

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

In the Matter of I.H. Utilities, Inc., )  
Small Company Rate Increase )

**File No. WR-2010-0048**  
Tracking No. YW-2010-0068

## **ORDER SCHEDULING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING AND AMENDING TIMELINE**

Issue Date: August 20, 2009

Effective Date: August 20, 2009

The Missouri Public Service Commission is scheduling a local public hearing on the rate increase request of I.H. Utilities, Inc. ("the company") and amending the timeline.

The company filed a letter asking for small water company rate relief on August 25, 2006. On August 3, 2009, the Commission's staff ("Staff") filed a notice of disposition agreement between Staff and the company, with a copy of the disposition agreement and a tariff.<sup>1</sup> On August 4, 2009, the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") filed a motion for a local public hearing.

On August 10, 2009, Staff filed a motion asking the Commission to approve an attached proposed timeline, which included proposed dates for an order suspending the tariff and notice of a local public hearing. On August 14, 2009, the Commission approved the timeline, suspended the tariff, and granted the motion for local public hearing. On August 19, 2009, the Commission amended certain of the timeline's provisions. Provisions amended included the date for "Second Customer Notice and Notice of Local Public Hearing (if necessary) Mailed to Customers." That date is now August 28, 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> The tariff carried an effective date of September 30, 2009. On August 10, 2009, the company filed a substitute tariff sheet, also bearing a September 30, 2009, effective date. The tariff is suspended under the Commission's August 14, 2009, order.

The Commission's August 19, 2009, order included a requirement for OPC to file a proposed scheduling order, with which OPC complied on August 20, 2009. OPC's proposed scheduling order suggests further amendments to the timeline. The provisions at issue are:

<b>Calendar Due Date</b>	<b>Case Activity</b>	<b>Responsible "Party"</b>
09/27/09	Local Public Hearing Held	Commission
10/05/09	Staff LPH Response Filed (five working days)	Case Coordinator & Lead Attorney
10/12/09	OPC Files Its Position Statement or Request for Evidentiary Hearing (10 working days after local public hearing)	OPC

which the proposed scheduling order requires amending to:

<b>Calendar Due Date</b>	<b>Case Activity</b>	<b>Responsible "Party"</b>
10/06/09	Local Public Hearing Held	Commission
10/14/09 <sup>2</sup>	Staff LPH Response Filed (five working days)	Case Coordinator & Lead Attorney
10/21/09 <sup>3</sup>	OPC Files Its Position Statement or Request for Evidentiary Hearing (10 working days after local public hearing)	OPC

The Commission will make that amendment with one exception.

The exception is for the filing date of OPC's Position Statement or Evidentiary Hearing Request, proposed as Wednesday, October 21, 2009. But that date is also the most likely date for the Commission agenda meeting next preceding another critical date. That critical date is October 27, 2009, when the tariff is effective under the timeline and the tariff's suspension expires under our order. Therefore, the Commission will adjust the dates for post-local public hearing filings.

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<sup>2</sup> The timeline specifically calls for five working days. October 12, 2009, is the second Monday in October, a Missouri public holiday "known as Columbus Day." Sections 9.010 and 9.020, RSMo 2000.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 2.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The regulatory law judge assigned to this case shall convene a local public meeting at the VFW Hall, 704 East Washington, Cuba, Missouri 65453, on October 6, 2009.
2. The meeting will begin with a question-and-answer session at 5:30 p.m.
3. The meeting will continue with a local public hearing at which persons interested in this action may testify starting at 6:00 p.m.
4. The assigned room meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the pre-hearing conference shall alert the Public Service Commission before the hearing by calling the Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711.
5. The Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the County Commissioners of Crawford County, Missouri.
6. The Public Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall make notice of this order available to members of the General Assembly representing the residents in the service area of I.H. Utilities, Inc.
7. The Commission amends the timeline by substituting the replacing the following provisions:

<b>Calendar Due Date</b>	<b>Case Activity</b>	<b>Responsible "Party"</b>
09/27/09	Local Public Hearing Held	Commission
10/05/09	Staff LPH Response Filed (five working days)	Case Coordinator & Lead Attorney
10/12/09	OPC Files Its Position Statement or Request for Evidentiary Hearing (10 working days after local public hearing)	OPC

with the following provisions:

<b>Calendar Due Date</b>	<b>Case Activity</b>	<b>Responsible "Party"</b>
10/06/09	Local Public Hearing Held	Commission
10/13/09	Staff LPH Response Filed (four working days after local public hearing)	Case Coordinator & Lead Attorney
10/16/09	OPC Files Its Position Statement or Request for Evidentiary Hearing (seven working days after local public hearing)	OPC

8. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Daniel Jordan, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009.