

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

In the Matter of I.H. Utilities, Inc. Small)
Company Rate Increase.)
Case No. WR-2010-0048

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Status Report states as follows:

1. On August 25, 2006, the Commission received a Rate Increase Request Letter from I.H. Utilities, Inc. (IH Utilities or Company) and issued a tracking number of QW-2007-0003.
2. On August 3, 2009, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Notice of Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Water Company Revenue Increase Request and Motion to Set Prehearing Conference (Company/Staff Agreement) which reflected an agreed-upon annualized operating revenue increase in the amount of \$17,085 (20.087%). Public Counsel's input was not considered for the Company/Staff Agreement nor was Public Counsel asked to be a signatory to this agreement.
3. On August 3, 2009, IH Utilities filed proposed tariff revision reflecting the agreements in the Company/Staff Agreement. These proposed tariffs bear an effective date of September 30, 2009.
4. On August 4, 2009, Public Counsel filed its Request for Local Public Hearing.
5. On August 6, 2009, a procedural conference was convened during which Staff stated that new information had been provided by IH Utilities which may affect the substance of the Company/Staff Agreement and the tariffs which the Company had filed. This new information was provided to Public Counsel at the procedural conference.

6. On August 10, 2009, IH Utilities filed a substitute Sheet No. 5 to replace the proposed tariff revision Sheet No. 5 which was filed on August 3rd. The letter filed with the substitute Sheet No. 5 stated that the substitute sheet was submitted to remove language involving availability charges. The substitute proposed tariff sheet bears an effective date of September 30, 2009.

7. On August 10, 2009, Staff filed its Timeline and Request for Order Approving Timeline. In its filing, Staff correctly stated that Public Counsel had been contacted regarding the proposed timeline and that Public Counsel supports the proposed Timeline.

8. On August 10, 2009, the Commission issued its Order to File Status Report requiring Staff and Public Counsel to jointly or separately file a status report no later than August 13, 2009. The Commission ordered that the status report shall inform the Commission of the filing party's position on the disposition agreement and tariff, and how such party intends to proceed.

9. Public Counsel now states that it has not developed a position on the disposition agreement at this time. Public Counsel is continuing to review the Company/Staff Agreement and the related Staff audit workpapers. Public Counsel is also attempting to determine the affect of the new information Public Counsel received at the procedural conference, as well as the affect of the recently filed substitute proposed tariff Sheet No. 5. At this time, Public Counsel has received no definitive determination from Staff as to whether the substance of the Company/Staff Agreement has been affected. Therefore, Public Counsel is not able to present a position on the Company/Staff Agreement or the proposed tariff sheets at this time.

10. Public Counsel supports Staff's proposed Timeline for how to proceed with this case. Public Counsel continues its support for a local public hearing in this matter and its support for a combined customer notice and local public hearing notice. Should a local public hearing be

held, Public Counsel fully expects to file either its Position Statement or Request for Evidentiary Hearing no later than ten (10) working days following the local public hearing as stated in Staff's proposed Timeline.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully submits its Status Report.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Christina L. Baker

By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 13th day of August 2009:

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