

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

In the Matter of Ridge Creek Water)	
Company, LLC's Application to)	Case No. WR-2017-0042
Implement a General Rate Increase in)	
Water Service)	

REPLY TO STAFF’S RESPONSE TO OPC’S MOTION TO COMPEL

COMES NOW the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) and for its Reply to the Public Service Commission Staff’s (“Staff”) Response for OPC;s Motion to Compel Discovery or, in the Alternative, to Stay Proceedings on the above-captioned rate case initiated by Ridge Creek Water Company, LLC (“the Company”) and states as follows:

1. The Staff filed its Response on January 6th of 2017 whereby it requested the Commission deny OPC’s Motion.

2. The Response ignores a number of concerns raised by OPC in its initial Motion. First, OPC has made numerous phone calls and emails to the Company in this matter; all of which were ignored. To simply seek a discovery conference would be to completely ignore the pattern of behavior displayed by the Company in this matter and allowing for additional time and resources on OPC’s part to be wasted. The reason OPC sought a waiver of these discovery rules is the Company clearly has no regard for OPC’s role in this proceeding.

3. To that point, Staff seems satisfied that the Company has produced documents to it but not OPC and believes they should be allowed to provide discovery they believe is response to OPC’s data requests. However, this also minimizes OPC’s

role as an independent party in this matter that the Company can willfully choose who which parties it will engage with regarding the discovery process.

4. By following through with Staff's request and denying this Motion, it places OPC in the position where the Company can choose to ignore all of OPC's effort to communicate with them and continue to pick and choose whom it wishes to provide discovery in this process thus depriving OPC of proper due process in this matter.

5. Further, Staff misstates OPC's request that sanction should be outlined in the Order and not that they be granted right away. OPC wants the Company to understand the importance of choosing to ignore a statutorily-mandated party will have consequences if it continues to ignore the statutes and regulations that govern proceedings before the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel respectfully replies to the Public Service Commission Staff's response and reiterates its requests that the Commission waive all requirements until its regulations and file an Order compelling Ridge Creek Water Company, LLC to comply with producing responsive answers to the Office of Public Counsel data requests with a specific provision that a failure to comply with said Order will void and nullify the Stipulation and Agreement approved on September 2nd of 2015. In the alternative, the Office of Public Counsel would seek a stay in the proceedings of the above-captioned matter until the commencement of a Voluntary Receivership proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the parties of record on this 10th day of January 2017.

Missouri Public Service Commission

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