

**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

SEVENTH 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 (unless noted otherwise, all dates herein refer to the year 2005), the Commission issued its **Order Directing Staff To File A Progress Report**, 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.

2. As required by the Commission's August 30 Order, the Staff filed a Progress Report detailing its efforts to identify a potential interim receiver for Missouri Utilities Company (MU) on September 6.

3. As a part of its September 6 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 September 6 Progress Report, the Staff has made weekly update filings in this case.

5. Regarding the identification of a potential receiver for MU, the Staff provides the following additional/updated information. On December 13, Jim Merciel and Martin Hummel of the Commission's Water & Sewer Department discussed this matter with the individual identified in the Staff's Fifth and Sixth Progress Reports as someone that would possibly be willing to act as the interim receiver for MU. While that individual has not yet made a final decision regarding this matter, he is still considering serving as the interim receiver for MU and noted that he has contacted two contract operators about giving him estimates for operating MU's water and sewer systems. One of those operators is scheduled to make an on-site visit to the systems today and the second is planning to do so within the next week. Also, the Staff notes that it provided additional information regarding this matter to the potential interim receiver on December 7, as was stated would be done in the Staff's Sixth Progress Report. The Staff will have follow-up discussions with the potential interim receiver on or before December 20 and will report the results of those discussions in its next report.

6. In addition to the above information regarding the identity of an interim receiver, the Staff again notes that on December 5 Dale Johansen of the Water & Sewer Department sent an e-mail message to a representative of Aqua Missouri, Inc. inquiring, again, about that company's possible interest in taking over ownership of MU's water and sewer systems. While Mr. Johansen has still not yet received a reply from Aqua Missouri's representative regarding this matter, he has been advised that Aqua Missouri personnel are having a conference call about acquisition matters on December 14 and that this situation is one of the possible acquisitions that will be discussed during that call.

7. 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 Seventh Progress Report for the Commission's information.

Respectfully Submitted,

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General Counsel

/s/ Mary E. Weston

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of this Sixth 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 13th day of December 2005.

/s/ Mary E. Weston