

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Raytown Water Company's)	
Request for Annual Operating Revenue)	<u>File No. WR-2020-0264</u>
Increase)	

**JOINT PROPOSAL TO WAIVE SIXTY DAY REQUIREMENT OF
COMMISSION RULE 20 CSR 4240-10.075(6)**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and on behalf of Raytown Water Company ("Raytown") and the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), respectfully proposes the following:

1. On March 2, 2020, Raytown filed a letter requesting an increase in its annual overall operating revenues of \$663,332.92, approximately 14.64%, through a staff assisted rate case procedure under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075.

2. Pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(6), a local public hearing ("LPH") shall be scheduled to occur no later than sixty (60) days after the opening of this case; on May 1, 2020. However, the LPH can be waived if Staff files a notice in the case stating that all parties agree a local public hearing is not necessary. The Commission can also waive any provision of the rule for good cause under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(15).

3. The parties to this matter agree at this time that the LPH is necessary and appropriate.

4. However, due to developments surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is no longer possible to hold the LPH within the 60-day window. On March 15, 2020, following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") calling for the suspension or canceling of public gatherings

of fifty (50) individuals or more over the next eight weeks,¹ and the resulting endorsement of those recommendations by the office of Missouri Governor Mike Parson,² Jackson County Executive Frank White Jr. issued an executive order mandating those recommendations.³ The executive order covers the Raytown service area.

5. Per Raytown's 2018 annual report, it serves 6,628 total customers. If the Commission were to not waive the 60-day requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(6), the parties would be in the position of having to refuse access to customers once the fifty (50) person threshold was met.

6. Under the Jackson County executive order, the earliest the parties may schedule the LPH, without having to refuse access to customers who wish to attend, would be May 11, 2020.

7. The parties recommend that the Commission exercise its authority under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.075(15) and waive the provision of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-1075(6) requiring an LPH be scheduled no later than sixty (60) days after the opening of this case, and order the parties to schedule the LPH no earlier than May 11, 2020, unless developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic improve.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays, on behalf of itself, Raytown, and OPC, that the Commission accept the parties' proposal, and grant any such other and further relief as is just under the circumstances

¹ "Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)," <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.

² "Governor Parson's Statement Regarding CDC Recommendations on Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events," <https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parsons-statement-regarding-cdc-recommendations-mass-gatherings-and>.

³ "Jackson County Executive amends executive order to align with new CDC guidelines for large group events," <https://twitter.com/JCEFrankWhite/status/1239385613528453121>.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Travis J. Pringle

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or their counsel of record this 16th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Travis J. Pringle