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June 13, 2003

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**  
JUN 13 2003  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Secretary  
Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**RE: Case No. WR-2003-0500**

Dear Secretary:

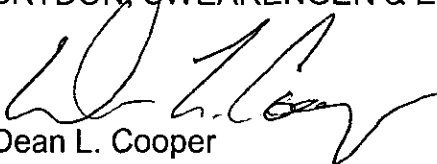
Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding please find an original and eight copies of Missouri-American Water Company's Response to OPC's Motion for Continuance of Evidentiary Hearing. Please stamp the enclosed extra copy of each "filed" and return same to me.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:

  
Dean L. Cooper

DLC/tli

Enclosures

cc: Cliff Snodgrass  
Ruth O'Neill  
Jan Bond  
Lisa C. Langeneckert  
Stuart Conrad

JUN 13 2003

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

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

In the Matter of the General Rate Increase )  
for Water and Sewer Service Provided ) Case No. WR-2003-0500  
by Missouri-American Water Company. )

**MAWC’S RESPONSE TO OPC’S**  
**MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

COMES NOW Missouri-American Water Company (“MAWC” or “Company”) and, in response to the Office of the Public Counsel’s (“OPC”) Motion for Continuance of Evidentiary Hearing (“Motion for Continuance”), states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”):

1. On June 9, 2003, the OPC filed its Motion for Continuance asking that the Commission vacate the evidentiary hearing dates set forth in the Commission's Suspension Order and Notice and instruct the parties to propose a procedural schedule after the early prehearing conference.

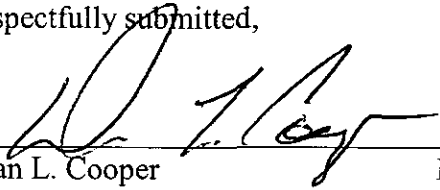
2. MAWC agrees with the OPC that a more traditional schedule would call for evidentiary hearing dates after the September dates set forth in the Suspension Order and Notice.

3. A prehearing conference is currently scheduled for June 19, 2003. The parties have been ordered to file a proposed procedural schedule by June 26, 2003. MAWC suggests that the Commission allow the parties the opportunity to discuss the procedural schedule at the prehearing conference and attempt to reach a joint recommendation that addresses the issue raised by the OPC's Motion for Continuance.

WHEREFORE, MAWC respectfully requests that the Commission hold the OPC's Motion for Continuance in abeyance until such time as the parties have had the opportunity to discuss and

file a proposed procedural schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ATTORNEYS FOR MISSOURI-AMERICAN  
WATER COMPANY

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered on this 13th day of June, 2003, to the following:

Cliff Snodgrass  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
Governor State Office Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

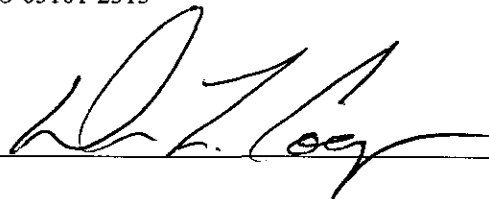
Ruth O'Neill  
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