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# BEFORE THE PUBLI C SERVI CE COMM SSI ON STATE OF M SSOURI 

TRANSCRI PT OF PROCEEDI NGS
Evi dentiary Hearing
March 21, 2016
Jefferson City, M ssouri
Vol ume 15

In The Matter Of M ssouri-Ameri can Water Company's Request For Authority To I mpl ement A Gener al
Rate I ncrease For Vater And Sewer
File No.
Servi ce Provi ded In M ssouri
Servi ce Areas.
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STEPHEN M STOL,
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COMM SSI ONERS

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J UDGE J ONES: We are on the record in
Case Number WR-2015-0301. This is M ssouri Ameri can Water Company's request to implement a general rate increase. My name is Kennard Jones. I'mthe judge presi ding over this matter. We have all five Cormi ssi oners present.

And at this timelet's take entries of appearance begi nni ng with M ssouri American.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, your Honor. Dean
Cooper and Wiliam Engl and on behalf of M ssouri
American hater Company. The court reporter has the address.

J UDGE J ONES: And the Office of the Publ ic Counsel ?

MR. POSTON: Good morning. Marc Poston appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel and the publ ic.

J UDGE JONES: For the Staff of the Commi ssi on?

MR. THOMPSON: Kevin Thompson for the Staff of the Mssouri Public Service Cormission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, M ssouri 65102.

JUDGE JONES: l'mgoing to go by si gnat ures to the stip. Let's start with Triumph Foods. Anyone here for Tri umph? AG Processing? City

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of St. Joseph? Empi re District El ectric Company?
MR. COOPER: Judge, I thi nk you have maybe the stip from that last rate case.

J UDGE J ONES: Oh, okay. Thanks. Well,
in that case, l'mgoing to throw this over my shoul der and we'll just -- we'll just start behi nd OPC.

Mr. Dority?
MR. DORI TY: Thank you, Judge. Appearing on behalf of the Public Water Supply Districts Numbers 1 and 2 of Andrew County, Larry Dority with Fi scher and Dority. And our information has been provided to the court reporter. Thank you.

J UDGE J ONES: Okay. And next?
MR. DOWWEY: Judge, Edward Downey on behal f of the Mssouri Industrial Energy Consumers. And the court reporter has my address and contact i nf o .

J UDGE J ONES: Okay.
MR. ANTAL: Al ex Antal for the Mssouri
Di vision of Energy. The court reporter has our address and contact information. Thank you.

MR. ELLI NGER: Marc Ellinger and
Stephanie Bell for the City of Joplin. The court reporter has our information al so.

J UDGE JONES: Continue. Is that it? Are
there any ot her --
MR. WENZEL: Keith Wenzel, Spencer Fane Law Firmon behal f of the City of Riverside.

J UDGE J ONES: And are there any ot her attorneys here representing parties in the case? All right. I don't see any hands.

As you all know, this is the presentation of the Non- unani mous Stipul ation and Agreement in the case. I bel ieve the Chai rman wants to start of $f$ with a concern before we get started to the meat of the agr eement.

CHAl RMAN HALL: Good morning. On March 11th, the Commi ssi on issued an order excusing the Staff fromfiling a reconciliation, and I quote, Because there's no longer any differences among the parties as to the revenue requi rement.

I guess my question first is to Staf, though ot her parties can weigh in. How difficult would it be to do the reconciliation as of whatever date -- whatever date prior to an agreement, prior to the stipul ation?

MR. THOMPSON: We have that reconciliation for you this morning.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Wonderful. Well, that takes care of that. Thank you.

J UDGE J ONES: Okay. There isn't a particular process beyond the commissioners si mply asking questions. With that, do you all prefer who actually presents the overall stipulation among the parties? Is there a preference; Staff, Company? Or are you all just wanting to field questions? Say yes or no.

MR. COOPER: I thi nk we would be fine with just fiel ding questions, your Honor.

J UDGE J ONES: Okay. All right.
MR. THOMPSON: Judge, we have some handouts that we' d like to provi de to the Commission that include that reconciliation that l just mentioned. And perhaps it would be hel pful for you all to have those in front of you as we go forward.

JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.
Okay. Staff has passed out two documents, the reconciliation -- or actually three pieces of paper. I'massuming all of these are the reconciliation?

MR. THOMPSON: The reconciliation properly is the second document (indi cating).

J UDGE J ONES: Okay.
MR. THOMPSON: The first document is the corrected true-up revenue requirement. As you're aware, the rate case is a lot like a tax audit and as
the case progresses, the parties work towards getting to the right numbers. And the purpose of the true-up is to update the numbers and bring other known and material changes into the case and to get you to your final numbers that the case decision is going to be based on. So that's what sheet nunber one shows, are the final true-up corrections made to reach the revenue requi rement of 17.6 million .

Then the second document is the reconciliation proper. And that's based on the true-up corrected revenue requirement figure. You'll see that 17.6 million at the very bottom on the second page.

The reconciliation issue by issue shows what the issues are worth in each parties' case. You start at the top with the Company's case and then you go down issue by issue showing subtractions from or additions to the Company's number based on Staff's position or on the other parties' positions until you finally get at the very bottom that 17.6, which is the number that Staff believes the Company should get, compared to the number at the very top, the 53.7, whi ch is what the Company suggested it should recei ve.

The third page shows how the
30. 6 stipul at ed revenue requi rement, how that i mpacts
the various districts, both sewer and water. At the top, the various sewer districts are shown with the i mpact to their revenue requi rement either positive or negative; negative meaning they would actually recei ve a decrease, positive meaning that they will recei ve an increase. And the total impact of sewer is the 2, 055, 059 figure.

The lower half of the page does the same thing by water di strict. Agai $n$, showing increases or decreases in the case of St. Joseph and Whitebranch and the total water impact, that is the 28,544, 941. Those two figures adding to 30.6.

And as note three shows, the ISRS is -well, note one points that the ISRS is 25.8 million and that the increased -- absent the in- the ISRS, the total company increase is 4.7 million .

MR. COOPER: The one thing that I would add to what Mr. Thompson was describing there is that he tal ked in terms of the third sheet representing increases or decreases to individual di stricts. And I think when you start tal king about rates, that's a function of rate design ultimately. And I don't think that should be taken as -- as a representation of rate i mpact at this point in time.

MR. THOMPSON: That's true. The rate
design is unsettled. And maybe I should say sheet number three reflects one way that the revenue requi rement could be di stributed out to the districts, but of course it could be done in different ways.

J UDGE JONES: So the one way, is this
Staff's position? ls this based on Staff's position?
MR. THOMPSON: It's based on a
di strict-specific stand-al one methodol ogy.
JUDGE JONES: What does that mean?
CHAI RMAN HALL: Well, in fact, that woul d be OPC's position, right? Because both Staff and the company have some consol idation --

MR. THOMPSON: Ri ght
CHAI RMAN HALL: -- and OPC's position is that it should be unchanged. So this would, in fact, be OPC's position?

MR. THOMPSON: I bel ieve that to be true.
CHAI RMAN HALL: Okay.
J UDGE J ONES: So on the reconciliation page if l look at accrued pension, that's 9 dollars? That tank painting is less 9 dollars? I mean -- or is it million? l don't know.

MR. THOMPSON: It's a very minor difference of rate-base between the Company's position and the Staff's position on that particular issue.

I'mtold there's a different regul at ory asset bal ance.
J UDGE JONES: Well, my question though,
the 9 represents 9 dollars though?
MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
J UDGE J ONES: Okay.
MR. POSTON: Chai rm@n, if I could respond just to a second about what you had commented about the individual impacts, about this being OPC's position. I believe this would be the position -- or these are the impacts if you were to have every di strict be a stand-al one district. And that's -- our position is the status quo, whi ch there is some consol idation. So this would actually not be OPC's position on the impacts for each district.

MR. COOPER: Judge, would it be hel pf ul for us to wal $k$ you through the stipulation and kind of hit on the hi gh points as we --

J UDGE J ONES: That's a fantastic idea, Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: As you can see, the -- we start the stipulation with the total company, that's both water and sewer, revenue requi rement increase of 30.6 milli on. And that rel ates directly to the documents that -- that Staff has passed out this norni ng.

On the document that -- that had the indi vi dual service areas listed, you can see at the very bottomthat -- in that note three, that that 30.6 million -- if you take into account that the Company's al ready recei ving dollars under the ISRS, that 30.6 million on a total company basis would -would represent about, in Staff's view, a 1.98 percent increase. Again, net of the ISRS dollars that are al ready there.

We have identified in that -- that issues resol ved paragraph a laundry list of thi ngs that rel ate back to the original list of issues that was filed by the parties. In the parties' view, the terms of this stipulation take of the table, fromtheir perspective, each of those listed issues. So quite a few issues that, again, if this stipulation is approved, would not need to be tried fromthe parties' perspective.

One of the itens there in paragraph 3 that's addressed and was an issue in the case are the appropriate depreciation rates for the Company, both on the water and the sewer side. You can see referenced in Attachment A and in Attachment B those are the agreed-to depreci ation rates that the stipulation asks the Commission to approve and order
the Company to utilize on a going-forward basis.
Paragraph 4 concerns the company's
general ledger, how it rel ates back to the NARUC Uni form System of Accounts, includes a date by which that general ledger will rel ate both on the water and the sewer side to the uniformsystem of accounts.

That was primarily a Staff issue in the case.
Paragraph 5 is one of the two Division of
Energy issues. They had both a demand si de proposal and a supply side proposal. The -- what is incl uded in this stipulation is a -- is a collaborative process that would be utilized for some demand side investment, some programs. 150,000 is -- is deemed to be a part of that revenue requi rement increase and woul d be available for those purposes; 100, 000 for the specified prograns and then 50,000 potentially for admini stration and eval uation.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Mr. Cooper --
MR. COOPER: Yes.
COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: -- there's a lot of time spent in this -- on the stip in energy effici ency. How many customers are we tal king for the hi gh- effici ency toilets and efficiency kits contbi ned?

MR. COOPER: Well, we had -- we had di vi ded it out at one point and thought it could be

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9, 000 customers together bet ween those two thi ngs.
COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Is that first come, first serve?

MR. COOPER: Well, first off, the original proposal is to only offer it in Jefferson City and St. Louis. So that's the -- those are the areas at least we' re goi ng to start with in tal king about in a collaborative, hoping that we can contbi ne, but --

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: You're goi ng to -you're goi ng to concentrate in those areas, but you have the opportunity to go el sewhere if you can't get those customers in those areas. Correct?

MR. COOPER: Certainly the collaborative could -- could go el sewhere if it needed to. Jeff City and St. Louis were chosen because Ameren has sore prograns al ready and we're hoping there's the opportunity to devel op some efficiency in the delivery process by -- by working with them

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: So are -- and you -- the preference with low income, how are you goi ng to determine that?

MR. COOPER: Well, I think that's going to be devel oped through the -- through the col Iaborative to -- to further define how we' re going

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to define those folk so --
COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: And your company's not part of the collaborative. You just -- they just meet occasi on- - like once every quarter they said and then they core to you with ideas?

MR. COOPER: Well, our -- our company will be a part of the collaborative al ong with the Staff, OPC and Division of Energy.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: That's not how it seens to say to me.

MR. COOPER: Yeah, you're looking at that subparagraph 3 there where there's a listing of Staff, OPC and --

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: And four. Four, the Company and the collaborative. I'mjust curious.

MR. COOPER: Yeah. I certai nly bel i eve that as a part of the collaborative, we will participate in the collaborative.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Okay. And on -just on the supply side of that demand side, on page 5, you say, To be addressed in a subsequent agreement.

Is that like -- is that -- are we expecting that to be done during this hearing or are we expecting it to be done sometime in the future or what's that?

MR. COOPER: Well, I would describe it as i mminent at this point. We have one -- one piece of information that's really not rel ated to the supply side proposal to get worked out and then there is a partial stipulation that I would expect to see.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: So that woul d be i ncl uded sone time here?

MR. COOPER: Yes.
COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank you.
MR. COOPER: Paragraph 6 would be the treat ment of any future ISRS that might result. It's ki nd of a common aspect of these -- these Stipulation and Agreements both for the gas and -- and paths for the company to go ahead and to the extent that that's utilized in the future, to -- to determine some of the itens that are going to be used for the cal culation of the revenue requirement in that future ISRS.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Mr. Cooper,
regar di ng that ISRS, what if the appellate deci sion is uphel d? How does that affect? Wbuld it just stay zero or --

MR. COOPER: It would just stay at zero would be my understandi ng, yes, Commissioner.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Until the next

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census or --
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MR. COOPER: Could be. That's one of the possi bilities. I thi nk it -- yeah, I -- fromthe Company's perspective, we thi nk it's done a lot of good, we think it's attacked a problemthat certai nly this Cormi ssion recognized as far as back as 2001 in terns of line repl acement in --

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: I agree with you 100 percent.

MR. COOPER: -- St. Loui s County.
COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank you.
MR. COOPER: Paragraph 7, pensi on and OPEBS, that -- that's a common tracker for most of the industries. In this agreement we essentially continue the prior treatment of pension and OPEBs, but if you'll look at Attachment C , there's agreement as to where everyone is with the various numbers within that tracker as of this point in time.

Paragraph 8, as you know, the Company had made a revenue stabilization mechani smproposal. It's withdrawing that as a part of this stipulation. It is al so withdrawing its proposal for an envi ronmental cost adj ustment mechanism And that's paragraph 9.

Paragraph 10 indicates that the prior tank pai nting tracker will be di scontinued on the effective date of rates and then al so addresses how
the current regul at ory asset bal ance will be anrortized over the next five years. There were issues raised about -- concerning some of the Company's meters and then al so an aspect of its books with negative reserve bal ances. There will be investigative dockets opened to further deal with those itens.

J UDGE J ONES: Before you nove on, on that item doesn't this issue affect other issues or have those issues been resol ved? I mean it seens like you have to resol ve this issue in this case.

MR. COOPER: I think that the issues that some parties may have alleged would be impacted by these are settled as a result of this Stipulation and Agreement so --

J UDGE J ONES: Okay.
MR. COOPER: Paragraph 12, we have identified how we contempl ate that rate case expense is being dealt with within this revenue requirement. Increase, it's -- again, similar to what l mentioned in terms of the demand-side prograns. It's a -- it's a part of that identified revenue requirement i ncrease.

And then lastly, one of the Company's proposal s was to consol idate its sewer tariffs. And when I talk about that consolidation, l'mreally
tal king about the rules and regul ations consol idation. And the parties have agreed to deal with that on a sort of -- on a group basis in a future proceeding in a workgroup to work through those issues.

There are some -- there's some uni queness on the sewer side from one service area another and it's our hope certainly that the parties will be able to work through those issues and come up with a single set of rules and regul ations for the Company's sewer -- provi sion of sewer service. That process is not unlike how we approach the water consol idation when we got to the -- what is really the primary water tariff, Number 13. So that would be -- the goal there would be to consolidate those rul es and regul ations.

The remai nder of the stip is -- and I hesitate to say boilerplate, but sort of the common in substance general provisions that would be rel ated to a Stipulation and Agreement that you would see.

JUDGE JONES: Are there any questions fromthe Commissi oners? Mr. Chai rman?

CHAI RMAN HALL: Thank you. First of all, I appreciate the parties' efforts to resol ve the various di sputes in this -- in this case. When the list of issues came out a week or so -- actually l guess it was the Friday before the hearing was to
commence, there was l believe 41 issues. Sore that were very, very si gnificant; some were like postage. So I mean at -- just at the outset, I want to -- । want to make it clear that speaki ng for myself, the Commi ssion favors settlement of issues. and good work by good peopl e leading to though -- I eadi ng to that resol ution is a good thing.

Having said that, there is a matter of transparency. And I don't know exactly where transparency denands trump -- I shoul dn't have used that word -- I don't know -- know where -- where -where transparency is more important then -- then resol ution.

Our systemis such that we' ve got all interested parties around the table and they negotiate a deal. And in theory, if all the parties are invol ved, the resol ution is fair and just, leading to fair and reasonable rates. But l've got some concerns -- some overarching concerns about transparency.

Now, I don't believe that every single itemfrom ROE down to postage needs to be delineated. But there are some overarching issues, some -- some categories of issues that l believe the public interest is such that it needs to be set forth.

Now, I don't -- I don't necessarily bel ieve that we have to know exactly what the ROE is. I don't believe that we have to know exactly what the O and M costs are, but I do believe that we need to have some general sense as to those categories; one for transparency, but two -- and this is where l -I -- I think OPC's interests are particularly acute, if we ever were to get into an over-earni ngs situation, how would we know?

If we don't know ROE, if we don't know rate-base, if we don't know $O$ and $M$ if we don't know any of these categories that make up the revenue requi rement, how are we to eval uate whether or not there is an over-earning situation? That's a problem for me.

So let me -- let me ask this: My understanding is that Staff's position on ROE was 9. 25. M ssouri American was between 10 and 10.7. Is that accurate? Did I -- and what was OPC's position for ROE?

MR. POSTON: Ni ne.
CHAI RMAN HALL: Nine. Is there -- is it possi ble for the parties to agree as to what the range of an ROE was in this settlement?

MR. THOMPSON: It can be cal cul at ed from
the revenue requi rement number that was agreed.
The -- as we enter into di scussions of these things, be mindful -- or at least Staff is very mindful that we have two other rate cases that are active right now, another one that may perhaps be filed Iater this year.

In other words, we are -- we are
constantly doing rate- making with these compani es. And settlement is something that we at least try to achi eve in every case. Sometimes we're successful, somet imes we're not. And every party comes to the settlement table with a different strategy. Every party comes to the settlement table with certain thi ngs it wants to get and certain things it's willing to give.

And so as we di scuss those natters in this particular case, Staff is concerned that it might show its hand with respect to future cases and future negotiations. So understanding the Commission's drive to transparency as part of its responsi bility to the public for whom you are acting, some matters Staff believes need to be di scussed in-camera because there are other compani es watching, ot her parties who are going to sit down at future negotiation tables with Staff. And if Staff has -- has let too much of the
cat out of the bag on how it got to this settlement, then we believe our settlement efforts might be compromised in the future.

So if the Commission is willing to go into camera, then -- then Staff will provi de two further handouts which will show exactly which issues Staff gave up and to what extent, as well as the ROE of the black box settlement. But we would ask that that be done in-camera and that those documents be treated as highly confidential.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Well, I appreci ate that, Mr. Thompson. I'm not sure if an in-camera di scussion satisfies the transparency concern that I have. You -- you said the ROE could be, I guess, extrapol ated fromthe agreed-to revenue requi rement.

MR. THOMPSON: That's correct. It would requi re some assumptions and the ROE that you would reach would be different depending on what those assumptions are.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Is -- woul d it be possi ble for the parties to agree as to what that cal cul ation is and -- and incl ude that as part of the sti pul ation?

MR. COOPER: Chai rman, I think it would be difficult. You know, one of the aspects that
figures directly into that question -- and we' ve tal ked about it a little bit on our side -- is capital structure just to mention one -- one item And I think your -- there are some differences in this case about peopl e's recommended capital structures.

And so just taking into account that --
that issue makes it a little difficult to put your finger on an ROE. And I'mcertain that we'd all have different views of what that ROE is. Throwing in then what Mr. Thompson was mentioni ng, there's some ot her issues that are going to have some impact as well.

The one thing that I would like to mention though, you -- you had suggested that this is necessary to determine in an over-earni ngs context, whet her a company is over-earning or not. I'mnot sure that's the case.

I guess my experience has been if there are allegations of over-earning and you end up in a compl ai nt case, which I thi nk is the -- ultimately the vehi cle for bringing that bef ore the Cormission, the ROE question is not one of what was the ROE in the Iast rate case. The ROE question is one of what is the appropriate ROE at that point in time. So I don't thi nk that the absence of a stated ROE is going to prohi bit or -- or impede the ability to come forward
with an over-earni ngs complaint, if -- if someone would be in that situation.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Well, I woul d agree that it would not be di spositive, but l would take issue with your assertion that it would not impede, because I think it -- I think -- I think it could impede a compl ai nt case. And you're right, that is procedurally how that issue would be -- would be litigated.

Well, if there -- if it was -- if it's impossible for the parties to agree as to the ROE, what about a range of an ROE?

MR. THOMPSON: I can tell you it's within the range described by the witnesses.

CHAI RMAN HALL: That's not terribly hel pf ul. Is there any way of getting -- is there any way the parties could agree to something that was more narrow than that? And if the answer's no, the answer's no and we'll move on, but it is -- it is an area of concer $n$ for at least me.

COMM SSI ONER KENNEY: I just have one comment on that. It is a concern for me too, but M. Thompson, I appreci ate your expl anation of how Staff processes this because of future cases. That gi ves me a little more insi ght into perhaps why you
don't want to tip your hand. Thank you.
MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Cormi ssi oner.
Certainly -- certainly fromthe three documents Staff has handed out, the reconciliation and al so the revenue requirement corrections, documents one and two, show that Staff's position after the corrections was 17.6 million. The settlement is 30.6 million . So Staff went up 13 million . That's immediately apparent. What the details of that 13 million dollars is, that's the part that Staff would like to retain as confi dential.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: I'mgoing to jump in here. The company stated that everybody has different i deas on what the ROE is when we were tal king about trying to come up with a range. So my question is, if everybody has different ideas what the ROE is, then how can you si gn of $f$ on a stipulation? Because । don't think you' re going to go back to the people that are payi ng your sal aries and say, well, l thought it was a 9 percent ROE, it ended up bei ng 10. 75. Sorry. We all had different ideas.

MR. THOMPSON: The settlement di scussi ons were done -- if it's fair to say this at a very high Ievel -- in terms of total dollars. Everybody has a total dollar figure that they can live with or they
can't live with. Fromthe total dollar figure agreed, you can back into the ROE. You can cal cul ate an ROE. You have to make certain assumptions to do it. One assumption would be what capital structure are you usi ng.

So I assume the Company, in expl ai ni ng thi s to corporate headquarters back in New Jersey, would use their preferred capital structure. And using that, they would cal cul ate a particul ar ROE. Staff, on the other hand, would use its preferred capital structure.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: Now, woul d the Company knows Staff's preferred capital structure? MR. THOMPSON: Sure. Because that's in testimony.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: So the Company coul d say, Well, if we -- if they decided on our capital structure, it's going to be this, but if they decide on Staff's capital structure, it's going to be this --

MR. THOMPSON: Right.
COMM SSI ONER RUPP: -- ther of ore, gi vi ng us a range?

MR. THOMPSON: Exactly.
COMM SSI ONER RUPP: So that's something that could be cal cul at ed and given to the Commission?

In-camera is fine with me.
MR. THOMPSON: Absol utely. As I said, if the Commission's willing to take these documents in-camera, I have -- I have them prepared.

CHAI RMAN HALL: But why coul dn' t -- why would that have to be in-camera? If you took the revenue requirement and Staff's capital structure, that's just a calculator to determine what the ROE is. And then if we take the Company's capital structure and the agreed-to revenue requirement, then it's just a cal cul at or to determine the ROE. Why isn't that the range?

MR. COOPER: You know, there's more going on there, Chai rman, than just that. Because ultimately when you come down to it, I mean, you have a revenue requi rement. And a revenue requi rement dollar, whether it's the result of ROE or it's the result of the cap structure or it's the result of, you know, amortization of the tank painting, regul at ory asset or whatever, a dollar is a dollar is a dollar once it makes it to the revenue requi rement. And so that -- that's part of what makes it difficult to try to break out just the -- the ROE piece.

CHAI RMAN HALL: So I ooking at -- at Staff's reconciliation, l want to make sure l'm
readi ng this correctly. My -- Staff believes that the rate- base put forth by the Company in its application shoul d be adj usted south by $\$ 385,000$ is that correct?

MR. THOMPSON: That is correct.
CHAl RMAN HALL: So, Mr. Thompson, in al I the rate cases that you' ve worked on, that's a -consi dering the size of Mssouri American, that's a rel atively small adjustment. Correct?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
CHAI RMAN HALL: Okay. How woul d you characterize the 10.8 million adj ustment in -- in -it says expenses. That's O and M Right?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
CHAI RMAN HALL: Okay. How woul d you characterize that 10.8 million dollar adj ustment in light of the size of Mssouri American? Is that a rel atively small adjust ment or is that pretty si gni ficant or somewhere in bet ween?

MR. THOMPSON: I think it's significant.
CHAI RMAN HALL: And what was the maj or driver of that difference?

MR. THOMPSON: Vell, scanni ng this, it I ooks to me like the largest single issue is the el imination of Cl AC depreciation, okay, incentive compensation, l'mtold there was a significant
i nsur ance adj ustment. Depreciation was 2. 6, incentive comp was -- it looks like 2.8 or 2.9. 1.5 for the insurance. And then lots of smaller ones.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Okay. Let me ask a question about the stipulation on the ISRS provision. The pre-tax wei ghted cost of capital at 10.35, that seem® not -- our cal cul ations internally had -- had the wei ght -- the wei ghted cost of capital bet ween Staff and the Company as bet ween 7. 12 and 8.21. And that's not -- l don't believe that's in testimny. That's extrapol ating frominformation that's in the testimony. How does that 10.35 -- why is that so much hi gher?

MR. THOMPSON: It's factored up for taxes.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Can you expl ai $n$ that ? I'msorry. I don't understand that.

MR. THOMPSON: WEll, when you -- when you cal cul ate the revenue requi rement, you then have to, as they say, gross it up or factor it up because there's going to be taxes. In other words, you want the company to get five bucks, let's say, collect 5 dollars fromits customers. For themto get 5 dollars, they've actually got to collect nore because they're going to have to pay a tax on the

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money they collect fromtheir customers.
So you gross that up by miliplying it by the appropriate tax factor to see what the actual amount is that you're going to collect fromthe cust omers.

CHAI RMAN HALL: I thought taxes were a separate line itemfromthat.

MR. THOMPSON: Taxes feat ure into this in several different ways. Sometimes they're line items like property tax, for example, or the treat ment of accumul at ed deferred income tax. And sometimes they're applied as a -- as a separate el ement of the cal cul ation such as the gross-up for tax.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Wile I was not overjoyed by the Iack of specificity as to certain el ements in the non- unani mous stip, I did appreciate the stipulation as to -- as to rate case expense and I thi nk the -- the particular agreement worked out by the parties here makes sense.

I assume -- well, let me ask it this way: The cost associated with PricewaterhouseCoopers' audit and customer notices are to be paid 100 percent within the revenue requi rement. Is that because those are requi red activities and the thought was that it was -it was fair and reasonable for the -- for ratepayers

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to foot 100 percent of the bill?
MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
CHAl RMAN HALL: Well, I thi nk the parties did a good job of taking an overall concept that this Cormi ssion approved in the last rate case and customizing it to the specifics of this case. So I appreciate the parties' work in that area.

Can someone explain to me the difference of opinions bet ween the parties on capital structure? I assume that it has to do with the rel ationship bet ween Mssouri American and the parent.

MR. THOMPSON: That -- that question would best be answered by our capital -- cost of capital witness, if Mr. Murray could answer that question.

CHAI RMAN HALL: I'mfine with that.
MR. MURRAY: Good morni ng. Di d you want me to provide Staff's perspective? Staff's filed position is to use American Water's consolidated capital structure for purposes of ratemaking, setting rates for Mssouri American. The Company's recommendation was Mssouri American's capital structure. It was a proforma estimate through January 31st, 2016 whi ch they trued up with actual i nf or mation.

Mr. Gorman, which is the OPC's witness, hi s capital structure recommendation was based on the agreed-to capital structure in 2011 for purposes of setting the ISRS in that case. So that capital structure had about 50-- 50 poi nt -- you know, and some change -- 50.5 or somewhere around there, in that area of equity in that capital structure.

Staff's recommended us-- with using American Water's capital structure as of the test year had approxi mately 47 percent equity in the capital structure, where the Company's initial capital structure recommendation was 52 point, you know, three-some-odd percent. I can't remenber the specifics.

So with that -- with the more equity risk capital structure both, you know, with the company and with the Public Counsel, obvi ously, you know, when you have -- as was discussed a little while ago about the tax factor and the -- and ROE, if you used the same ROE in all three of those capital structures, the ranking would be that the Company would have a hi gher revenue requi rement for -- for capital structure, then it would be Public Counsel, then Staff would actually have been bel ow Public Counsel for revenue requi rement if the same ROE is applied to all the capital
structure recommendations.
And then one Iast note is -- is Staff did true- up the capital structure. And actually American Water's capital structure had less equity in the -- in the period through December 31st, 2015. But al so Mssouri American, when it trued up its capital structure, ended up having less equity in its capital structure then it had put in its proform estimate in Direct Testimony.

MR. J ENKI NS: Good morni ng,
Cormi ssioners. And I thi nk -- I thi nk Dave did a good -- this is JimJenkins with American Water. And Dave did a good job ki nd of summarizing.

I think to give you a little perspective sort of -- for example, our filed capital structure we forecasted at the begi nni ng of the case and we thought it was going to be about 52 percent equity. When we I anded in January of 2016, it actually went down to 50 percent equity. That ratio there is a major movement in revenue requi rement.

So, for example, if you would go to look at Staff's reconciliation -- and this is -- this is somet hing on us, for example, just in terns of forecasting, because it's hard to forecast. You got a Iot of moving parts, et cetera when you file something
over a year ahead of time. That moved our revenue requi rement case down essentially 4 million dollars. That would be something we would all agree on.

There are other examples as you go
through here that would be things we woul dn't agree on. And that's what makes this reconciliation process a challenge. You know, being a publicly traded company just in terns of we -- we have a view of what we think this rate increase is going to deliver in terns of, you know, ROE and a range. But the other parties have different views.

So obvi ously we think we're in the upper end of -- of the range. You know, we were at 10.7. In fact, in Sur rebuttal we dropped it down to 10.1 in terms of the midpoint, around 10 percent. So we think we're towards -- we're not in the 10 percent. We thi nk we're in the upper end. These parties here would probably vehemently di sagree and that's where you run into issues.

So you could take thi ngs like, you know, main break expense -- and parties can push back here, but just to gi ve you a sense in term of main break expense, you could look on this schedule and the Staff, in doing its role, was doing an average 12, 13, 14, adj usting some thi ngs for their vi ew with weather
and then picking a -- another point in time with respect to cost per break.

You know, our position would be, well, okay, if we accepted the average, whi ch we didin testimny, we might want to take a more current look of the cost per break. Obvi ously there's difference of opi ni on so at twel ve-thirty-one-fifteen, that cost per break is escal ated. And, you know, there's just -- just deals with a break and how much pavement's invol ved and then just the rel ative nat ure of that.

So you get into issues like that, you know, out -- and we' d have numerous of these type of issues that we'd take before you. And, you know, within your di scretion we'd make our best argument, the ot her parties would make theirs and probably come up with some -- you know, some sort of vi ew on that.

And so as we' ve assessed this case,
that's kind of what we' ve done is trying to look at each of the indi vi dual issues. And we don't know how they'd ultimately be deci ded, but we have an opi ni on in terns of what we think with prior precedent, so l don't know if that hel ps.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: Thank you for that. What I just heard is the range has been narrowed down
to 9 to just under 10 percent based on your comments. MR. JENKI NS: Yes. And we thi nk we're more towards the upper end, but the other parties probably think they're more towards the I ower end, but yes.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: Thank you.
CHAI RMAN HALL: So, Mr. Jenki ns, how difficult, in your view, would it be if we were to -we, the Commission, were to list five or six components that we believe are the most si gnificant -and I'msure they would not be terribly di sputed -most significant components of setting just and reasonable rates and the parties were asked to gi ve us a range on each of them incl uding ROE, incl udi ng O and M incl udi ng income taxes, incl udi ng maybe cost-of-service. I don't know. MR. J ENKI NS: No, I appreci ate that,
Chai rman. I mean, I do think it would be a challenge so gi ve you another perspective. Let's take, for exampl e, thi s insurance expense. Pretty big number with respect to the --

CHAI RMAN HALL: Yeah, I woul dn't -- I woul dn' t get down that granul ar though. It would be O and M and -- and it seems like you're about 10 million apart, at least based on Staff's
reconciliation. And that, I think, would satisfy at Ieast my-- my interest, if -- if that was what was articul ated; the difference bet ween the parties is 10 million dollars. And agai $n$, $\mathrm{I}-$ - and that's a reconciliation bet ween Staff and -- and the Company. Obvi ously OPC and the intervenors might have some differences. Is that -- is that -- is that somet hi ng's that's doable?

MR. JENKI NS: I do think it would be really hard. Because l think there's going to be a lot -- I mean that's part of this settlement process. There's goi ng to be a lot of differences, you know. You know, we'll have a vi ew on something that moves numbers around and Staff will have a different view. And I appreciate trying to get -- get in behi nd the settlement, but l just think frommy experience, that would be, you know, very challenging to do.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Is there agreement as to the cost of debt? I've got two different numbers, 5. 47 and 5.5. Is it one of those, somewhere in bet ween or --

MR. JENKI NS: In the -- in the true-up there's debt -- you know, some short-termdebt was incl uded in the capital structure, for example, whi ch pul led that down. In the true-up, the cost of debt

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is -- what l've got is 5.43. So it's in that -- it's in that range.

CHAI RMAN HALL: Is that Staff's number as
well ?
MR. MURRAY: I don't thi nk there's any probl em with the mechanics of the calculation. It all boils down to whether or not you use American Water or M ssouri American's capital structure. M ssouri American just has a slightly different cost of debt than Mssouri American. Obvi ously if you American Water's capital structure, there's 16 subsidiaries and some hol ding company debt.

And so just by the mere fact that Staff's recomendation includes a lot of debt that is not M ssouri American -- or at least, you know, the affiliate transactions, it -- it would be different, but mechanics is not a matter of di spute.

MR. JENKI NS: Yeah. I'd just add to that -- and Dave expl ai ned it right in terns of it -the consolidated capital structure or cost of debt is around 5.47. So it's operating in that kind of a range.

CHAI RMAN HALL: I don't thi nk I have any further questions. Thank you.

J UDGE J ONES: Commi ssi oner Stoll?

COMM SSI ONER STOLL: Actual Iy, I have no additional questions. I do appreciate those questions that have been asked and the responses have hel ped me a lot. Thank you.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: I had a question on the ISRS, the 10.53 percent cost of capital. If you could save me some time doi ng some research, how does that compare with the last rate case on the cost of capital? And you can unfactor it for taxes or --

MR. JENKI NS: I mean in the I ast -- so, for example -- the devil's al ways in the details. So in terns of the last case where we had spelled out what the capital structure was and what the ROE was, so for ISRS only we could cal culate. I don't have it in front of me, but we would calcul ate it. And my gut tells me the last case would be a little bit hi gher.

COMM SSI ONER RUPP: Yeah, yeah. If you can cal cul ate that and get that to me at some point, I'd appreci ate that. Thank you.

J UDGE JONES: Any ot her questions?
Okay. Well, I guess we're off the
record.
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i dentification.)
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( Whereupon, the hearing was adj ourned until March 23, 2016 at 9: 00 a.m)

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## CERTI FI CATE OF REPORTER

I, Tracy Thorpe Tayl or, CCR No. 939, within the State of Mssouri, do hereby certify that the testimony appearing in the foregoing matter was duly sworn by me; that the testimny of said witnesses was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that l am nei ther counsel for, rel ated to, nor empl oyed by any of the parties to the action in whi ch thi s matter was taken, and further, that I am not a rel ative or empl oyee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwi se interested in the outcome of the action.

Tracy Thorpe Tayl or, CCR

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| 314.496.3777 | $50.564: 6$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73: 10,12,13,15 \\ & 73: 16,18,19,21 \end{aligned}$ | 9:00 72:11 939 32:22 81:4 |
| $34: 6$ 314.725.8788 3 | $5264: 12$ 65:17 | $\begin{aligned} & 73: 16,18,19,21 \\ & 73: 22,2474: 1 \end{aligned}$ | 939 32:22 81:4 |
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| $3375: 2$ | 33:14 | 74:23,25 75:1 |  |
| $3475: 4$ | 573.634.2500 | 75:3,4,6,7,9,10 |  |
| 3575:5 | 33:24 | 75:12,13,15,16 |  |
| $3675: 7$ | 573.634.8115 | 75:18,19,21,22 |  |
| 36034:20 35:22 | 34:10 | 76:7,8,10,11 |  |
| 3775:8 | 573.635.7166 | 76:13,14,18,20 |  |
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| $\frac{\mathbf{4}}{444: 266: 273: 7}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathbf{5 7 3 . 7 5 1 . 5 5 5 8} \\ 34: 17 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 78: 11,13,14,16 \\ & 78: 17,19,20.22 \end{aligned}$ |  |
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|  | 6 | 79:7,9,10,12 |  |
| $\begin{gathered} 78: 3 \\ 4.740: 16 \end{gathered}$ | 647:10 72:6 | 79:14,16,18,20 |  |
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| 4375:17 | $6411134: 13$ |  |  |
| 4475:19 | $6450134: 2$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathbf{8 4 8 : 1 8 ~ 7 3 : 1 3} \\ 77: 478: 9 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| 4575:20 $452034: 13$ | 65101 33:8,13 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 77:4 78:9 } \\ & \mathbf{8 . 2 1 6 1 : 9} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 4520 $34: 13$ 45633 | 33:24 34:10 | $80034: 20$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{4 5 6} 33: 4 \\ & \mathbf{4 6} 72: 475: 22 \end{aligned}$ | $6510233: 16$ 34:17 35:22 | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} 800 \\ 816.279 .3000 \end{array}$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{4 6} 72: 475: 22 \\ & \mathbf{4 7} 64: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $34: 1735: 22$ $\mathbf{6 5 1 0 2 - 0 3 6 0}$ 34.21 |  |  |
|  | 65102-0360 $34: 21$ | 816.460.2545 |  |

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