1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	Procedural Conference
6	
7	August 6, 2009
8	Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 1
9	
10	In the Matter of I.H. Utilities,
11	Inc., Small Company Rate)Case No. WR-2010-0048 Increase,)
12	
13	
14	
15	DANIEL R.E. JORDAN, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
16	
17	
18	
19	REPORTED BY: Monnie S. Mealy, CCR, CSR, RPR
20	Midwest Litigation Services 3432 W. Truman Boulevard, Suite 207
21	Jefferson City, MO 65109 (573) 636-7551
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	APPEARANCES
2	For Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission:
3	Ms. Shelley Brueggemann And Ms. Sarah Kliethermes
4	Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street
5	Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-7505
6	(0.0)
7	For Office of Public Counsel and the Public:
8	Ms. Christina Baker, PE, JD Department of Economic Development
9	Office of the Public Counsel 200 Madison Street
10	P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102
11	(573) 751-5565
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. We're on the record. This
- 3 is the procedural conference for -- in the matter of I.H.
- 4 Utilities, Incorporated, small utility rate case that's
- 5 File No. WC-2009-0047. I'm Daniel Jordan. I'm the RLJ
- 6 assigned to the case.
- 7 MS. BAKER: Not the right case number.
- JUDGE JORDAN: WR. Thank you.
- 9 MS. BAKER: 0048.
- 10 JUDGE JORDAN: I have that totally wrong. Let's
- 11 try that again. This is for Case No. WR-2010-0048. I'll
- 12 take entries of appearance after I've contacted the
- 13 representatives of I.H. Utilities, which I am about to do
- 14 right now. Whoa. Try that again. Okay. I will try it
- 15 with a zero.
- 16 MRS. STANLEY: Hello.
- 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Hello. This is Dan Jordan from
- 18 the Missouri Public -- Missouri Public Service Commission.
- 19 MRS. STANLEY: Hello.
- 20 JUDGE JORDAN: Hello. Is this Lois Stanley?
- 21 MRS. STANLEY: Yes, it is.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Well, good morning, Mrs. Stanley,
- 23 and welcome to our procedural conference. We're just
- 24 getting started. We've gone on the record. And I'm glad
- 25 you could be with us today.

```
1 Now, I just want to remind you just to make sure
```

- 2 that -- first let me ask you, you're not a member of the
- 3 Bar, are you?
- 4 MRS. STANLEY: Oh, no.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Well, in that case, that
- 6 means that you can't practice law, which means you can't
- 7 make any legal arguments on behalf of I.H. Utilities,
- 8 Incorporated. But, certainly, you can listen in.
- 9 And you can certainly discuss the case with the
- 10 other parties and -- and that's not a problem. The only
- 11 thing that you cannot do is ask me for something, cite the
- 12 law to me, pick out relevant facts. Argument and stuff
- 13 like that, you cannot do. Other than that, we're -- we're
- 14 happy to have you with us.
- MRS. STANLEY: Okay.
- 16 JUDGE JORDAN: I will now take entries of
- 17 appearance. And we'll start with Staff, please.
- 18 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Here on behalf of Staff is
- 19 Shelley Brueggemann and Sarah Kliethermes. And I will
- 20 apologize now. I have a doctor's appointment that I will
- 21 have to leave for, excuse myself at 9:45 a.m., and Sarah
- 22 Kliethermes will remain.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Hang on a second. Are we sure
- 24 your microphone is on?
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Yes. The green light is on.

```
1 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. The green light is on.
```

- 2 MRS. STANLEY: We can hear very faintly.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Very faintly. Okay.
- 4 MRS. STANLEY: My husband is on the other line,
- 5 too.
- 6 JUDGE JORDAN: I wonder if I turn up the volume
- 7 if that will turn up your microphone as well. Can we try
- 8 that again, Counsel?
- 9 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Sure. This is Shelley
- 10 Brueggemann. Can everybody hear me a little better now?
- JUDGE JORDAN: Is that any better?
- 12 MRS. STANLEY: Not really.
- 13 MR. STANLEY: Let me get off the line and try
- 14 this other phone.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.
- 16 MRS. STANLEY: Okay.
- 17 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: It doesn't sound like it's
- 18 picking up in the back of the room.
- 19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That's on. Yeah.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: That's on.
- 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. No different? No better?
- MRS. STANLEY: No.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Well, maybe I should just
- 24 take it telephone unit and put it more centrally. Maybe
- 25 if I put it by the court reporter, that will help.

- 1 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, can you
- 2 hear me?
- MR. STANLEY: Yes, I can.
- 4 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Counselor, would you like
- 5 to make sure that they can hear you as well?
- 6 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Can you hear me, Mr. and Mrs.
- 7 Stanley?
- 8 MR. STANLEY: Oh, yeah. It's a lot better now.
- 9 MRS. STANLEY: Great.
- 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Good. Good. Thank you
- 11 very much. All right. Counsel, you have some
- 12 representatives of your client with you. Will you
- 13 introduce them, please?
- 14 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Yes. Absolutely. In the room
- 15 today, we have Jim Russo, the Case Coordinator for this
- 16 case. We have Jim Bush, the Manager of the Water & Sewer
- 17 Department. We have Kim Bowling, an Auditor from the
- 18 Auditing Department. And we have Dana Eaves, also from
- 19 the Auditing Department. And we have Debbie Bernson from
- 20 Engineering Management Services.
- 21 JUDGE JORDAN: All right. Thank you very much.
- 22 And next, the Office of Public Counsel?
- MS. BAKER: Thank you. Christina Baker, P.O.
- 24 Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, appearing on
- 25 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel. And with me,

- 1 I have Ted Robertson.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Thank you very much. I
- 3 also want to mention on the record that Judge Stearley,
- 4 Judge Harold Stearley, Senior Regulatory Law Judge of the
- 5 Missouri Public Service Commission, is with us, also, to
- 6 observe this.
- 7 And he's not assigned to this case. He also has
- 8 some small utility rate cases. And there's plenty of
- 9 issues, procedural issues in these cases that we'd like to
- 10 address. So he's here for to -- to observe this
- 11 discussion.
- 12 And the purpose of the discussion today is to
- 13 discuss procedure. As my Order indicates, I've not called
- 14 a prehearing conference because there is no hearing
- 15 scheduled right now. But we do need to discuss procedural
- 16 issues.
- 17 And here's how I'm going to -- I'm planning to
- 18 do things. And, of course, I'm open to suggestions as
- 19 well. We're not taking evidence today. This is not a
- 20 hearing.
- 21 But what I want to do is discuss some of these
- 22 issues on the record, review the procedure today, discuss
- 23 how we'll run the procedure from here. And then we will
- 24 also -- since we're all gathered together, when that part
- $\,$ 25 $\,$ is done, we will go off the record and I will leave the

- 1 room, but the parties can remain here. And I encourage
- 2 them to do so to work out any issues and as many issues as
- 3 they can between them.
- 4 I also want to mention that the Commission
- 5 offers mediation in these cases just like anything else.
- 6 It's a little different. Under the -- under the newer
- 7 regulation, I can mediate disputes if you want me to. And
- 8 if you don't feel comfortable with decisions -- the
- 9 recommended decision-maker making a decision, well, we
- 10 have plenty of other people that can help. Yes.
- 11 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: When you said under the newer
- 12 regulation, were you referring to the mediation is only
- 13 available under 3.050, that --
- 14 JUDGE JORDAN: I know it is available under 050.
- 15 I don't remember whether it is under the older regulation.
- MS. BAKER: It is not.
- 17 JUDGE JORDAN: It doesn't specifically mention
- 18 it, but we do have a separate regulation that discusses
- 19 mediation in the hearing context.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Okay.
- 21 JUDGE JORDAN: So if someone wants to mediate an
- 22 issue, we're here for that. Now, speaking of old rules
- 23 and new rules, this is a situation that I have not
- 24 experienced outside this Commission.
- The Commission had made a rule, we'll call it

- 1 the old rule, for small utility rate cases. And then this
- 2 case was filed under that rule, and then a new rule was
- 3 passed without rescinding the old rule. So we now have
- 4 two procedures for one situation. And we're going to live
- 5 with both of those because both of them are law. Both of
- 6 them are law, and they will be, both of them, until the
- 7 end of September when the rescission of the old rule
- 8 finally takes place. Until then, both rules provide the
- 9 parties with certain rights.
- 10 And my intention right now, I just want you to
- 11 know how I -- how I read this is that I'd like to read
- 12 them generously, that is, where they provide rights --
- 13 where one provides rights to a party more than another, my
- 14 inclination is to read them together and be more generous
- 15 with the rights that they provide.
- 16 That is, if one rule sets a time limit, another
- 17 rule sets a longer time limit, I'm inclined to go with the
- 18 longer time limit. Certainly, there are conflicts between
- 19 these regulations. One of them provides procedures that
- 20 the other does not. I'd like to provide more procedures,
- 21 more options for the parties. That's how I'm inclined to
- 22 read this regulation, just generally.
- 23 Any questions or comments about that before --
- 24 before we go on? I just want to give you an idea of how
- 25 I'm looking at this right now because it is something of a

- 1 puzzle.
- 2 And that brings me to the documents, motions
- 3 pending before the Commission right now. I'd like to
- 4 start with the Office of Public Counsel's request for a
- 5 local public hearing. And I'd like to discuss that a
- 6 little bit.
- 7 I appreciate Public Counsel's explanation of the
- 8 timing for the filing of this motion, referring to both
- 9 regulations that are in place and the time frames set
- 10 forth by both of them.
- 11 I -- I have a question with regard to a couple
- 12 of your paragraphs in this, Ms. Baker. And I'm referring
- 13 to -- mostly to paragraphs 5 and 7. And in paragraph 5,
- 14 you refer to the provision that allows to you ask for
- 15 either a local public hearing or an evidentiary hearing.
- 16 And you very helpfully cite both regulations. And for
- 17 that, I appreciate that.
- 18 Then under 7, you ask for both a local public
- 19 hearing and an evidentiary hearing. And the evidentiary
- 20 hearing is not provided in the old regulation, but you do
- 21 have the right to ask for one under the new regulation.
- 22 And I'm looking about halfway in the middle of
- 23 paragraph 7, to prevent the unnecessary duplicative cost
- 24 of customer notice and a separate notice of evidentiary
- 25 hearing at a later date.

```
1 MS. BAKER: Oh, I -- I'm sorry. That is
```

- 2 probably just a typo on my part. A local public hearing
- 3 is what I meant there.
- 4 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So in that sentence --
- 5 MS. BAKER: I'm sorry.
- 6 JUDGE JORDAN: -- where the record is
- 7 evidentiary, you'd like to substitute local public --
- 8 MS. BAKER: Right. A separate notice of a local
- 9 public hearing. Sorry. I didn't notice that.
- 10 JUDGE JORDAN: All right. Well, you know, I
- 11 suspected that, but I didn't want to misread it or
- 12 misconstrue it.
- MS. BAKER: I appreciate it.
- 14 JUDGE JORDAN: So that clears that up. Okay.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: So there is no evidentiary
- 16 hearing request at this time, then, just the assertion of
- 17 the local public hearing request? Is that clear?
- MS. BAKER: That was my intent. Yes.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Thank you.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So you're not --
- MS. BAKER: No.
- 22 JUDGE JORDAN: -- asking for a new evidentiary
- 23 hearing under the new regulations; is that correct?
- MS. BAKER: No.
- 25 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you very much. I

- 1 appreciate that. That's pretty important because,
- 2 otherwise, we would be looking at an entirely different
- 3 procedure.
- 4 MS. BAKER: I see that. That was a mistake.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: All right. All right. Well,
- 6 that being the case, let's talk about that request for a
- 7 local public hearing.
- 8 Ms. Baker, do you want to speak briefly to that
- 9 motion and why you think you need to -- what you need to
- 10 show for a local public hearing and what shows that, that
- 11 is, what the standard by which the Commission will decide
- 12 whether to grant a local public hearing, and what facts
- 13 have you brought us that show us that it should happen?
- MS. BAKER: The -- the issue of a local public
- 15 hearing is basically to allow the customers the
- 16 opportunity to provide comments to the Commission. And
- 17 especially when there are issues of service problems,
- 18 billing problems, things like that, which were brought up
- 19 back in, I believe, 2006, whenever the original notice
- 20 came out, there were comments relating to those issues.
- 21 And so now that we are basically three years
- 22 later, the customers should have the opportunity to give
- 23 their comments to the Commission and have the ability to
- 24 have a local public hearing in their area where they can
- 25 attend.

```
1 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.
```

- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: And if I may, your Honor,
- 3 Staff has no opposition to a local public hearing in this
- 4 matter being carried out.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. That's fine. Now, I noted
- 6 that figuring prominently in Public Counsel's motion is
- 7 the idea of getting out that customer notice as to the
- 8 proposed settlement terms promptly so that -- with a
- 9 notice of a local public hearing as well.
- 10 MS. BAKER: Right. The -- the issue between the
- 11 two rules is if you -- if you go with the -- I believe it
- 12 is the older rule. It states that -- no, actually it's
- 13 the newer rule -- pleading -- no -- no -- I'm sorry. I
- 14 don't see it here.
- 15 But anyway, there's basically a local public
- 16 hearing would -- a customer notice would have to go out
- 17 next Monday based on one of the rules.
- 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Right.
- 19 MS. BAKER: And so since there is a customer
- 20 notice required in both rules, a notice is going to be
- 21 mailed out. And so our thought was that we would combine
- 22 those two notices together as to keep the -- the customer
- 23 -- or the company from having to do duplicate mailings.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. All right.
- 25 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: And along those lines, I -- I

- 1 believe since Staff is also involved in developing the
- 2 customer notice that getting a customer notice out by
- 3 Monday would have been extremely difficult in and of
- 4 itself.
- 5 But to make sure that both are within that and
- 6 that OPC has the chance to approve and Staff has the
- 7 chance to review and develop with the company, getting it
- 8 out by next Monday would be impossible. So that's another
- 9 highlight to this discussion for the time frame.
- 10 At this point -- since -- if I can take a moment
- 11 to -- to deal with another issue with the parties here and
- 12 the Judge here -- well, first, I want to make sure -- our
- 13 -- I believe what you said, Judge Jordan, was that you
- 14 feel as though since both rules are active.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Uh-huh.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Neither have been repealed.
- 17 Therefore, both are to be applied, and then -- and that's
- 18 just kind of how we're going to have to go with this case.
- 19 Is that generally your position?
- 20 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I'm -- I'm -- yeah. I'm
- 21 giving -- trying to give you an idea so as to make things
- 22 less unpredictable of how I -- how I read these things.
- 23 There are conflicts. And, of course, we'll have to
- 24 resolve them --
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Okay.

```
1 JUDGE JORDAN: -- between the rules. There's no
```

- 2 doubt about that. But my -- my reading is that both of
- 3 them are law.
- 4 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Okay. That's good to know for
- 5 us to kind of start this out.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Yes.
- 7 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: The other thing that Staff
- 8 found out late yesterday by fax from the company is that
- 9 there may be revenue that -- that -- I'm sorry. I
- 10 was reading a note.
- 11 JUDGE JORDAN: That's okay.
- 12 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: We received a fax late
- 13 yesterday that described the potential for a revenue
- 14 requirement change. It was basically addressing fees that
- 15 may have been collected that were not in the books
- 16 reviewed by Mr. Eaves in the audit.
- 17 But the company has brought it to Staff's
- 18 attention that there is a separate billing -- I'm not sure
- 19 if it's a system or just an Excel spreadsheet that they
- 20 were keeping that was not presented to Staff that could
- 21 affect the revenue requirement number that was presented
- 22 in the Company/staff disposition agreement. And Staff has
- 23 an ethical duty to make sure that that revenue requirement
- 24 number is correct --
- JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

```
1 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: -- to the best of its ability
```

- 2 at that time.
- 3 Until this new evidence and information is
- 4 reviewed by Mr. Eaves or Water & Sewer Department staff,
- 5 we can't verify now, as of late yesterday, that the
- 6 revenue number presented in that company Staff disposition
- 7 is accurate. So I've never been presented with a
- 8 situation like this before.
- 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Uh-huh.
- 10 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: This has never really
- 11 happened. It may be the most prudent thing to do at this
- 12 juncture to withdraw the Company/Staff disposition
- 13 agreement and the tariffs that were filed or ask for a
- 14 stay temporarily.
- We are trying to deal with this as quickly as
- 16 possible to go ahead and validate numbers with the
- 17 company. But, again, late yesterday to today, this thing
- 18 rushes forward once it's filed. And so we were not
- 19 prepared that there would be any kind of information like
- 20 this.
- 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So what you're telling me
- 22 is you've got some newly discovered information which
- 23 changes --
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: May.
- 25 JUDGE JORDAN: Which may change -- which may

- 1 change the content of the disposition agreement.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: And substantively.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Substantively so. Okay.
- 4 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: And that would also change
- 5 that number of what the customer notice bases its number
- 6 to customers of what the potential asked for rate or
- 7 amount is. So it affects, like domino effect, everything
- 8 down the line.
- 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Right. Well, it sounds like the
- 10 -- the Office of Public Counsel's idea of combining the
- 11 notice is -- is a good idea. It's -- it -- it also sounds
- 12 like it's, No. 1, difficult or impossible just under the
- 13 timing of the new regulation and, in this case, certainly
- 14 impossible given the appearance, the late appearance of
- 15 this new information. Is that a good summary?
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: I think -- go ahead.
- 17 MS. BAKER: That is my understanding of what is
- 18 occurring. The other thing that -- that will come out of
- 19 this is possibly an additional amount of customers who
- 20 will have to be notified of this. So there may be a
- 21 larger notification that -- than what was --
- JUDGE JORDAN: By the way, how many customers
- 23 are we talking about?
- 24 MR. EAVES: I don't know that we have -- based
- 25 on the evidence that we have --

```
1 JUDGE JORDAN: Please identify yourself.
```

- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Say your name.
- 3 MR. EAVES: I'm Dana Eaves, Auditing Staff. I
- 4 don't know that we have a firm number locked down.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Really?
- 6 MR. EAVES: And that's part of the issue is
- 7 identifying the new customers that -- that falls under
- 8 this -- this --
- 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.
- 10 MR. EAVES: -- billing type. Exactly the
- 11 Staff's --
- 12 JUDGE JORDAN: How many did you think you had
- 13 before?
- MR. EAVES: I had zero before.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Well, no. Just for this new
- 16 issue. How many --
- MR. EAVES: For the new issue?
- 18 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: For the company service area,
- 19 how many customers did you -- did you think was -- they
- were serving?
- 21 MR. EAVES: Approximately 700.
- JUDGE JORDAN: 700. Okay. And in this new
- 23 service category, any idea?
- 24 MR. EAVES: 350 to 400.
- 25 JUDGE JORDAN: So we're talking about over a

```
1 thousand -- possibly over a thousand customers, then?
```

- 2 MR. EAVES: Possibly.
- JUDGE JORDAN: Possibly. Okay.
- 4 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Or non-hooked up customers.
- 5 They're all in the category of an availability charge or
- 6 something like that, so that they're not necessarily
- 7 receiving service at this time, but have a reservation --
- 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So these --
- 9 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: -- ability. So it could be
- 10 its own category.
- 11 JUDGE JORDAN: So these are people not currently
- 12 receiving service, but they may have the right to in the
- 13 future, so they may become customers.
- 14 MS. BAKER: There -- well, there is a charge
- 15 that is already in the -- in the tariff that it is filed
- 16 with the Commission. And it provides for an availability
- 17 charge. There is an issue of whether these customers have
- 18 been taken into account.
- 19 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, that sounds like a whole
- 20 new issue, doesn't it? I hope the parties will -- will
- 21 take the time after we go off the record to discuss
- 22 this --
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Absolutely.
- 24 JUDGE JORDAN: -- and exchange information. And
- 25 may I suggest that as this -- as the possibility of a new

- 1 settlement agreement develops, I hope you'll bring Public
- 2 Counsel in on the process. And, you know, the new
- 3 regulation, not the old regulation, provides for the
- 4 possibility of disposition agreement on which company,
- 5 Staff and OPC are signatories. So I -- I hope we'll work
- 6 on -- work towards that goal. All right. Let's see.
- 7 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Well, if I may ask, then, with
- 8 everybody in the room, since I've never been faced with
- 9 this situation before, what the best path is as to the
- 10 Company/Staff disposition agreement that's been filed,
- 11 whether a stay might be the best idea or whether a
- 12 withdrawal of the agreement and tariffs -- you know, since
- 13 tariffs go into effect by operation of law --
- 14 JUDGE JORDAN: September 30th is the date, is it
- 15 not?
- 16 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Right. I -- it may be that --
- 17 that a withdrawal is the best option at this point.
- 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Uh-huh. Let me give you my
- 19 thoughts off the top of my head. I don't know if I have
- 20 the power to stay anything under this -- under either
- 21 regulation. I don't remember seeing the word stay.
- I know there's a possibility of extensions. I
- 23 also know this case has been going on since 2006. There
- 24 is a possibility, one thing that leaps to my mind, is to
- 25 dismiss this case, file another one immediately, and that

- 1 would precede -- well, that requires -- if another letter
- 2 comes in, the new regulation provides that that opens a
- 3 new case. The old regulation did not provide that it was
- 4 a case. We have the current regulation, which does. So
- 5 that's a possibility, too. I don't want to tell anyone
- 6 how to try their case.
- 7 MS. BAKER: Your idea is for the company to
- 8 submit a new letter to open up under the new rule? Is
- 9 that --
- 10 JUDGE JORDAN: That's an option that occurs to
- 11 me. That's an option. I'm not trying to --
- 12 MS. BAKER: No. I'm just clarifying your
- 13 options.
- 14 JUDGE JORDAN: But I -- but that's something
- 15 that's worth discussing today, also. Definitely.
- 16 Definitely. Now -- all right. You know, and that -- that
- 17 possibility, we're going to have to start all over. That
- 18 affects the timing of everything else. And it makes --
- 19 your new information that's just been discovered also
- 20 makes it difficult to have a local public hearing when we
- 21 don't know what the terms of the disposition agreement
- 22 are.
- 23 The disposition agreement controls -- that's
- 24 really what the local public hearing is largely about. So
- 25 I don't know that we can make a whole lot of progress with

- 1 scheduling a local public hearing at this point. And I
- 2 don't know what else we can -- I don't know that we had
- 3 anything before us other than that. Are there any other
- 4 issues that -- that the parties have in mind to discuss
- 5 today?
- 6 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Well, we were only planning on
- 7 discussing the customer notice issue and the -- the timing
- 8 of the customer notice to go out. So I think withdrawal
- 9 would obviously moot that discussion.
- 10 Or if we -- if there -- if withdrawal wasn't the
- 11 most appropriate avenue to go about it, then I'm not sure
- 12 if -- if a waiver of -- well, I guess if we're looking at
- 13 both rules, 336 -- 3.635 doesn't have, I don't believe, a
- 14 time frame specifically set out for how quickly a customer
- 15 notice has to go out after the tariffs are filed.
- 16 Is that -- I don't -- I don't believe it's set
- 17 out in there as a hypothetical. Or as another option, the
- 18 one -- the one issue might be what would be the -- the
- 19 proper date to start off with when that customer notice
- 20 would have to go out if this case were to remain. But
- 21 that would also, again, mean that we would want to have
- 22 our revenue requirement number clarified. And I'm just --
- 23 I'm not sure there's enough time for that.
- 24 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I can see this has really
- 25 thrown you a curve.

```
1 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Yes.
```

- 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Really thrown a wrench in the
- 3 process. Let me make it clear. My reading of these
- 4 regulations is not to obstruct the resolution of -- of
- 5 this issue. It's to -- to bring us more options, more
- 6 possibilities under a generous reading of both regulations
- 7 and -- and I don't want to obstruct your process. I want
- 8 to help it continue. So -- make sure that everyone is
- 9 clear on that. But yeah. That's going to be -- that's a
- 10 challenge. I can see it as a challenge for you.
- 11 MS. BRUEGGEMANN: But other than that, yeah,
- 12 nothing else was necessary for today. So this just kind
- of changes.
- 14 MS. BAKER: My issues were the local public
- 15 notice and the customers who will be notified of -- in the
- 16 customer notice.
- 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Right. Right. Well, that's
- 18 important information, and it's changed the complexion of
- 19 your case, hasn't it?
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Yes.
- JUDGE JORDAN: I can tell that's true. Okay.
- 22 Well, I think I had -- no. I had nothing else that I
- 23 wanted to discuss. And Staff has nothing else that it
- 24 wants to discuss on the record right now?
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: I don't think so.

```
1 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. And does Public Counsel
```

- 2 have anything else that it wants to discuss on the record
- 3 right now?
- 4 MS. BAKER: I don't believe so. No. Thank you.
- 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Judge Stearley, did you have any
- 6 questions for these parties while they're present?
- JUDGE STEARLEY: Not at all.
- JUDGE JORDAN: All right. With that, then,
- 9 we'll adjourn this procedural conference, and we'll go off
- 10 the record.
- 11 And I encourage the parties to work through
- 12 these new issues and their new challenges, and I'm in the
- 13 office all day. So if someone wants to inform me of such
- 14 resolutions that occur, I'll be around to listen to it and
- 15 to help you work things out if -- if you like.
- MS. BRUEGGEMANN: Thank you.
- MS. BAKER: Thank you.
- 18 JUDGE JORDAN: You're welcome. You're welcome.
- 19 And we'll go off the record. We are adjourned.
- 20 (The proceedings were concluded at 9:25 a.m. on
- 21 August 6, 2009.)

22

23

24

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF MISSOURI)
4)ss. COUNTY OF OSAGE)
5	
6	I, Monnie S. Mealy, certified Shorthand Reporter,
7	Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered
8	Professional Reporter, and Notary Public, within and for
9	the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I was
10	personally present at the proceedings as set forth in the
11	caption sheet hereof; that I then and there took down in
12	stenotype the proceedings had at said time and was
13	thereafter transcribed by me, and is fully and accurately
14	set forth in the preceding pages.
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	Monnie S. Mealy, CSR, CCR #0539
21	Registered Professional Reporter
22	
23	
24	
25	