

**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

REQUEST FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC” or “Public Counsel”) and for its *Request for Local Public Hearing* states:

1. On November 14, 2016, Stockton Hills Water Company, Inc. (“Stockton Hills”) initiated small company rate increase proceedings with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting an increase in its annual water system operating revenues of \$45,236 (approximately 126%).
2. On May 3, 2017, the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”) and 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.

Request for Local Public Hearing

3. The Commission’s rules provide Public Counsel the opportunity to request a local public hearing after a disposition agreement is filed. *See* 4 CSR 240-3.050(15). Stockton Hills serves 141 residential customers; to date, the 29 customers (approximately 20%) have submitted comments regarding the company’s requested rate increase.
4. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process particularly when such a large percentage of customers have expressed interest in providing comments. In this case, Public Counsel is requesting a local public hearing earlier than required to benefit both the ratepayers and the company. Customers

will have the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the proposed increases and inform the Commission of any other issues related to their utility service at an earlier point in the rate case process. The Company benefits because it will be able to hear and address any customer comments, to the extent possible, without extending the rate case timeline. For these reasons, Public Counsel requests the Commission schedule a local public hearing in this case on June 13, 2017. Public Counsel has consulted with Staff and the Company and represents those parties have indicated this date is acceptable.

5. The last time the Commission held a local public hearing for Stockton Hills (Case No. WR-2010-0202) it was held in the Stockton Community Building, Upper Level, 209 N. North Street, Stockton, Missouri. Public Counsel suggests the same location would be appropriate, if available.

6. Public Counsel further requests the Commission order the company to provide written notice of the local public hearing to each customer.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel requests the Commission schedule a local public hearing in this case.

Respectfully,

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 all counsel of record this 11th day of May 2017:

/s/ Tim Opitz
