

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

In the Matter of a Request for a Rate Increase)
by Branson Cedars Resort Utility Company LLC) **Case No. WR-2018-0356**

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and for this Status Report, states as follows:

1. On June 29, 2018, the Commission held a Procedural Conference wherein Branson Cedars Resort Utility Company LLC (BCRU), Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) discussed the procedural posture of the case.

2. In particular, after the close of the record on June 29, the Staff, BCRU and OPC (the Parties) conversed about BCRU filing a revised rate increase request letter (Revised Rate Letter), the setting for a local public hearing, and, once a Revised Rate Letter was filed, whether to continue the case using the same filed case timeline.¹

3. In the following weeks, Staff corresponded with the owner of BCRU to discuss how to prepare the Revised Rate Letter.

4. On July 11, 2018, the Commission issued an order to Staff to file a Status Report regarding the results of the continued discussions. Specifically, the Commission directed Staff to update the Commission regarding: (1) the need for a local public hearing, (2), the date for any such local public hearing, and (3) the current expected timeline for this proceeding.

¹ See, WR-2018-0356, EFIS Item 2, *Small Utility Rate Case Timeline*.

5. On July 11, 2018, members of Staff reached out to the BCRU owner and OPC to confirm what Staff understood: 1) that the local public hearing was still needed, 2) the date for the local public hearing was still Friday, July 27, at 6 p.m. at the BCRU offices²; and, 3) that the rate case timeline filed by Staff was still preferred by the parties. Moreover, Staff confirmed that the BCRU owner would be filing the Revised Rate Letter in EFIS as soon as possible, a necessary step in the process, which would notify the Parties, Commission, and customers invited to the local public hearing, of exactly what BCRU's request is in this rate case.

6. On July 11, 2018, the BCRU owner confirmed that BCRU would be filing the Revised Rate Letter in EFIS that same day. The BCRU owner also identified that he wanted to keep the local public hearing for the 27th, and to maintain the same timeline.

7. That same day, counsel for Staff also conferred with OPC, and OPC indicated that the LPH setting would continue to be necessary until such time BCRU filed its Revised Rate Letter and answered pending data requests.

8. BCRU did not file the Revised Rate Letter on July 11, and has not filed the letter at the time of the filing of this Status Report.

9. As a result, because the only information currently available to Staff and OPC is the original Rate Increase Request Letter, Staff and OPC believe there is still a need for a local public hearing due to the size of the requested increase in rates. Next, Staff and OPC believe that BCRU has already independently notified its customers of a local public hearing setting of Friday, July 27, 2018 at 6 p.m., at the Branson Cedars Resort offices. Therefore, it may be difficult to change the setting without causing undue

² This date was independently selected by BCRU's owner, and he has already notified customers about the date and location of the local public hearing.

confusion of the customers. Finally, while the parties would prefer to continue to use the timeline filed by Staff on June 7, 2018, Staff and OPC may seek an extension of the Day 90, Day 120, and Day 150 deadlines, to allow BCRU more time to respond to pending discovery.

WHEREFORE Staff respectfully files this *Status Report*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jacob T. Westen

Jacob T. Westen
Deputy Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 65265
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-5472 (Voice)
573-751-9285 (Fax)
jacob.westen@psc.mo.gov

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 counsel of record on this 16th day of July, 2018.

/s/ Jacob T. Westen