

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

In the Matter of Elm Hills Utility Operating            )  
Company, Inc's Request for a Water and                )  
Sewer Rate Increase                                        )        File No. WR-2020-0275

**ELM HILLS' PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

**COMES NOW** Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. ("Elm Hills" or "Company"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and, for its *Proposed Procedural Schedule*, states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission"):

1. Elm Hills continues to believe a hearing that is "consistent with the requirements of due process and fairness to the parties" cannot be scheduled/held within the remaining timeframe allowed for rates to be set under the Staff Assisted Rate Procedure. The Company further believes that a waiver of the rule's deadlines would violate its right to fair and reasonable rates, since all parties appear to agree that some rate increase is necessary in this case.

2. Notwithstanding these positions, Elm Hills is in general agreement with the procedural schedule filed by the Staff of the Commission ("Staff") as to the form of schedule (simultaneous direct and rebuttal, as well as the expedited data request response times). However, it does seek to make slight adjustments to the dates proposed by Staff, starting with the rebuttal testimony.

3. Elm Hills has been exploring the potential hiring of a rate of return expert that can prepare and file testimony in this case on the Company's behalf at this late date and under an expedited schedule. Elm Hills has engaged in preliminary discussions with a witness that may be able to do so (although it is still awaiting final

confirmation from that witness). However, the witness would not be able to file rebuttal testimony on October 13, 2020 and would need this date moved to October 16, 2020. Making this change also requires the adjustment of certain other dates.

4. Elm Hills is aware that the Commission has directed that the List of Issues and Statements of Position be filed four days in advance of hearing. The Company has been unable to accommodate both the potential witness' availability and the four day period in its proposal. Thus, it asks that the Commission allow for the filing of these documents within three and two days, respectfully, and approve the following schedule:

<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Direct Testimony – All Parties	October 5, 2020
Rebuttal Testimony	October 16, 2020
Stipulation of Facts	October 19, 2020
List of Issues, Order of Witnesses, Etc.	October 19, 2020
Statements of Position	October 20, 2020
Evidentiary Hearing	October 22, 2020 <sup>1</sup>
Post-Hearing Briefs	October 30, 2020

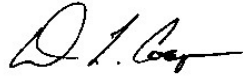
**WHEREFORE**, Elm Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving the Staff's Proposed Procedural

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<sup>1</sup> Elm Hills understands that the Commission's hearing calendar reflects that Case No. GU-2020-0376 is set for this day. However, Elm Hills is also aware that an Order Suspending the Procedural Schedule has been issued in that case subsequent to the filing of a unanimous stipulation and agreement.

Schedule, with the adjustments proposed herein.

Respectfully submitted,

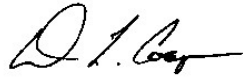


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**ATTORNEYS FOR ELM HILLS UTILITY  
OPERATING COMPANY, INC.**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2020, to all counsel of record.



Dean L. Cooper