1	Page 1 STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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5	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6	LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
7	December 15, 2011
8	Warsaw, Missouri
9	Volume 8
10	
11	In the Matter of Missouri-American)
12	Water Company's Request for )
13	Authority to Implement a General ) Case No.
14	Rate Increase for Water and Sewer ) WR-2011-0337, et al.
15	Service Provided in Missouri )
16	Service Areas, )
17	
18	
19	
20	HAROLD STEARLEY, Presiding
21	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
22	
23	TERRY M. JARRETT,
24	COMMISSIONER
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1	Page 3 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE STEARLEY: Good afternoon. It is
3	Thursday, December 15th, 2011. The Commission has set
4	this time for a public hearing in File No. WR-2011-0337,
5	which is captioned as in the matter of Missouri American
6	Water Company's Request for Authority to Implement a
7	General Rate Increase for Water and Sewer Service Provided
8	in Missouri Service Areas.
9	My name is Harold Stearley, and I'm the
10	Regulatory Law Judge presiding over today's hearing. With
11	me today is Commissioner Jarrett. And, Commissioner, did
12	you have an opening statement you'd like to make?
13	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Sure. Thank you, Judge.
14	I appreciate that everyone came out today to the local
15	public hearing. I am one of five Commissioners. We just
16	had a Commissioner appointed yesterday, so we are now
17	full.
18	I am while I'm the only Commissioner here, we
19	do have hearings in Jefferson City going on that some of
20	the other Commissioners are attending. So we're spread
21	kind of thin. It's hard to be two places at once, so I
22	just want to say that all of the Commissioners take these
23	local public hearings very seriously.
24	As you see, we do have a court reporter here
25	taking down everything that's said, so I can assure you

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- 1 that all the Commissioners who aren't here do read these
- 2 transcripts and take the testimony that you're all about
- 3 to give as very important. So anyway, welcome. I look
- 4 forward for hearing your thoughts, your concerns, your
- 5 comments. And, again, the court reporter will take those
- 6 down, and we will have those in the record. So thank you.
- 7 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. And we will start
- 8 with taking entries of appearance from Counsel, beginning
- 9 with Missouri American Water Company.
- 10 MR. REICHART: Thank you, Judge. Appearing on
- 11 behalf of the Missouri American Water Company, John J.
- 12 Reichart. My address is 727 Craig Road, St. Louis,
- 13 Missouri, 63141.
- 14 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Mr. Reichart. For
- 15 the Office of Public Counsel?
- 16 MS. BAKER: Christina Baker, P.O. Box 2230,
- 17 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf of the
- 18 Office of the Public Counsel and the consumers.
- 19 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. Baker. For the
- 20 Staff of Missouri Public Service Commission?
- 21 MS. MCCLOWRY: Meghan McClowry with the Staff of
- 22 the Public Service Commission. My address is P.O. Box
- 23 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.
- 24 JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you, Ms. McClowry. Are
- 25 there any Counsel present for the any of the Intervenors

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1	in this case? I don't see anyone. Mr. Archer, do we have
2	a witness list?
3	MR. ARCHER: Here you go.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you. All right. As I
5	call your name, what I'm going to have you do first is
6	state and spell your name so our court reporter gets it
7	into the record appropriately.
8	I will then swear you in and then you can give
9	us your comments. So on the list here, is this
10	Mr. Harris? What's your first name? Hubert
11	MR. HARRIS: H-u-b-e-r-t.
12	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. I'll have you raise
13	your right hand.
14	HUBERT HARRIS,
15	being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
16	truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
17	TESTIMONY OF HUBERT HARRIS
18	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Please proceed with your
19	comments.
20	MR. HARRIS: I don't this is my first time
21	here, so I'm not really prepared to
22	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay.
23	MR. HARRIS: get into the situation. We've
24	already had some discussion. I am the President of the
25	White Branch Homeowners Association. Some of the things

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- 1 that we have really been concerned about is water, rates
- 2 and drinkability, which is too high and you can't drink
- 3 it. So -- but I see here that the -- the people are -- or
- 4 the water company evidently has been listening, and,
- 5 hopefully, today we can start this thing in the right
- 6 situation, you know.
- 7 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. When you say you
- 8 can't drink the water, could you give us a little bit more
- 9 description?
- 10 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. The water comes from right
- 11 out of the ground. This area is a high sulphur area, a
- 12 calcium type thing, you know. The pipes are -- I won't
- 13 say corroded, but there's -- there's a lot of it.
- 14 You have to shut your water off for a little
- 15 while. And when you come home, you better drink it before
- 16 you run in your house or something like that.
- 17 But, again, I think the water company was aware
- 18 of it. They've already presented to me some -- some
- 19 things that they're looking at. And I am confident that
- 20 they -- that they are willing to help and be new to our --
- 21 to our situation in White Branch.
- 22 This is the first conversation I've had with the
- 23 people, you know, and they're listening, which is -- we
- 24 haven't had that in the past. So we look forward to
- 25 working with them, improving and -- improving our whole

1	Page 7 situation in White Branch with our water.
2	Sewers, you know, are another thing. Again, in
3	the past, it seemed like we've been our wants and our
4	wishes have fallen on deaf ears. And, you know, we've had
5	some good rapport at this point with the people from
6	American Water Company, so we appreciate that. Thank you.
7	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Are there any
8	questions from Counsel for this witness? Commissioner
9	Jarrett, any questions?
10	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Just a quick question.
11	So you were part of the Aqua system that Missouri American
12	Water took over?
13	MR. HARRIS: Yes.
14	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Okay. That's all I
15	wanted to know. Thank you.
16	JUDGE STEARLEY: Thank you very much,
17	Mr. Harris.
18	MR. HARRIS: And I might make a comment, too,
19	that we've had one situation where we've had a water leak.
20	We got a number we had to call. It was profusely water
21	leaking. I mean, it was really going, you know.
22	They come out, fixed it. The individual that
23	did it was very knowledgeable, very personable, and we
24	appreciate that.
25	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Thank you, sir.

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1	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Thank you, sir.
2	JUDGE STEARLEY: Next on my list, I have Kathy
3	is it Sullivan?
4	MS. SULLIN: That's me.
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: If you'd state and spell your
6	name, please.
7	MS. SULLIN: My name is Kathy, K-a-t-h-y,
8	Sullin, S-u-l-l-i-n.
9	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. And if you'd raise
10	your right hand.
11	KATHY SULLIN,
12	being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
13	truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
14	TESTIMONY OF KATHY SULLIN
15	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Please proceed.
16	MS. SULLIN: Okay. I just I talked to some
17	of the folks around here, got a lot of positive answers,
18	but I'd like to have this on the record.
19	What I'd like to know is, is there any late fee
20	charges if you're late on the bill or don't get the bill
21	in the mail? And they told me that there was not.
22	Okay. Another thing, too, one is the time of
23	the shut-off notice. They send you about 21 days to pay
24	your bill. I'm comfortable with that.
25	My other question was how well do they test the

1	Page 9 water and what level because we have a lot of iron in our
2	water. Of course, we all need water softeners because the
3	water can be really dark sometimes.
4	Emergency numbers, they've kind of made me more
5	comfortable. If we've got an emergency, call them, and
6	they'll be right out. The gentleman named Jim that works
7	there is awesome. He's very dependable, very personable.
8	Don't get rid of him because we've had people before that
9	we didn't want anything to do with them.
10	So anyway, that was just another question I'd
11	like to ask. I talked to another gentlemen. Being as we
12	have so much problems with water and the sewer, the lines
13	are all at some point in time, it would be nice if the
14	water and sewer were joined together, I mean, you know,
15	one entity for the simple reason is you're going to know
16	where the water and sewer lines are. When you've got to
17	go work on them, you'll have a map. This belongs here.
18	That belongs there.
19	Right now, it costs over a hundred dollars a
20	month for sewer and water alone. And nowhere else have I
21	ever lived in my life had that much before. But, you
22	know, if at some point in time you guys, if it's feasible,
23	could buy the sewer ground because they're got to work on
24	it. But anyway, that would be give a better control of

everything, where the lines are, how to take care of maybe

Fax: 314.644.1334

25

1	Page 10 how old the lines are and just make one bill for it all.
2	But I appreciate you coming out. I appreciate you coming.
3	That's all I had.
4	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Does Counsel have
5	any questions of this witness?
6	MR. REICHART: No questions.
7	MS. MCCLOWRY: No questions.
8	JUDGE STEARLEY: Commissioner Jarrett?
9	COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't have any
10	questions. Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate your comments.
11	MS. SULLIN: Thank you for having me.
12	JUDGE STEARLEY: I don't have anybody else that
13	is signed up on the list. I know there's a couple other
14	people. Is there anyone else that wishes to make
15	comments? If you'd please state and spell your name, sir.
16	MR. VINJIELEIZ: Thomas Vinjieleiz,
17	V-i-n-j-i-e-l-e-i-z, a resident of White Branch.
18	JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. If you'd please
19	raise your right hand.
20	THOMAS VINJIELEIZ,
21	being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
22	truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:
23	TESTIMONY OF THOMAS VINGIELEIZ
24	JUDGE STEARLEY: Okay. Please proceed,
25	MR. VINJIELEIZ: Okay. I live just outside of

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- 1 Kansas City, Missouri, and I'm a part-time resident in
- 2 White Branch, and I've been there for about three years.
- 3 I was with Aqua Water. And I cannot truthfully say that
- 4 the current water company has improved the water. But
- 5 there is still the fact that there's a lot of iron in the
- 6 water.
- 7 And we're not at the cabin in White Branch very
- 8 often during the summer. But when we do come up, when we
- 9 sit idle and the lines sit idle, it accumulates a lot of
- 10 water containing iron in the hot water heater.
- 11 And it's a fact that I have to empty that hot
- 12 water heater, let the water run for about 15 or 20 minutes
- 13 just to get the water clear on the hot water heater before
- 14 the water is even drinkable inside of my cabin.
- 15 Other than that, once that's taken care of, the
- 16 water clarity is good. And the taste is bearable.
- 17 It's not the best water compared to Kansas City, but it
- 18 suffices. We do have -- or buy bottled water, also, for
- 19 making coffee and cooking our dinner.
- 20 And we're hoping that the rates will go down
- 21 because, right now, I'm paying three times as much for
- 22 water and sewer here than I do up in Kansas City, Blue
- 23 Springs. And I've just retired. And I am now on a
- 24 limited income, and I've got to watch my pennies just like
- 25 everybody else in White Branch. And we're hoping that the

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- 1 rates do come down. Because if it doesn't, we're going to
- 2 have to probably sell our cabin. And I know my family
- 3 would not appreciate that at all because it's been our --
- 4 our dream for retirement.
- 5 And after doing the budget, I cannot continue to
- 6 pay a hundred dollars a month for water and sewer. So
- 7 we're really hoping that the rates do come down as noted
- 8 in your district rate sheet. Thank you for allowing me to
- 9 speak.
- 10 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Thank you. Are
- 11 there any questions from Counsel, please? Commissioner
- 12 Jarrett?
- 13 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: I don't have any
- 14 questions, sir, but thank you very much. I appreciate
- 15 your testimony.
- 16 JUDGE STEARLEY: All right. Anyone else like to
- 17 offer any comments? Okay. Well, seeing no -- no others,
- 18 we will go ahead and conclude the -- Commissioner Jarrett,
- 19 did you have any conclusionary remarks?
- 20 COMMISSIONER JARRETT: Just briefly. Thank you
- 21 again for coming out. I hope the company folks here were
- 22 able to answer your questions. We also have Staff folks
- 23 here. Obviously, Office of Public Counsel is here as
- 24 well.
- 25 So if you have any additional questions for

1	Page 13 them, I'm sure they'll be happy to work with you and
2	answer your questions. So please feel free to do that
3	after the hearing. Otherwise, thank you for being here.
4	Appreciate it.
5	JUDGE STEARLEY: And the evidentiary hearing
6	that's scheduled to take place in Jefferson City will
7	begin on February 21st and go through March 2nd. If you
8	all have computer access, you can actually view the web
9	cast on there. You can actually watch that online.
10	The Commission won't be making a final decision
11	on this case probably until middle of May, so they're
12	still in procedure on this case. I just wanted to let you
13	know that. We appreciate you coming today. Appreciate
14	your comments. And the public hearing in File No.
15	WR-2011-0337 is hereby adjourned.
16	(The proceedings were concluded at 12:15 p.m. on
17	December 15, 2011.)
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1	Page 15
1 2	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3	STATE OF MISSOURI )
4	)ss.
5	COUNTY OF OSAGE )
6	
7	I, monnie S. Mealy, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
8	Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered
9	Professional Reporter, and Notary Public, within and for
10	the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was
11	personally present at the proceedings as set forth in the
12	caption sheet hereof; that I then and there took down in
13	stenotype the proceedings had at said time and was
14	thereafter transcribed by me, and is fully and accurately
15	set forth in the preceding pages.
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21	Monnie S. Mealy, CSR, CCR #0539
22	Registered Professional Reporter
23	Registered Frontestinal Reporter
24	
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