

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

In the Matter of the Application of Confluence)
Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., for)
Certificates of Convenience and Necessity to) **Case No. WA-2023-0026**
Provide Water and Sewer Service in an Area)
of Lincoln County, Missouri)

STAFF’S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, through counsel, and in response to the Commission’s March 15, 2023 *Order Directing Staff to File Status Report*, files this status report.

1. On December 8, 2022 the Commission approved the application of Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc. (Confluence) to acquire the water and sewer assets of Glenmeadows Water and Sewer, LLC (Glenmeadows). Also on this date, the Commission granted Confluence certificates of convenience and necessity to provide water and sewer service in the Glenmeadows service area, subject to conditions and requirements set forth on pages nine through eleven of the order.¹

2. On March 15, 2023, the Commission ordered Staff to file, by May 15, 2023, a report on this file’s status and state whether it is ready to be closed.

3. Paragraphs 3a and 3b of the December 8 order require Confluence to adopt the Glenmeadows systems’ then-existing rates and submit tariff sheets to become effective before closing on the assets. Confluence closed on the systems on December 28, 2022.² The Commission approved tariff sheets, with effective dates of

¹ *Order Approving Acquisition of Assets and Granting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* (Dec 8, 2022).

² *Notice of Closing as to Glenmeadows Water and Sewer, LLC* (Jan 3, 2023).

December 27, 2022, adopting Glenmeadows then-existing rates.³ Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the conditions of paragraphs 3a and 3b of the December 8 order.

4. Paragraphs 3c, 3d, and 3e of the December 8 order require Confluence to notify the Commission of closing on the assets within five days after closing and adopt procedures if closing does not occur within 30 days of the December 8, 2022 order's effective date, which is December 18. Confluence closed on the Glenmeadows assets on December 28, 2022 and notified the Commission of this on January 3, 2023.⁴ Confluence closed within 30 days of December 18, 2022 order and notified the Commission of this closing within five business days. Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the condition of paragraph 3c of the December 8 order. Confluence is not required to comply with paragraphs 3d and 3e, because it closed on the assets within 30 days of the December 8 order's effective date.

5. Paragraph 3f of the December 8 order requires Confluence to keep its financial books and records for plant-in-service and operating systems in accordance with the NARUC Uniform System of Accounts. Paragraph 3h requires Confluence to adopt for the Glenmeadows systems the depreciation rates ordered in Case Nos. WA-2013-0117 and SA-2013-0354. Confluence stated on March 14, 2023 that it complied with all conditions of paragraph 3.⁵ Staff will have the opportunity in Confluence's next rate case (not the current rate case, which is WR-2023-0006) to ascertain that Confluence is complying with these paragraphs.

³ *Order Approving Compliance Tariffs* (Dec 14, 2022).

⁴ *Notice of Closing as to Glenmeadows Water and Sewer, LLC* (Jan 3, 2023).

⁵ *Notice Concerning Conditions* (March 14, 2023).

6. Paragraph 3i of the December 8 order requires Confluence to provide training to its call center personnel regarding rates and rules applicable to the Glenmeadows systems. Confluence stated on March 14, 2023 that it complied with all conditions of paragraph 3.⁶ Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the conditions of paragraph 3i of the December 8 order.

7. Paragraphs 3j and 3k of the December 8 order require Confluence to distribute to Glenmeadows customers an informational brochure consistent with the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-13 and provide Staff's Customer Experience Department (Staff CXD) an example of its communication with Glenmeadows customers regarding its acquisition and operations and how customers may reach Confluence. Confluence stated on March 14, 2023 that it complied with all conditions of paragraph 3.⁷ Staff received an example of its communications to customers. Staff's opinion is that these communications are consistent with the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-13 and the December 8 order. Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the conditions of paragraphs 3j and 3k of the December 8 order.

8. Paragraph 3l of the December 8 order requires Confluence to provide to Staff CXD five sample billing statements. Confluence stated on March 14, 2023 that it complied with all conditions of paragraph 3.⁸ Staff received the sample billing statements. Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the conditions of paragraph 3l of the December 8 order.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

9. Paragraph 3m of the December 8 order requires MAWC to file notice outlining completion of the training, customer communications, notifications, and billing within 10 days after they are completed. Confluence stated on March 14, 2023 that it complied with all conditions of paragraph 3.⁹ Staff's opinion is that Confluence complied with the conditions of paragraph 3m of the December 8 order.

10. Therefore, in sum, it is Staff's opinion that Confluence complied with all conditions in the December 8, 2022 order. Staff recommends that the Commission close this file.

WHEREFORE, Staff files this status report for the Commission's information and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karen E. Bretz

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that copies of the foregoing have been electronically mailed to all counsel of record on this 30th day of March, 2023.

/s/ Karen E. Bretz

⁹ *Id.*