In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company
Missouri-American Water Local Public Hearing January 18, 2023
Vol 4
PHIPPS REPORTING is now

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6:55 p.m. - 7:13 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 4 Pages 1 - 19

In the Matter of Missouri-American) Water Company's Request for) Authority to Implement General Rate) File No. Increase for Water and Sewer) WR-2022-0303 Service Provided in Missouri) Service Areas)

> RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, Chairman MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By: Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No.: 289239

Page 2 1 **APPEARANCES:** On behalf of Missouri-American Water Company: 2 Missouri American-Water Company 3 737 Craig Road St. Louis, MO 63141 4 BY: RACHEL NIEMEIER, ESQ. TIMOTHY W. LUFT, ESQ. 5 rachel.niemeier@amwater.com 6 timothy.luft@amwater.com On behalf of the Staff of the 7 Public Service Commission: 8 Missouri Public Service Commission 9 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 PO Box 360 10 Jefferson City, MO 65102 11 BY: KEVIN THOMPSON, ESO. Kevin.Thompson@psc.mo.gov 12 On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel: 13 Office of the Public Counsel 200 Madison Street, Suite 650 14 PO Box 2230 15 Jefferson City, MO 65102 LINDSAY VanGERPEN 16 BY: lindsay.vangerpen@opc.mo.gov 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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Page 4 The following proceedings began at 6:55 p.m.: 1 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good evening. We are on the This is a virtual local public hearing in File 3 record. No. WR-2022-0303. Good evening. I am Ron Pridgin. I 4 am a Regulatory Law Judge assigned to preside over this 5 6 local public hearing that's being held via WebEx on 7 January 18, 2023, and the time is roughly 6:55 in the 8 evening. 9 I would like to get entries of appearance from 10 counsel, please, beginning with Missouri-American Water 11 Company. Thank you, Judge Pridgin. 12 MR. LUFT: This is Tim Luft and Rachel Niemeier for Missouri-American, 727 13 Craig Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63141. 14 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Luft and Ms. Niemeier, 16 thank you. Is there any entry of appearance on behalf 17 of the Staff of the Commission? 18 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. Kevin 19 Thompson for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service 20 Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, 21 Missouri 65102. 22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Thompson, thank you. Anv 23 entry on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel? 24 MS. VanGERPEN: Yes. Good evening, Your 25 Honor. Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC, 200

Page 5 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 1 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you. Ι 3 know we have some intervenors, and I don't know if they 4 are on the line. Is there anyone else who wishes to enter an appearance this evening? 5 All right. Hearing none. Let me give an 6 7 opening statement and I'll see if any of the Commissioners have any opening remarks and then we will 8 receive testimony from people who would like to testify. 9 10 So this is an official hearing of the Missouri Public Service Commission and the statements and 11 12 testimony will be recorded by the court reporter and must be given under oath. The purpose of this hearing 13 is to hear from you. The Company will not present 14 witnesses this evening and will not answer questions 15 during this hearing. This is your chance to testify, 16 17 and your remarks will be made a part of the official 18 record of this case. When I call your name, if you 19 would like to testify, I would ask that you would be sworn and I will ask some preliminary questions such as 20 21 what your name is and how to spell it so the court 2.2 reporter can record it correctly and then you may 23 testify to the Commission. When you're finished, there may be some questions from me or from the Commissioners. 24 25 Does anyone have any questions about tonight's

Page 6 1 procedure? 2 All right. I'm not hearing any questions. So 3 is there anyone who wishes to testify before the 4 Commission this evening? MS. FRIEDERICH: Yes, Kathy. Hello? 5 6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Hello. Yes, could you 7 state your full name, please? 8 MS. FRIEDERICH: Oh, yes. I'm sorry, Judge. 9 I didn't know if you heard me. I'm Kathy Friederich and 10 I'm in St. Louis County, Unincorporated St. Louis 11 County, Missouri. 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Friederich, 13 could I ask you to be sworn, please? 14 MS. FRIEDERICH: Yes. 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Do you swear that the 16 testimony that you're about to give will be the truth, 17 the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you 18 God? 19 MS. FRIEDERICH: I do. 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, ma'am. 21 Would you again please state and spell your name for the 2.2 court reporter? 23 MS. FRIEDERICH: Yes. My name is Kathy with a K, Friederich, F-r-i-e-d-e-r-i-c-h. 24 25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. And are you

Page 7 1 a customer of Missouri-American Water Company? 2 MS. FRIEDERICH: Yes, I am, Judge, uh-huh. 3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. And what is your testimony before the Commission? 4 KATHY FRIEDERICH, 5 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: 6 7 MS. FRIEDERICH: Well, I do definitely think 8 that when the water company switched from the mechanical 9 meter to the digital meter it upped the bills. Okav. 10 And then also the water company transmits information to MSD. Now, I realize, Judge, that MSD is not regulated, 11 12 although a lot of people out here I've talked to said it should be, but that's not on the agenda. 13 14 However, it does cost money to take that 15 information, gather it from the water company and turn 16 it over to MSD sewer company. And I feel that this should be taken into account. 17 18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Ms. Friederich, 19 thank you. Does that conclude your testimony? 20 MS. FRIEDERICH: Yes, sir. Yes, Judge, it 21 does, uh-huh. 22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you so much. 23 Let me see if any Commissioners have any questions for 24 you. Mr. Chairman, any questions? 25 CHAIRMAN RUPP: No questions, Judge. Thank

Page 8 1 you for your testimony. 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. 3 Commissioner Coleman, any questions? 4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions, Judge. Thank you. Commissioner 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: 6 Holsman? 7 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No questions, Judge, 8 but thank you for her testifying. 9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner 10 Kolkmeyer, any questions? All right. I'm not hearing 11 any. Ms. Friederich, thank you very much for your time 12 and your testimony and you are excused. Let me see if anyone else wishes to testify 13 before the Commission this evening. 14 15 MS. FRIEDERICH: Okay. Thank you, Judge, and thank the Commission for their work and their efforts. 16 17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. 18 MS. FRIEDERICH: Uh-huh. 19 MR. PARACHA: Yes, I have something. 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. And could I ask 21 you to state your name, please? 2.2 MR. PARACHA: Mohammad Paracha, 23 M-o-h-a-m-m-a-d, P as in Peter, a-r-a-c-h-a, Charlie, 24 Henry, apple. 25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. And let me ask

1	Page 9 that you be sworn. Do you swear that the testimony that			
2	you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth,			
3	and nothing but the truth so help you God?			
4	MR. PARACHA: I do.			
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Madam			
6	Court Reporter, do you need that name re-spelled for			
7	you?			
8	THE STENOGRAPHER: I think I've got it.			
9	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Very good. And			
10	you may make your testimony whenever you're ready, sir.			
11	MOHAMMAD PARACHA,			
12	having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:			
13	MR. PARACHA: Sure. I live in St. Louis			
14	County. I have a two-part comment and question. You			
15	can say that when we used to have three-months bill and			
16	it was less charge to us and then since they've started			
17	monthly bill, then it charges the meter bill and water			
18	usage and all other. It greatly increased the whole			
19	bill almost same as three-months bill come into one			
20	month.			
21	Second part is that for low-income families,			
22	all that it said in the letter in the bill and online			
23	that we can apply in CAASTLC. CAASTLC has very limited			
24	funds. It's very hard to get hold of anybody and then			
25	they only help once in a year and after that they said			

Page 10 we don't have any funds and we cannot help you any more. 1 2 So that's all my questions. Thank you. 3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Does that conclude your testimony? 4 5 MR. PARACHA: Yes, Your Honor. JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Very good. Thank 6 7 you very much. Let me see if any of the Commissioners 8 have any questions for you. Mr. Chairman? 9 CHAIRMAN RUPP: No questions, Judge. Thank 10 you for your testimony, sir. 11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner Coleman? 12 13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. 14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Any 15 questions, Commissioner Holsman? 16 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No questions, Judge. 17 Thank you. JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner 18 19 Kolkmeyer? 20 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: No. Thank you, 21 Judge. No questions. 22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Thank 23 you very much for your testimony, sir. You may be excused. And is there anyone else who would like to 24 testify before the Commission this evening? 25

1	Page 11 I've waited a few seconds. Let me make sure			
2	somebody hasn't either changed their mind or maybe has			
3	problems unmuting a phone or an electronic device. Is			
4	there anyone else who would like to testify before the			
5	Commission this evening?			
б	MS. TORABI: Judge, can you hear me?			
7	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Going once, going twice. I			
8	can. Thank you. Yes, I can hear you.			
9	MS. TORABI: Oh, wonderful. Thank you. Thank			
10	you to the Judge, the Commissioners, court reporter,			
11	counsel and various entities, including			
12	Missouri-American Water for holding this hearing and			
13	taking time out of your evening. My name is Tonya			
14	Torabi. It's T-o-n-y-a, T like township, O like			
15	October, R like Robert, A like apple, B like Brooklyn, I			
16	like indigo. That's Tonya Torabi. You know, during our			
17				
18	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Could I ask you to be sworn,			
19	please? Ma'am, I'm sorry. Can I interrupt. Can I ask			
20	you to be sworn, please?			
21	MS. TORABI: Yes, Judge.			
22	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Do you swear the testimony			
23	that you're about to give will be the truth, the whole			
24	truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?			
25	MS. TORABI: Yes, Judge.			

1	Page 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. Madam				
2	Court Reporter, do you have that name spelled correctly?				
3	THE STENOGRAPHER: Yes, sir.				
4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you. I'm				
5	sorry, ma'am, you may proceed.				
6	TONYA TORABI,				
7	having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:				
8	MS. TORABI: Thank you. We heard during the				
9	informal hearing some concerns addressed from elderly				
10	individuals or persons who were retired or senior				
11	citizens who were concerned about rate increases, and I				
12	think that we need to consider those things in terms of				
13	making sure that they have access to grants or even				
14	perhaps if there's an opportunity to not let this rate				
15	increase impact them as much. I'd like to have you all				
16	consider that.				
17	And additionally, I think that we all need to				
18	consider, however, that without infrastructure				
19	improvements, you know, how can these folks get this				
20	water cleaned. That being said And you know,				
21	maintaining the fire hydrants, maintaining whatever they				
22	need to to get us the clean water and access to water.				
23	That being said, I think it's really important and				
24	integral that we pay attention to how the funding will				
25	be allocated to ensure those things happen.				

-	Page 13				
1	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Does that				
2	conclude your testimony?				
3	MS. TORABI: Yes, Judge.				
4	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you so much.				
5	Let me see if we have any Commissioner questions.				
6	Mr. Chairman, any questions?				
7	CHAIRMAN RUPP: No questions at this time,				
8	Judge. Thank you.				
9	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner				
10	Coleman?				
11	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. Thank				
12	you.				
13	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Commissioner.				
14	Commissioner Holsman?				
15	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No questions, Judge.				
16	Thank you.				
17	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner				
18	Kolkmeyer?				
19	COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: No questions, Judge.				
20	Thank you.				
21	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. And				
22	thank you, ma'am, for your testimony. You may be				
23	excused. Let me see if anyone else would like Thank				
24	you, ma'am. I'm sorry.				
25	Let me see if anyone else would like to				
40	LET WE SEE IT ANYONE EISE WOULD IIKE CO				

Page 14 1 testify this evening. 2 MS. STAUDE: Hello, I would. 3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Could you please state and 4 spell your name for the court reporter? MS. STAUDE: Yes. It is Marybeth Staude. 5 Marybeth is M-a-r-y-b-e-t-h. Staude is S-t-a-u-d-e. 6 7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Staude, thank you. Could 8 you raise your right hand to be sworn, please? Do you 9 swear the evidence you're about to give will be the 10 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help 11 you God? 12 MS. STAUDE: Yes, I do. JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, ma'am. 13 14 Thank you so much. Whenever you're ready. 15 MARYBETH STAUDE, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: 16 17 MS. STAUDE: Okay. I just want to state that 18 I'm not happy with the rate increase that's going to be 19 almost double it seems like of what I pay. And it's just myself. But the quality of water that I have is 20 21 not very good either. So I just wanted to state my 2.2 displeasure. That's all. 23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right, ma'am. Thank you. Does that conclude your testimony? 24 25 MS. STAUDE: Yes, sir.

Page 15 All right. 1 Thank you. Let me JUDGE PRIDGIN: 2 see if any Commissioners have any questions for you. Mr. Chairman? 3 CHAIRMAN RUPP: Yes, actually I do have a 4 5 question, Judge. Could you expand a little bit more on 6 the quality of the water which you mentioned? 7 MS. STAUDE: Yes. It tastes terrible. And I 8 just moved here in September from Jefferson County. Ι do have a water softener here in Jeff City. I did have 9 10 a water softener there. But I can tell the taste is 11 just different. When they put in the water softener 12 here, they did, of course, a water test and they 13 suggested that I get a water purifier, I guess. But it's so darn expensive. I mean, it's about a thousand 14 15 dollars. So it was just cost prohibitive for me to do that with the water softener too. 16 17 CHAIRMAN RUPP: Is there any discoloration to 18 the water or particles in the water? 19 MS. STAUDE: There is some particles in the 20 water. There's no discoloration. There are particles. 21 I do -- On my refrigerator I do have a water thing. I 2.2 use it for ice. I don't really use it for water. 23 There's always a white residue at the base of that. 24 CHAIRMAN RUPP: Okay. Great. Thank you for 25 your testimony.

1	Page 16 MS. STAUDE: You're welcome.				
2					
	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.				
3	Commissioner Coleman, any questions?				
4	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No questions. Thank				
5	you.				
6	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Commissioner.				
7	Commissioner Holsman?				
8	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No questions, Judge.				
9	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Commissioner				
10	Kolkmeyer?				
11	COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: No questions, Judge.				
12	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Commissioner. Ms.				
13	Staude, thank you very much for your testimony. You are				
14	excused.				
15	MR. LUFT: Judge, could I ask her some				
16	questions?				
17	JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. Who's talking?				
18	MR. LUFT: This is Tim Luft from				
19	Missouri-American. I just want to ask her a few				
20	follow-up questions on cross. Ms. Staude, are you still				
21	there?				
22	JUDGE PRIDGIN: I mean, I don't generally				
23	I'm still here. I don't generally allow cross. You're				
24	free to talk to her after the hearing.				
25	MR. LUFT: Okay. I just want to get her				

1	Page 17			
	address. We just wanted to get her address. We think			
2	there's something going on at her home with the			
3	softener. We just want to follow up with that like we			
4	would any customer.			
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Absolutely, and I appreciate			
б	that, Mr. Luft, and I would encourage you to get with			
7	her and see if you can help her. I appreciate that.			
8	MR. LUFT: Thank you.			
9	MS. STAUDE: We can talk after the meeting			
10	then. I'm still here.			
11	MR. LUFT: Okay. Thank you.			
12	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Staude, thank you. That's			
13	something I hope you two can discuss after we get			
14	through taking testimony. Thank you both.			
15	MS. STAUDE: Thank you.			
16	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Is there anyone else who			
17	wishes to testify this evening? Okay. I've waited a			
18	few seconds and haven't heard anything. Let me give one			
19	last opportunity in case somebody had trouble unmuting a			
20	phone or if anyone has changed their mind. Is there			
21	anyone else who would wish to testify this evening?			
22	All right. I'm not hearing anything. Let me			
23	see if any Commissioners have any closing remarks before			
24	we conclude the hearing. Mr. Chairman, any remarks?			
25	CHAIRMAN RUPP: No, thank you, Judge. Just			

Page 18 1 appreciate everybody's attendance. 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Commissioner Coleman? 3 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No comments but thank 4 you very much. 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Commissioner. 6 7 Commissioner Holsman? 8 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge. 9 We're always grateful for those citizens who take their 10 time out to share their opinions with us and it does 11 matter and we do listen. Thank you. 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Kolkmeyer? 13 14 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes. Here again, I 15 just want to thank everyone for their testimony here 16 this evening. Thank you for participating. Thank you, 17 Judge. 18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. And I would echo 19 those comments and extend my thanks to everyone who participated this evening. And that will conclude this 20 21 virtual local public hearing this evening. Thank you very much. We are off the record. 2.2 23 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 7:13 24 p.m.) 25

1	Page 19 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF MISSOURI)
3	COUNTY OF COLE)
4	I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do
5	hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
б	stenographically report the foregoing Public Service
7	Commission local public hearing and that the transcript,
8	pages 1 through 18, is a true record of my stenographic
9	notes.
10	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
11	employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12	nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the
13	action, nor am I financially interested in the action.
14	Dated this 31st day of January, 2023.
15	Rough Trop Routak
16	Beverly Jean Bertch
17	Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640
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