

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
Brandco Investments, LLC and Hillcrest )  
Utility Operating Company, Inc., for Hillcrest )  
to Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets )  
of Brandco and, In Connection Therewith, )  
Issue Indebtedness and Encumber Assets )

**Case No. WO-2014-0340**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TARIFFS**

**COMES NOW** Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its *Recommendation to Approve Tariffs* states as follows:

1. On March 23, 2015, Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc. ("Hillcrest") filed its *Adoption Tariffs for Water and Sewer (YW-2015-0279, YS-2015-0280)* ("*Adoption Tariffs*").

2. Also, on March 23, 2015, Hillcrest filed a *Motion for Expedited Treatment* for approval of its *Adopted Tariffs*.

3. On March 24, 2015, the Commission in its *Order Directing Staff to File Recommendation Regarding Tariff*, directed Staff to file a recommendation regarding the tariffs filed by Hillcrest.

4. Staff has reviewed the tariffs filed by Hillcrest and recommends that the Commission approve Hillcrest's tariffs and that the tariffs take effect immediately.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff respectfully submits its *Recommendation to Approve Tariffs*.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Alexander Antal**

Alexander Antal  
Assistant Staff Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 65487

Attorney for the Staff of the  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-8517 (Telephone)  
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)  
Alexander.Antal@psc.mo.gov (e-mail)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been served to all counsel of record by hand delivery, electronic mail or First Class United States Mail this 26th day of March 2015.

**/s/ Alexander Antal**

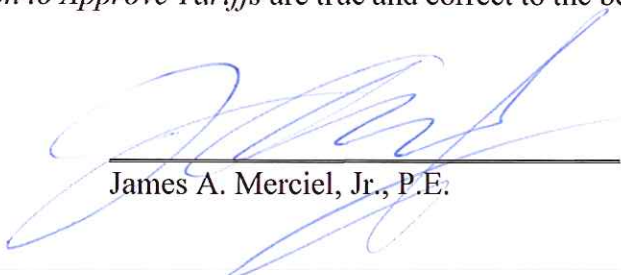
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of	)	
Brandco Investments, LLC and Hillcrest Utility	)	
Operating Company, Inc., for Hillcrest to	)	File No. WO-2014-0340
Acquire Certain Water and Sewer Assets of	)	YW-2015-0279
Brandco and, In Connection Therewith, Issue	)	YS-2015-0280
Indebtedness and Encumber Assets	)	

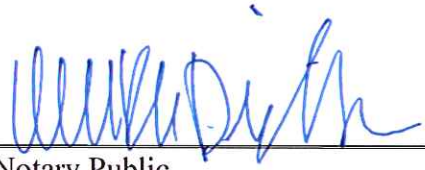
AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES A. MERCIEL, JR., P.E.

STATE OF MISSOURI     )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF COLE     )

James A. Merciel, Jr., P.E., of lawful age, on his oath states: (1) that he is the Assistant Manager – Engineering in the Water and Sewer Unit of the Missouri Public Service Commission; (2) that he participated in the preparation of the foregoing *Staff's Recommendation to Approve Tariffs*; (3) that certain information in the *Staff Recommendation to Approve Tariffs* was provided by him; (4) that he has knowledge of matters set forth in the *Staff Recommendation to Approve Tariffs*; and (5) that such matters set forth in the *Staff Recommendation to Approve Tariffs* are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James A. Merciel, Jr., P.E.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

LAURA DISTLER Notary Public - Notary Seal STATE OF MISSOURI Commissioned for Cole County My Commission Expires: June 21, 2015 Commission Number: 11203914
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