

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

In the Matter of Stockton Hills Water)
Company Rate Increase)

Case No. WR-2017-0139

POSITION STATEMENT

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC” or “Public Counsel”) and, pursuant to Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19), offers this *Position Statement*:

1. On May 3, 2017, the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”) and Stockton Hills Water Company, Inc. (“Stockton Hills”) filed their *Notice of Disposition Agreement* based upon the Staff’s audit that provides for an increase of \$10,117 (approximately 35%) among other recommendations. Public Counsel did not join the disposition agreement and requested the Commission convene a local public hearing due to the number of customer comments received at that point in time.
2. On June 13, 2017, the Commission held a local public hearing in Stockton, Missouri. At the hearing, no customers offered testimony on the record. However, during the informational question and answer session held beforehand, multiple customers raised questions regarding certain aspects of the water utility’s operations. In order to ensure customers are informed of the rights and responsibilities between the company and customers Public Counsel suggested certain modifications be made to the original Company/Staff Disposition Agreement.
3. The Staff and the company agreed to make these modifications to their agreement and filed an Amended Disposition Agreement on June 23, 2017. Specifically, the Amended Disposition Agreement will require Stockton Hills to provide additional written information regarding the rights and responsibilities of the company and its customers within thirty (30) days of a Commission order. Additionally, a policy regarding billing cycles and when a customer may

transfer between monthly and quarterly bills is now specified in the company's tariff sheets to provide clear guidelines for both the company and its customers.

4. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.050(19) requires Public Counsel to file a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff agreement after a local public hearing is held.

5. Public Counsel does not object to the terms of the Amended Disposition Agreement as a reasonable resolution of this case and asks the Commission to approve the Amended Company/Staff Disposition Agreement filed on June 23, 2017.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel submits its *Position Statement*.

Respectfully,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Tim Opitz

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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 June 2017:

/s/ Tim Opitz