

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company

Hearing before:

Charles Hatcher

September 12, 2022

PHIPPS REPORTING

Raising the Bar!

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Monday, September 12, 2022
6:10 p.m. - 6:18 p.m.

Missouri Public Service Commission
WebEx

VOLUME 1
Pages 1 - 10

In the Matter of Missouri-American)
Water Company for a Certificate of)
Convenience and Necessity) File No. WA-2022-0311
Authorizing it to Install, Own,)
Acquire, Construct, Operate,)
Control, Manage and Maintain a)
Water System and Sewer System in)
and around the City of)
Stewartsville, Missouri)

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner
MAIDA COLEMAN, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 269929

1 APPEARANCES:

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5 St. Louis, MO 63141

6 BY: TIMOTHY W. LUFT, ESQ.
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11 BY: RACHEL NIEMEIER, ESQ.
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13 On behalf of the Staff of the
14 Public Service Commission:

15 Public Service Commission
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22 Public Counsel:

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BY: NATHAN WILLIAMS, ESQ.
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1 The following proceedings began at 6:10 p.m.:

2 JUDGE HATCHER: Let's go on the record. First
3 I would ask that everyone please mute themselves unless
4 they are going to be speaking or testifying. That will
5 cut down on the noise level and prevent audio feedback.
6 Today is September 12, 2022.

7 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set
8 this time for a local public hearing to give members of
9 the public a chance to comment about Missouri-American
10 Water Company's Application to Own and Operate the Water
11 and Sewer System of the City of Stewartsville. This is
12 File No. WA-2022-0311.

13 The Missouri Public Service Commission
14 regulates the rates charged by public utility companies
15 in Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and
16 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality
17 of service and safety of the operations of public
18 utilities.

19 The Commission is made up of five
20 Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by the
21 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
22 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
23 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other
24 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

25 My name is Charles Hatcher. I am the

1 Regulatory Law Judge that will preside over this
2 hearing. With me today, as I said earlier, are
3 Commissioners Maida Coleman and Glen Kolkmeier.

4 This is an official hearing of the Missouri
5 Public Service Commission and the statements and
6 testimony of witnesses will be recorded by the court
7 reporter and are given under oath. The Commissioners
8 have not made any decision in this case, and therefore
9 they cannot answer any questions today because they have
10 to remain impartial until after all of the evidence is
11 presented.

12 Let's go ahead and start with counsel
13 introductions. Missouri-American Water Company.

14 MR. LUFT: Thank you, Judge. Tim Luft,
15 Missouri-American Water Company counsel, 727 Craig Road,
16 St. Louis, Missouri 63141.

17 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. And for the
18 Staff of the Commission.

19 MS. NIEMEIER: Good evening, Your Honor. I'm
20 sorry to interrupt. This is Rachel Niemeier also with
21 Missouri-American Water Company tonight. Good evening
22 everyone.

23 JUDGE HATCHER: Not a problem. Sorry about
24 that. Didn't mean to miss you. And for the Staff of
25 the Commission.

1 And Office of the Public Counsel.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Chief Deputy
3 Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri
4 65102.

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. The process
6 that we have is normally to call names on the sign-up
7 sheet. I do not have any names preregistered for
8 tonight. So what I'm going to do is I will just ask if
9 any of our participants would like to offer their
10 comments and testimony to the Commissioners. So if
11 anyone is on our WebEx, if you are a telephone user you
12 press *6 to unmute. And if you're on the app, it's, you
13 know, pressing your phone somewhere with the microphone.
14 That will get you unmuted.

15 Again, is there anyone that would like to
16 testify, *6 to unmute if you called in to our meeting
17 this evening, or you can press unmute on your computer
18 or smart phone.

19 I'd like to give it an uncomfortably longer 30
20 seconds or so.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, while you're doing that,
22 I believe Paul Graham is probably appearing on behalf of
23 Staff. They did not make an entry.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, sir. I will enter
25 Mr. Graham's appearance for him on the record. I know

1 he and I both have some difficulties with these WebEx
2 calls.

3 MR. GRAHAM: This is Paul Graham. Can you all
4 hear me now?

5 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes, Mr. Graham.

6 MR. GRAHAM: Yes, I am struggling with my
7 phone. I have been here all along. If you would show
8 me -- Whoever entered my appearance for me, thank you
9 very much. Please show that I have been here
10 throughout.

11 JUDGE HATCHER: Let the record reflect that
12 Mr. Graham of Staff Counsel has joined us and that
13 Mr. Williams of the Office of the Public Counsel was
14 nice enough to point that out.

15 Okay. Last call. Is anyone desiring to
16 testify to the Commissioners tonight about
17 Missouri-American Water's Application to Purchase and
18 Operate the Water and Sewer System of the City of
19 Stewartsville?

20 Okay. Hearing none. Let's go ahead and for
21 those of you that are in the audience, I'd like to thank
22 everyone for attending and being part of the question
23 and answer portion.

24 I'd also like to thank the Commissioners for
25 being in attendance. And I want to make sure that if

1 anyone would like to comment and either had technical
2 difficulties or just didn't want to be the first witness
3 tonight, it's completely understandable, you can still
4 make written comments by going to the PSC's website and
5 that is psc.mo.gov. I believe it is still in the upper
6 right-hand corner submit comments. Just make sure and
7 put down this case number. Again, it is WA-2022-0311.

8 If you have any questions for the Office of
9 the Public Counsel, that is Mr. Williams, and they can
10 be reached at this email address: mopco@opc.mo.gov.

11 I'd like to thank everyone for their
12 attendance. Let's go ahead and go off the record and
13 this hearing is adjourned.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, this is Nathan Williams
15 from Public Counsel. I'd just like to say I appreciate
16 the Commission holding this public hearing, because I
17 believe it's important to give the public an opportunity
18 and the absence of people I think is informative as well
19 as when people show up and express their opposition or
20 support.

21 JUDGE HATCHER: Well said. Thank you,
22 Mr. Williams.

23 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you, Judge.

24 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Kolkmeier. Thank you, Commissioner Coleman, for both

1 attending.

2 I'll go ahead and close out our WebEx. Thanks

3 everyone.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 (The hearing adjourned at 6:18 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission local public hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 9, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2022.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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