BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company's Request for Authority to Implement General Rate Increase for Water and Sewer Service Provided in Missouri Service Areas.

Case No. WR-2020-0344

<u>MAWC RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER</u> <u>CONCERNING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE</u>

COMES NOW Missouri-American Water Company (MAWC, Missouri-American, or Company), and, states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission):

1. On August 13, 2020, Missouri-American filed a proposed procedural schedule asking that the Commission adopt that schedule as a pilot. The schedule proposed by MAWC would, for purposes of this case, move from the "traditional" general rate case schedule, usually containing six (6) rounds of testimony, to a more straight forward direct/rebuttal/surrebuttal format, similar to what is used by the Commission in a variety of other types of proceedings (certificate of convenience and necessity cases, account authority order cases, and acquisition cases, for example). Other parties filed a separate proposed procedural schedule that was consistent with the "traditional" general rate case schedule.

2. On August 14, 2020, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Responses* and therein requested more information in the form of responses from the parties about the procedural schedule proposals. Specifically, as to MAWC, the Commission directed that the Company "advise the Commission as to how its proposed procedural schedule would change if the Commission does not order a future test year."

3. MAWC's proposal for a pilot procedural schedule is independent of its motion for the use of a future test year. Regardless of the test year used in this case, MAWC believes its proposed

schedule would simplify and bring efficiency to the rate case process. The schedule is adaptable to a historical test year, a future test year, or a hybrid of the two.

4. As stated in its *Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule*, approval of MAWC's proposed schedule would have the added benefit of providing the Commission, Commission Staff, and Intervenors with the opportunity to observe and evaluate this schedule format for consideration in the existing Workshop case concerning rate case procedure (Case No. AW-2019-0127). Such practical experience is necessary for the furtherance of the Commission's improvement goals and helpful to the decision-making process to determine what changes might be implemented in all ratemaking proceedings.

WHEREFORE, MAWC respectfully requests the Commission issue its order adopting the procedural schedule proposed in the Company's *Motion to Establish Procedural Schedule*.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was sent by electronic mail, on August 18, 2020, to the following:

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