BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Joint Application of Brandco Investments, LLC and Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc., for Hillcrest to Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets of Brandco and, in Connection Therewith, Issue Indebtedness and Encumber Assets

<u>File No. WO-2014-0340</u> File No. SO-2014-0341

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE STAFF'S REPORT AND ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

Issue Date: August 12, 2014

Effective Date: August 12, 2014

On May 13, 2014¹, Brandco Investment, LLC ("Brandco") and Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc. ("Hillcrest") asked the Commission to approve Hillcrest's agreement to purchase Brandco's water and sewer assets. On August 4, the Staff of the Commission filed a Motion for Extension of Time to File Staff's Report and Request for Local Public Hearing ("Motion").

In the motion, Staff states that due to the unique nature of the financial transaction and the need for significant capital investment, Staff needs more time to work on a preliminary rate feasibility study. Thus, Staff asks the Commission to allow Staff until August 19 to file its Recommendation. Staff further requests a local public hearing. Finally, Staff states that it has contacted the parties, and that they do not object to the Motion.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.110(1) requires the Commission to set the time and place for hearings and serve notice as required by law. Section 536.067(4), RSMo 2000,

¹ Calendar references are to 2014 unless otherwise noted.

and Section 386.390.5, RSMo 2000, require at least ten days' notice be given prior to a hearing.

In complying with its statutory mandate, the Commission shall set the date for a local public hearing to be held on September 24, 2014. At the hearing, the Staff of the Commission will hold an informal question-and-answer session before the Commission receives testimony. The hearing will begin after the question-and-answer session.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Motion is granted.

2. The Staff of the Commission shall file its Recommendation no later than August 19, 2014.

3. The Commission gives notice that it shall hold a local public hearing on September 24, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. A question-and-answer session will be held before the Commission receives testimony.

4. The local public hearing ordered in paragraph 1 shall be held at: Osage Centre, Meeting Room 3A, 1625 North Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

5. Customers wishing to make written comments or secure additional information may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, Post Office Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (573) 751-4857. Comments may also be registered in this case using the Internet Electronic Filing System at psc.mo.gov. Use the link to the Public Comment section and fill in all required fields on the comment page.

6. The local public hearing shall be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional

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accommodation to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

7. The Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the County Commission of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

8. The Public Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall make notice of this order available to members of the General Assembly representing Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and to the news media serving the residents of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

9. This order shall become effective immediately.



BY THE COMMISSION

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Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Ronald D. Pridgin, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 12th day of August, 2014.