

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Suburban Water and Sewer)	
Company's Water Utility Rate Increase)	<u>Case No. WR-2005-0455</u>
Request.)	

Concurring Opinion of Commissioner Jeff Davis

I concur with the Commission's Order Approving Small Company Rate Increase and Approving Tariff. However, I would like to address the issue of small, investor-owned water and sewer company management.

This case illustrates the problems that can arise when a small, investor-owned water or sewer company needs to raise its rates to maintain its facilities. Here, the owner-operator appears to have had limited knowledge on the procedures to effectuate a rate increase. In particular, they failed to make any filing with the Commission. Once notified of their error, the company immediately followed the proper procedures and this matter was resolved; however, it causes this Commissioner great concern that this small investor-owned utility, as well as other investor-owned utilities, might not be aware that they have filing requirements with this Commission. Furthermore, the thought that investor-owned utilities like Suburban Water & Sewer Company may not know the proper process for a rate increase should be cause for great concern in that they may not know about new environmental regulations that could have a much greater impact on the utility and its customers.

In conclusion, owning a small utility can be very challenging in an environment of government regulation. Owning a utility is replete with responsibilities to the rate payers, state authorities, and federal authorities; the duty to stay abreast of current law is the responsibility of the owners and operators of such utilities.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Davis
Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 14th day of July, 2005.