

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 17th day of June, 2020.

In the Matter of Raytown Water Company's)
Request for Annual Operating Revenue) **File No. WR-2020-0264**
Increase)

**ORDER SETTING VIRTUAL HEARING AND ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING PUBLIC COMMENT**

Issue Date: June 17, 2020

Effective Date: June 17, 2020

On March 2, 2020, Raytown Water Company filed a letter requesting an increase in its annual overall operating revenues in a staff assisted rate case. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(6) requires a local public hearing. Because of the limitations imposed on public gatherings in response to COVID-19, Staff filed a joint proposal, on behalf of Raytown Water and the Office of the Public Counsel, proposing the Commission conduct a virtual public hearing and collect written comment to be compiled and submitted to the case record. On May 28, 2020, the Commission proposed procedural guidelines for a virtual meeting format and directed the parties to provide a joint proposed schedule to receive public comment in this case.

On June 8, 2020, Staff filed a joint proposal on behalf of the parties. Based on the parties' proposal, the Commission will establish a date and procedure for virtual public hearing and written notice to customers as provided by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(7). To avoid congestion and busy signals, the hearing will be set to begin at 15 minutes after the hour. The Commission's order clarifies how participants by telephone will be registered for the hearing and receive dial-in information. In addition, because the

virtual public hearing will not include a question-and-answer session, the parties will be required to prepare case statements to be distributed to Raytown Water's customers with notice of the hearing. Finally, the Commission will establish a deadline for written comment to be added to the case record, consistent with 20 CSR 4240-10.075(7)(A)(3).

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. A public hearing is scheduled to begin at **12:15 p.m.** on **July 9, 2020**, via the internet-based video and teleconferencing service, WebEx.

2. To facilitate an orderly presentation that can be preserved for the record, those who wish to provide comments on the record to the Commission during the hearing shall register before the hearing.

3. The parties shall accept registrations until 5 p.m. July 2, 2020, and shall submit a complete list of registrants to the regulatory law judge no later than 10 a.m. July 6, 2020. The registrant list shall indicate each registrant's first and last name and whether each registrant will connect to the hearing via internet or by phone.

4. Counsel for the parties and those who are registered to connect via internet will receive an email invitation with access information by no later than 5 p.m. July 6, 2020.

5. Those who register to participate by phone will receive dial-in information when registration is confirmed. The regulatory law judge will provide dial-in information to the parties by email on the date this order is issued. The party responsible for registering participants shall provide the dial-in information to individual registrants who request phone access to the hearing.

6. A live audio web stream at the Commission's website, www.psc.mo.gov,

will provide audio of the hearing for those who are not registered to participate.

7. Any person who requires an accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact, before the hearing, the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711.

8. The Commission's Public Policy and Outreach Department shall provide a copy of this order to news media serving Raytown Water Company's service area and to members of the General Assembly representing residents of Raytown Water's service area.

9. The Commission's data center shall provide a copy of this order to the county executive and county legislature of Jackson County, Missouri.

10. In addition to the virtual public hearing, the parties shall collect and compile written comment to be included in the case record. To be included in the case record, written comment shall be received by no later than July 22, 2020, as provided by 20 CSR 4240-10.075(7)(A)(3). No later than August 2, 2020, Staff shall file a status report indicating when compiled written comment will be added to the case record.

11. In lieu of a live question-and-answer session at an in-person public hearing, the parties shall answer questions from customers and the public as provided in the parties' joint proposal for public comment. The formal question-and-answer period shall end five days after the hearing, on July 14, 2020. All inquiries received by July 14, 2020, shall receive an appropriate response. Answers to inquiries after July 14, 2020, may be handled informally according to the parties' usual practices.

12. Raytown Water, the Commission's Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel shall each prepare a one-page statement outlining their assessment of the case.

The party statements shall be included with notice to customers, as described below.

13. No later than June 22, 2020, Raytown Water shall mail written notice of the hearing to customers as required by 20 CSR 4240-10.075(7)(A). In addition to the date and time of hearing, such notice shall include:

- a. Instructions for registering to participate in the virtual public hearing, which shall include the necessary contact information for registration;¹
- b. An invitation to submit written comments about the utility's rates and quality of service and instructions for submitting written comments and questions;
- c. Deadlines for registration and for submission of written comments and questions;
- d. Information about the availability of a live web stream of the audio of the public hearing, available at www.psc.mo.gov;
- e. A summary of the proposed rates and charges, the effect of the proposed rates on an average residential customer's bill, and any other company requests that may affect customers, if known; and
- f. Single-page case statements prepared by each of the parties, which may include the information required in subpart e above.

14. Staff shall file in this case no later than June 26, 2020, a copy of the notice to customers.

15. This order shall be effective on June 17, 2020.

¹ Because the parties' proposal indicates the email address used for registration may change, the Commission will not order the use of a specific email address.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and
Holsman CC., concur.

Jacobs, Regulatory Law Judge