BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

DEC 3 0 2004

Missouri Public Service Commission

FILED³

In the matter of:

The joint application of Missouri-American Water Company and both Osage Water Company and Environmental Utilities, LLC

Case No. WO-2005-0086

ANSWER OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLEAN WATER COMMISSION TO APPLICANT ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES' REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS

1. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the proposed sale of assets of Environmental Utilities, LLC, to Missouri American Water Company as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

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OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the proposed transfer of assets is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

2. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the proposed sale of assets of Osage Water Company to Missouri American Water Company as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the proposed transfer of assets is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

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3. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the proposed purchase by Missouri American Water Company of the water and sewer systems owned by Hurricane Deck Holding Company as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

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OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the proposed transfer of assets is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

4. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the proposed purchase by Missouri American Water Company of the water and sewer systems owned by Gregory D. Williams and Debra J. Williams as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the proposed transfer of assets is not detrimental to the interests of the members of the public who receive service from said assets.

5. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the proposed sale of assets as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not detrimental to the public.

OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the proposed transfer of assets is not detrimental to the public.

6. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the Missouri Public Service Commission does not have the legal authority to determine the interests of persons making claim to the

proceeds of the sale of the assets of Osage Water Company. See <u>State ex rel. Fee Fee</u> <u>Trunk Sewer, Inc. v. Litz</u>, 596 S.W. 2d 466 (Mo. App. E.D. 1980).

OBJECTION: This request does not require an answer because it seeks an admission of an abstract proposition or a conclusion of law. *See Linde v. Kilbourne*, 543 S.W.2d 543, 547 (Mo. App. W.D. 1976).

7. REQUEST FOR ADMISSION: That the allowable rate base value of the assets to be purchased by Missouri American Water Company as set forth in the Application and the Exhibits attached thereto is not less than the aggregate of the proposed sale prices for said Assets.

OBJECTION: The request asks for an admission of the legal conclusion that is ultimately to be determined by the Public Service Commission and, by implication, requests admissions that the application and attached exhibits, to the extent that they set forth facts, are complete, correct, true and sufficient to establish that legal conclusion without further factual inquiry. The Department and the Clean Water Commission lack sufficient information to either admit or deny the completeness, correctness, truth and sufficiency of the application and attached exhibits to establish that the allowable base rate value of the assets is not less than the aggregate of the proposed sale prices for said assets.

Respectfully submitted, JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON Attorney General

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of foregoing to be delivered by United States mail, postage prepaid, this 29 day of Secondary, 2004, to The Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102

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