In the Matter of:

The Revision of Commission's Rules Regarding Gas Utilities, etc.

WR-2020-0344, VOL. I

August 03, 2020



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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2	STATE OF MISSOURI
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5	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6	Procedural Conference
7	August 3, 2020
8	Jefferson City, Missouri
9	Volume 1
10	WebEx
11	
12	
13	In The Matter of Missouri-American) Water Company's Request for)
14	Authority to Implement General) File No. Rate Increase for Water and Sewer) WR-2020-0344
15	Service Provided in Missouri) Service Areas)
16	pervice Areas
17	
18	NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
19	REGULATORI LAW UUDGE
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22	
23	REPORTED BY:
24	REPORTED BI. Beverly Jean Bentch, CCR No. 640 TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE DIPPELL: If there's nothing before we
3	go on the record then, we can go ahead and go on the
4	record. This is In the Matter of Missouri-American
5	Water Company's Request for Authority to Implement
6	General Rate Increase for Water and Sewer Service
7	Provided in Missouri Service Areas, Case Nos.
8	WR-2020-0344 and also a consolidated case has been added
9	to that which was SR-2020-0345, but they're consolidated
10	under the WR number.
11	My name is Nancy Dippell, and I'm the
12	Regulatory Law Judge who's assigned to this case. We're
13	going to begin Today we've come for a prehearing
14	conference/procedural conference and we're going to
15	begin with entries of appearance. So let's begin with
16	Staff, please.
17	MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge. Mark Johnson
18	appearing on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri Public
19	Service Commission. My business address is Governor
20	Office Building, Suite 800, 200 Madison Street, P.O.
21	Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
22	JUDGE DIPPELL: And the Office of the Public
23	Counsel.
24	MR. HALL: Good morning again, Your Honor.
25	Caleb Hall appearing on behalf of the Office of the

Public Counsel. Our business address is 200 Madison 1 2 Street, Suite 650, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. JUDGE DIPPELL: And Missouri-American Water 3 4 Company. 5 MR. COOPER: Thank you, Judge. Dean Cooper of 6 the law firm of Brydon Swearengen & England PC, P.O. Box 7 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf 8 of Missouri-American Water Company. 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: And City of Riverside. 10 MR. BEDNAR: Joe Bednar with Spencer Fane, 304 11 East High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: City of St. Joseph. 13 MR. STEINMEIER: William D. Steinmeier, William D. Steinmeier, PC, 2031 Tower Drive, Jefferson 14 15 City, 65109, appearing on behalf of the City of St. Joseph, Missouri. 16 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Consumers Council of Missouri. 18 19 MR. COFFMAN: Morning, Your Honor. This is 20 John B. Coffman appearing on behalf of the Consumers 21 Council of Missouri. My address is 871 Tuxedo 22 Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63119. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Empire District Electric 24 Company. 2.5 MS. CARTER: Diana Carter for the Empire

District Electric Company, 428 East Capitol Avenue, 1 2 Suite 303, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Midwest Energy Consumers 4 Group. 5 MR. WOODSMALL: Good morning, Your Honor. 6 David Woodsmall on behalf of the Midwest Energy 7 Consumers Group, 308 East High Street, Suite 204, 8 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Missouri Industrial Energy 10 Consumers. I don't believe we have anyone on for them 11 at this time. I guess I should have stated, if it's not 12 clear from the transcript, that we are conducting this proceeding via WebEx video conference call. 13 14 The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis. 15 MR. DALTON: Good morning, Your Honor. is Jon Dalton with the law firm of Armstrong, Teasdale 16 17 appearing on behalf of the Municipal League of Metro St. 18 Louis, address is 7700 Forsyth, St. Louis, Missouri 19 63105. 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Water Supply District 21 No. 2 of Andrew County. 22 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Judge. On behalf of 23 the Water District, let the record reflect the 24 appearance of James Fischer with the law firm of Fischer & Dority PC, 101 Madison Street, Suite 400, Jefferson 2.5

City, Missouri 65101. 1 2 JUDGE DIPPELL: And is anyone present for Spire? Maybe Spire hadn't actually entered a request to 3 intervene. Now that I'm looking, I think that was just 4 someone monitoring the case. Sunnydale Properties. 5 6 MS. BELL: Yes, Your Honor. Stephanie Bell 7 with the law firm of Ellinger & Associates, 308 East 8 High Street, Suite 300, and that's Jefferson City, 9 Missouri 65101. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Triumph Foods. 11 MR. HARDEN: Yes, this is Joshua Harden with 12 the law firm of Collins & Jones PC at 1010 W. Foxwood Drive, Raymore, Missouri 64083, appearing on behalf of 13 14 Triumph Foods, LLC. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. I believe that 16 that's -- Is there anyone who had requested to intervene 17 who I did not ask to make an entry? I don't see any. 18 So I would like to address those requests, 19 those applications to intervene first. 20 applications to intervene from Consumers Council, 21 Sunnydale, Municipal League, Empire, Triumph Foods, 22 MIEC, and then we have late filed from City of 23 Riverside. Did I miss --24 MR. FISCHER: Public Water Supply District No. 2.5 2 of Andrew County.

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JUDGE DIPPELL: The ten days hadn't run so I had not granted those applications to intervene, but I had stated that those parties could participate this morning. I'd like to go ahead and ask if there are any objections to those applications to intervene at this If not, I'll go ahead and grant those. Would there be any objection to the applications to intervene that have been filed thus far? MR. COOPER: Judge, this is Dean Cooper. The

company has no objection.

JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Thank you. All right. If there are no objections then, I'll go ahead and grant those applications to intervene and I'll put out a little order after this conference just so that that's clear in the record that those are now parties.

Okay. So the other outstanding issue is the request for future test year, and does the company have anything they want to add to that at this time or are we just waiting for the Commission then to make a ruling on that?

MR. COOPER: Judge, the company has a reply that it would like to submit. I quess because there was no special order we were working off the idea that there would be ten days to file that reply, which I think would run out on Thursday the 6th. I guess barring

adjustment on your part, our plan would be to file that 1 reply by --2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. This is the time for 3 4 the dog to go crazy. So if you'll give me just a 5 second. 6 MR. COOPER: Yes. 7 MR. HALL: Hey, Dean, this is Caleb. Could 8 you repeat what you just said at the end? You cut out a 9 little bit on my end. 10 MR. COOPER: Sure. What I was saying is that 11 the company will have a reply or would like to file a 12 reply in regard to the future test year motion. It was 13 working off of the assumption that it would have ten 14 days until the 6th of August to file that just given 15 that there wasn't any special order ordering a shorter 16 fuse than that, and I guess that would be our plan 17 unless the Judge wants us to adjust that plan in which 18 case we would do so. 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: At this point I think I'll 20 allow the ten days and then the Commission can still 21 have time to address that at next week's agenda 22 hopefully. That will give you guys a little bit -- I assume you probably need an answer to that before you

can really make up your procedural schedule. Is my

understanding correct there?

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1	MR. COOPER: I don't know how others feel. I
2	think from Missouri-American's perspective we probably
3	can move forward with discussion of a procedural
4	schedule, but that's our opinion. I'll let others
5	express theirs.
6	MR. JOHNSON: Judge, from the Staff's
7	perspective, I think we can begin to work on a
8	procedural schedule regardless of the eventual ruling on
9	a future test year. However, I do believe some ruling
10	on that matter would be better sooner rather than later.
11	JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Are there any
12	other matters to take up on the record with regard to
13	the procedural schedule or any questions about issues or
14	anything that need to be brought to either mine or the
15	Commission's attention?
16	MR. JOHNSON: Judge, this is Mark Johnson with
17	Staff again. The only question I would have at this
18	point is whether there are certain dates or certain
19	parameters the Commission would like the parties to pay
20	certain attention to in coming up with a procedural
21	schedule.
22	JUDGE DIPPELL: Well, please keep in mind that
23	especially with the way things are now with everyone
24	working remotely the Commission needs sufficient time to
25	make a decision and a report and order needs to have a

30-day effective date on it. So when you're selecting hearing dates, I know you'll need time to work. Ιt helps to work out all the issues the more time you have, but please keep in mind on the far end the Commission is going to have to have plenty of time or we're going to find ways to shorten your time for you. So I'm certain that you would rather figure that out for yourselves than have me figure it out for you.

Otherwise, I don't think -- If you need to know about hearing dates or so forth, I can look those up. I don't think there's anything that wouldn't already be on the Commission's calendar, the public calendar, that would interfere with hearing dates, and so forth.

What else? It would be helpful if you're talking local public hearings to have as much specifics about those as you can give me, locations, dates, that kind of thing.

I can't think of anything else that specifically is going to affect this case. Are there any other questions about the procedural schedule?

Okay. Any other issues that need to be on the record? Okay. Someone is typing and it would help if you'd mute your microphone. Okay. Well, I'm hoping that by the time this hearing comes into play we can do

1	it in person. If not, we'll be adapting because of the
2	COVID pandemic. Hopefully by the time the hearing dates
3	roll around this will be able to be resolved in person.
4	After we go off the record, I can turn this
5	conference over to Mr. Johnson as host and then you all
6	I can leave it and you all will be in a private
7	conference and you can just continue with this if you
8	like unless you've made other arrangements. Does that
9	sound acceptable? Mr. Johnson, are you able to do that
10	if I give you the host duties?
11	MR. JOHNSON: That sounds perfectly
12	acceptable.
13	JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. All right then.
14	Anything else before we go off the record? All right.
15	I'm not hearing anything else. I appreciate you guys
16	calling in this morning and hopefully this handoff will
17	go smoothly, and we can go ahead and go off the record.
18	(Off the record.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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3	I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640,
4	Certified Court Reporter with the firm of Tiger Court
5	Reporting, LLC, within the State of Missouri, do hereby
6	certify that I was personally present at the proceedings
7	had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place
8	set forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and
9	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; and
10	that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
11	transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such time
12	and place.
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15	Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640
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