

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

In the Matter of Small Company Rate)	<u>Case No. WR-2011-0037</u>
Increase of Tri-States Utility, Inc.,)	

STAFF RESPONSE TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through counsel, and pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19) submits the following information to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“the Commission”):

1. On March 15, 2011, the Commission conducted a local public hearing in Branson, Missouri regarding the rate increase request of Tri-States Utility, Inc. (“Company”), designated by the Commission as Case No. WR-2011-0037.

2. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240.3.050(19) states that “[i]f a local public hearing is held, the staff shall file a pleading no later than five (5) working days after the hearing indicating whether any material information not previously available was provided at the local public hearing and stating whether that information might result in changes to the utility/staff disposition agreement. . .”.

3. Pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19), Staff represents that at the March 15, 2011, local public hearing, Staff obtained no material information not previously available.

4. At this time, Staff is unaware of any information which might result in any changes to the disposition agreement entered into in this case between Staff and the Company.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits this pleading for the Commission's information and consideration as required by 4 CSR 240-3.050(19).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Meghan E. McClowry

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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 counsel of record this 17th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Meghan E. McClowry