

| | | |
|--|--------|------------------------------|
| In the Matter of Roy-L Utilities, Inc. Request for Increase in Annual Water System Operating Revenues |)) | File No. WR-2016-0109 |
| In the Matter of Roy-L Utilities, Inc. Request for Increase in Sewer System Operating Revenues |)) | File No. SR-2016-0110 |

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC” or “Public Counsel”) and for its *Request for Local Public Hearing and Motion for Expedited Treatment* states:

1. On November 9, 2015, Roy-L Utilities, Inc. (“Roy-L”) initiated small company rate increase proceedings with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting increases in its annual water and sewer system operating revenues. In its initial filing the company requested an increase of \$3,000 in its annual sewer system revenues and an increase of \$6,000 in its annual water system revenues.

2. Based on the preliminary audit by the Commission's Staff ("Staff") and ongoing discussion among the parties, the requested increases to the company's water and sewer rates will exceed the company's initial request. Upon the request of the parties, the Commission has extended the deadline to file an executed disposition agreement to May 6, 2016. At this time, the parties have not agreed-to or submitted a disposition agreement but continue discussions.

3. The Commission's rules provide Public Counsel the opportunity to request a local public hearing after a disposition agreement is filed. *See* 4 CSR 240-3.050(15). Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process. In this case, Public Counsel is requesting a local public hearing earlier than required to benefit

both the ratepayers and the company. Customers will have the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the proposed increases and inform the Commission of any other issues related to their utility service at an earlier point in the rate case process. The Company benefits because it will be able to hear and address any customer comments, to the extent possible, without extending the rate case timeline. For these reasons, Public Counsel requests the Commission schedule a local public hearing in this case on either Monday May 23rd or Tuesday May 24th.

4. Public Counsel further requests the Commission order the company to provide written notice of the local public hearing to each customer.

5. Public Counsel has consulted with Staff and the Company and represents those parties do not object to this request.

Motion for Expedited Treatment

6. Public Counsel requests the Commission rule on this request by April 28, 2016. An order by that date will allow the company to prepare and send the local public hearing notice with the upcoming May bill, thus, avoiding the duplicative cost of mailing a separate notice. There will be no negative effect on the general public if the Commission acts by the requested date because customers will receive at least 10 days notice prior to the local public hearing and a combined mailing will minimize any additional cost to the company.

7. This request is made earlier than required by the Commission's rules and as soon as possible after the parties agreed on the potential dates.

8. In the event the Commission is unable to schedule a local public hearing for the requested dates, Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the hearing on a different date as long as customers are given sufficient notice.¹

WHEREFORE Public Counsel requests the Commission schedule a local public hearing in this case.

Respectfully,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ **Tim Opitz**

Tim Opitz

Senior Counsel

Missouri Bar No. 65082

P. O. Box 2230

Jefferson City MO 65102

(573) 751-5324

(573) 751-5562 FAX

Timothy.opitz@ded.mo.gov

¹ The Company has indicated to Public Counsel that it prefers to avoid scheduling the local public hearing on a Thursday, if possible.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this 27th day of April 2016:

Missouri Public Service Commission

Staff Counsel Department
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

Missouri Public Service Commission

Whitney Payne
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Whitney.Payne@psc.mo.gov

Roy-L Utilities, Inc.

Jean Longstreet
Legal Department
366 Hwy. F
High Hill, MO 63350
jlongstreet@socket.net

Roy-L Utilities, Inc.

Paul A Boudreau
P.O. Box 456
312 East Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102
PaulB@brydonlaw.com

/s/ **Tim Opitz**
