

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) **File No. WR-2020-0275**
Increase)

In the Matter of Elm Hills Utility Operating)
Company, Inc.'s Request for a Sewer Rate) **File No. SR-2020-0274**
Increase)

ORDER GRANTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONEMENT

Issue Date: March 20, 2020

Effective Date: March 20, 2020

On March 6, 2020, Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. (Elm Hills) filed a notice opening two staff assisted rate cases under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075. The rule requires a local public hearing to be scheduled to occur within 60 days of the opening of the case. 60 days expires on May 5, 2019. The Commission directed responses regarding the holding of a local public hearing, specifically including virtual meeting options.

On March 19, 2020, Staff filed a joint proposal, on behalf of Elm Hills and the Office of the Public Counsel, requesting the Commission waive the 60-day requirement. The parties seek a waiver because of recently imposed restrictions and recommendations for public gatherings in response to the COVID-19 virus.

Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(15) allows for the waiver of staff assisted rate case requirements upon a finding of good cause. The Commission finds good cause exists to waive the local public hearing within 60 days requirement due to the limitations

suggested by the Centers for Disease Control on public gatherings in response to COVID-19.

The parties state a local public hearing *is* necessary and appropriate, and recommend a status report filing no later than May 15, 2020 to further advise the Commission of potential dates and venues for a local public hearing to occur on or after June 1, 2020. The Commission will accept this recommendation.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The requirement to schedule a local public hearing within the 60-day period required by rule is waived.
2. No later than May 15, 2020, the parties in this case shall file a status report as discussed in the body of this order.
3. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo (2016).

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 20th day of March, 2020.