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

In the Matter of Lake Region Water & Sewer ) Company's Application to Implement a ) General Rate Increase in Water and Sewer Service )

File No. WR-2013-0461 et al.

## **ORDER REGARDING DISCOVERY**

Issue Date: August 29, 2013 Effective Date: August 29, 2013 On July 16, 2013, Lake Region Water & Sewer Company filed its formal request to increase rates for its utility service. In order to more efficiently and effectively process this case, the Commission issues this order scheduling discovery response times, discovery conferences and a deadline to complete discovery.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Upon issuance of this order, the time allowed to respond to data requests will be twenty (20) calendar days, with ten (10) calendar days allowed to object or notify the requesting party that more than twenty (20) days will be necessary to provide the requested information.

2. After direct testimony is filed on November 22, 2013, the time allowed to respond to data requests will be ten (10) calendar days, with five (5) calendar days allowed to object or notify the requesting party that more than ten (10) days will be necessary to provide the requested information.

3. All data requests, subpoenas, or other discovery requests shall be issued no later than January 8, 2014. This deadline does not apply to true-up issues.

4. All motions to compel a response to any discovery request shall be filed no later than January 14, 2014. This deadline does not apply to true-up issues.

- 5. The following conditions shall apply to all data requests:
  - A. Data requests, responses, objections, or notifications respecting the need for additional time to respond shall be sent via e-mail to counsel for all the other parties.
  - B. Data request responses will also be served on the requesting party's employee or representative who submitted the data request and shall be served electronically, if feasible and not voluminous as defined by Commission rule.
  - C. If either highly confidential or proprietary information must be included in data request questions, the highly confidential or proprietary information should be appropriately designated as such pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.135. Counsel may designate other personnel to be added to the service list but shall assume responsibility for compliance with any restrictions on confidentiality.
  - D. If a party desires the response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request in this manner the party providing a response to a data request has the opportunity to object to providing the response to another party and is responsible for copying information purported to be highly confidential or proprietary thus, if a party wants a copy of a data request response by Lake Region to a Staff data request, the party should ask Lake Region, not the Staff, for a copy of the data request response unless there are appropriate reasons to direct the discovery to the party originally requesting the material.
  - E. If a party requests a data request response that has already been served on another party, and that request is received on or after the due date of the response, the responding party shall provide a copy of the response to the requesting party as soon as is reasonably practicable. However, if the request is received prior to the due date of the response, the responding party shall provide the response to all requesting parties contemporaneously. In no event shall a request for a copy of a response be considered to have initiated a new data request with new time limits.
- 6. Discovery conferences will be held on October 9, 2013, October 30, 2013,

December 4, 2013, and January 15, 2014. Any party that wishes to participate in the

discovery conference by telephone will be notified of the telephone conference number prior to the time set for the conference.

7. Discovery conferences shall be held at the Commission's office in the Governor Office Building, Room 305, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person or entity requiring additional accommodations to participate in this hearing shall call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearing.

8. Not less than two business days before each discovery conference, any party that has a discovery disagreement or concern involving another party shall file a brief statement describing that disagreement or concern and identifying any other parties involved. Such statement does not need to be a formal motion to compel. Any party may attend a discovery conference, but only those parties involved in an identified discovery disagreement or concern must attend. If the parties do not identify any discovery disagreements or concerns before the scheduled conference, the presiding officer may cancel the conference.

9. Discovery conferences shall be on the record and transcribed by a court reporter.

10. Any party seeking reconsideration of a ruling on discovery shall file a motion for reconsideration no later than five business days following the ruling.

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11. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.



## BY THE COMMISSION

Morris I Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 29th day of August, 2013.