating)	<u>Case No. WO-2014-0340</u>
Company, Inc., for Hillcrest to Acquire Certain Water)	
and Sewer Assets of Brandco and, in Connection)	<u>Case No. SO-2014-0341</u>
Therewith, Issue Indebtedness and Encumber Assets)	

STATUS REPORT AND MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and submits this status report and request that the Commission consolidate Case Nos. WO-2014-0340 and SO-2014-0341 as follows:

1. On May 13, 2014, Brandco Investments LLC (Brandco) and Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc. (Hillcrest) asked that the Commission approve Hillcrest's agreement to purchase Brandco's water and sewer assets. Hillcrest would partially finance the purchase via debt that would encumber those assets, and also asks the Commission to approve the same. Finally, Hillcrest wishes to become regulated by the Commission, and, thus, also wishes for the Commission to grant it a certificate of convenience and necessity to own and operate those water and sewer assets.

2. The Commission ordered Staff to file a recommendation or, in the alternative, a status report, no later than July 7, 2014. At this time, Staff continues its investigation related to this application; however, Staff is still in the process of seeking additional information and requires more time to receive and review information from the company before making its recommendation. Staff requests until August 5th, 2014 to file either another status report or its recommendation, depending on the results of its continued investigation.

3. Additionally, Staff has found that the water and sewer operations will share the same ownership, management, overheads, and other common issues of fact.

Here, the Commission has authority to consolidate the pending applications pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.110(3) which states:

When pending actions involve related questions of law or fact, the commission may order a joint hearing of any or all the matters at issue, and may make other orders concerning cases before it to avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

Accordingly, Staff moves the Commission to consolidate Case Nos. WO-2014-0340 and SO-2014-0341 for administrative expediency and to simplify the filings made by the parties. For administrative reasons, Staff requests these cases be consolidated under Case No. WO-2014-0340.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits this status report, requests until August 5th, 2014 to file its report or recommendation, and requests the Commission consolidate Case Nos. WO-2014-0340 and SO-2014-0341.

Respectfully,

/s/ Tim Opitz

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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 electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 7th day of July, 2014.

/s/ Tim Opitz