

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

In the Matter of the Application of Stockton )  
Hills Water Company for an Increase in ) Case No. WR-2010-0202  
Annual Water System Operating Revenues. )

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S REQUEST  
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Request for Local Public Hearing states as follows:

1. On January 7, 2010, Stockton Hills Water Company (Stockton Hills) initiated a small company rate increase proceeding with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting an increase in its water rates of \$20,198 (69.9%) per year.
2. On June 7, 2010, 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* (Company/Staff Agreement) indicating agreement between Staff and Stockton Hills for a water rate increase of \$6,873 annually (approximately 23.61%). Public Counsel did not join in the agreement.
3. Revised tariff sheets reflecting the proposed rates agreed to in the Company/Staff Agreement were filed by Stockton Hills on June 11, 2010.
4. As the Company/Staff Agreement was executed by only Stockton Hills and Staff, 4 CSR 240-3.050(15) requires Public Counsel to file a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff Agreement and the related tariff revisions, or requesting a local public hearing or an evidentiary hearing no later than five (5) working days after the end of the comment period for the written customer notice contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14).

5. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process. According to the Company/Staff Agreement, customers are being asked to bear more than a 23.6% annual increase during extremely difficult economic times. Public Counsel believes it is important that the customers be provided a forum to present their comments on this significant proposed increase directly to the Commission. Consequently, Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing to allow customer comments on the newly proposed increase.

6. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the local public hearing promptly, as long as customers are given written notice at least 7 days in advance.

7. Therefore, in compliance with 4 CSR 240.3-050(15), Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing in this matter.

**WHEREFORE**, Public Counsel respectfully submits its Local Public Hearing Request.

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2010:

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**/s/ Christina L. Baker**

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