

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 3rd day of
August, 2017.

In The Matter Of The Rate Increase Request Of)
Indian Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc.) File No. WR-2017-0259

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
AND DIRECTING FILING**

Issue Date: August 3, 2017

Effective Date: August 3, 2017

The parties have not had time to propose any solution (“disposition agreement”) to the issues raised in this case, so the motion for an early local public hearing¹ (“motion”) filed by the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) is premature. The Commission’s rules contemplate that a local public hearing will address a disposition agreement. Therefore, the Commission will grant the motion, but defer setting a local public hearing until after the time for filing a disposition agreement.

Indian Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. began this case on April 4, 2017, by asking for a rate increase (“request”).² The request alleges that the company provides water service to about 725 customers in Crawford County, has invested about \$2,075,000 in improvements in the company’s water system, and needs a revenue increase of

¹ Electronic Filing Information Service (“EFIS”) No. 12 (July 19, 2017) *Motion for Local Public Hearing and Suggestions in Support*.

² EFIS No. 1 (April 4, 2017) *Request for Increase*.

\$750,280.³ The company has stated that granting the request would increase rates by 779 percent—more than \$86 per month—if the Commission granted the request as filed.⁴

But before the Commission makes any decision on the request, the Commission's rules provide that OPC, the Commission's staff ("Staff"), and the company have time to discuss the request and file a disposition agreement.⁵ The Commission's rules provide that OPC may then seek a local public hearing.⁶ OPC filed the motion on July 19, 2017,⁷ though the disposition agreement is not due until September 1, 2017.⁸ No party has filed a response.

In support of the motion, OPC cites the written comments about the request filed in EFIS, now numbering over 210, addressing the request. Those comments show the strong interest of customers, and their elected officials, as to the rates and quality of service at issue in the request. But the Commission's rules provide for filing a motion for a local public hearing only after the filing of a disposition agreement.

Therefore, the Commission will grant the motion in part and set a local public hearing. The Commission will defer setting a local public hearing until after the time has passed for the filing of a disposition agreement. The Commission will direct the filing of a proposed date for the local public hearing.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The *Motion for Local Public Hearing and Suggestions in Support* is granted.

³ EFIS No. 1 (April 4, 2017) *Request for Increase*.

⁴ EFIS No. 4 (April 26, 2017) *Customer Notice of Rate Increase*.

⁵ 4 CSR 240-3.050(11).

⁶ 4 CSR 240-3.050(5).

⁷ Electronic Filing Information Service ("EFIS") No. 12 (July 19, 2017) *Motion for Local Public Hearing and Suggestions in Support*.

⁸ EFIS No. 3 (April 11, 2017) *Small Utility Rate Case Timeline*.

2. The Commission's staff shall coordinate, and file on the parties' behalf, a proposed setting for a local public hearing.

3. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Jordan, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

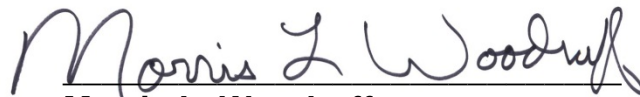
STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 3rd day of August 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

August 3, 2017

File/Case No. WR-2017-0259

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.