

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

In the Matter of Elm Hills Utility Operating)
Company, Inc.'s Request for a Water Rate Increase) **File No. WR-2020-0275**

JOINT PROPOSAL FOR VIRTUAL HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through the undersigned counsel, and on behalf of Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc.’s (“Elm Hills”) and the Office of Public Counsel (“OPC”) (collectively, “the Parties”), respectfully proposes the following *Joint Proposal for Virtual Hearing and Public Comment* for the Commission’s consideration:

1. On May 28, 2020, the Commission ordered the Parties to submit a joint proposed schedule for virtual public hearings and the collection of written comment.

2. The Commission presented the Parties with a list of issues to address. The Parties’ responses are as follows:

- a. The Parties propose that the Commission order the virtual hearing be held no earlier than July 2, 2020, and no later than July 22, 2020. The time of the virtual hearing should be either noon or 6:00 PM;
- b. In order to register participants, the Parties propose that the notice of a virtual hearing include an email address, elmhillscomments@psc.mo.gov, for customers to contact to indicate if they would like to provide testimony to the Commission, ask questions, and/or receive an invite to the virtual public hearing. The Parties intend that Elm Hills will send out the notifications to its customers no later than June 22, 2020;

- c. The Parties propose that the participant roster, including full names and email addresses, be submitted to the regulatory law judge no later than five (5) days prior to the virtual hearing;
- d. The Parties propose that the regulatory law judge email invitations to participants upon receipt of the participant roster from the Parties, no later than three (3) days prior to the virtual hearing;
- e. The Parties propose that the deadline for comments to be submitted to the case record be on the date of the virtual hearing.
- f. The Parties do not have any comment as to the use of a live stream to broadcast the local public hearing on the Commission website;
- g. As described in (b), Elm Hills will provide notice to its customers of the hearing date, provide instructions for submitting written comments, and provide information about the hearing live stream, if available, in the notification to be sent out to customers no later than June 22, 2020. If the Parties wish to include hand-outs outlining their positions, Staff and the OPC propose the hand-outs be sent out with the notifications;
- h. In lieu of the question and answer session that typically precedes local public hearings, the Parties propose that the Commission use elmhillscomments@psc.mo.gov¹ for the receipt of comments, questions, and registration. Instead of answering all questions prior to the virtual hearing, the Parties intend to answer the questions as they are submitted, and will continue receiving and answering questions until

¹ This forum for receipt is subject to change. Staff is communicating with the Commission's IT Department to determine the best forum for receiving comments, questions and registration.

five (5) days after the virtual hearing has concluded. Staff will forward the questions to the other parties. This information will also be provided in the notification sent to customers no later than June 22, 2020.

i. The Commission proposed the following guidelines in its Order on May 28, 2020:

- Virtual hearings will be held via WebEx;
- Those who would like to present comments to the Commission at a virtual hearing will be required to register by providing their first and last name before the hearing;
- Those who wish to participate through an internet connection must provide an email address;
- Those who wish to participate by audio only may receive telephone dial-in meeting numbers upon registration;
- A list of registered participants, including email addresses for those connecting via internet, will be provided to the regulatory law judge before the hearing; and
- The regulatory law judge will schedule and host the virtual hearing.

The Parties are in agreement with the Commission regarding the above guidelines, and have no further comment.

j. The Parties do not require a prehearing conference to clarify any technical concerns or questions.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays, on behalf of itself, Elm Hills, and OPC, that the Commission accept the parties' proposal, and grant any such other and further relief as is just under the circumstances.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or their counsel of record this 8th dy of June, 2020.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle