

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company

Missouri-American Water Local Public Hearing

January 17, 2023

Vol 3

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Tuesday, January 17, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 12:22 p.m.

Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360
and WebEx

VOLUME 3
Pages 1 - 9

In the Matter of Missouri-American)
Water Company's Request for)
Authority to Implement General Rate) File No.
Increase for Water and Sewer) WR-2022-0303
Service Provided in Missouri)
Service Areas)

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, Commissioner
MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No.: 289237

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of Missouri-American Water Company:

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17 On behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel:

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22 BY: LINDSAY VanGERPEN
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24
25

1 The following proceedings began at 12:13 p.m.:

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: We are on the record. Good
3 afternoon. The Missouri Public Service Commission has
4 set this time for a local hearing in File No.
5 WR-2022-0303. That's the Missouri-American general rate
6 case. The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates
7 the rates charged by investor-owned utility companies in
8 Missouri to ensure that these rates are just and
9 reasonable.

10 The Commission also regulates the quality and
11 service and safety of the operations of these utilities.
12 The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to fixed
13 terms and confirmed by the Senate. The Commissioners
14 also employ a staff of engineers, accountants,
15 attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in
16 the field of utility regulation.

17 Good afternoon. I am Ron Pridgin. I am a
18 Regulatory Law Judge for the Commission and I will
19 preside over this hearing. I believe with me on the
20 line today will be Commissioners Rupp, Coleman and
21 Holsman.

22 This is an official hearing of the Commission,
23 and statements and testimony of witnesses will be
24 recorded by the court reporter and must be given under
25 oath.

1 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Commissioner
2 Kolkmeier is here.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Kolkmeier, thank
4 you.

5 The Commissioners will have a chance to read
6 all of the witnesses' remarks. And the purpose of this
7 hearing is to hear from you. The Company will not
8 present witnesses and will not answer questions. This
9 is your chance to testify, and your remarks will be made
10 a part of the official record of this case.

11 To my knowledge, I don't know if anyone has
12 signed up to testify yet, but I will certainly give
13 people the chance to testify if they want to whether
14 they've signed up or not. If you do testify, please
15 spell your name for the court reporter so she can put it
16 in the record correctly, and I will ask a few
17 preliminary questions such as your name and whether
18 you're a customer of Missouri-American and then you can
19 testify.

20 You may also receive questions from the
21 Commissioners. So please be prepared to answer those
22 questions in case you have any. Does anyone have any
23 questions about today's procedure? All right. I hear
24 no questions.

25 Let me give counsel the chance to enter an

1 appearance. Let me begin with Missouri-American Water
2 Company, please.

3 MS. NIEMEIER: Good afternoon, Judge. Good
4 afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Rachel Niemeier.
5 I'm appearing on behalf of Missouri-American Water
6 Company today, along with Tim Luft. Our business
7 address is 727 Craig Road in St. Louis, Missouri 63141.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Lutz, thank
9 you. Any entry of appearance from the Staff of the
10 Commission? All right. Hearing no appearance. Any
11 entry of appearance from the Office of the Public
12 Counsel?

13 MS. KERR: I'm sorry.

14 MR. LUFT: Judge, I think Staff was trying to
15 enter.

16 MS. KERR: Sorry, I was on mute.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I understand. Not a problem.
18 Any entry of appearance from Staff?

19 MS. KERR: Yes. My name is Carolyn Kerr,
20 attorney for the Public Service Commission. Our address
21 is on the record.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Kerr, thank you. Any
23 entry on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel?

24 MS. VanGERPEN: Yes. Good afternoon, Your
25 Honor. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Lindsay

1 VanGerpen, and I'm an attorney for the Office of the
2 Public Counsel. Our address is 200 Madison Street,
3 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. VanGerpen, thank you. And
5 I know we have some intervenors. Let me just ask if
6 there are any other counsel who wish to enter an
7 appearance. All right. I don't hear any intervenors
8 who wish to enter an appearance. Let me see if any
9 Commissioners have any opening remarks before we see if
10 we have any witnesses who wish to testify. Commissioner
11 Rupp, any opening remarks, sir?

12 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No, Judge. Just
13 appreciate everybody logging in.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right, Commissioner.
15 Thank you. Commissioner Coleman, any remarks? I don't
16 hear anything from Commissioner Coleman. Commissioner
17 Holsman, any opening remarks, sir?

18 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge. Just
19 want to say thanks to anyone who takes the time to
20 testify today. Appreciate it.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Holsman, thank
22 you. Commissioner Kolkmeyer, any opening remarks?

23 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you, Judge. I
24 just want to welcome everybody here today to the public
25 hearing. We appreciate your comments. Thank you,

1 Judge.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner Kolkmeyer, thank
3 you. And I am conducting this by phone. I had trouble
4 logging into WebEx. So I am literally flying while
5 blind. I cannot see any verbal cues as to somebody
6 wanting to testify. I will simply ask if anyone wishes
7 to testify before the Commission today. Okay. I'm not
8 hearing any response.

9 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Judge, this is
10 Commissioner Rupp. Do we need to remind people if
11 they're calling in sometimes they need to hit like *9 or
12 something to unmute.

13 MS. KEELY: Judge, it's Jackie. It's *6 if
14 you're on your phone calling in and you need to unmute,
15 you'll hit the asterisk star and then the number 6 and
16 it should unmute you.

17 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you, Jackie.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Commissioner, thank you.
19 Jackie, thank you. Let me give people a minute in case
20 they need to unmute and they would like to testify
21 today. So does anyone wish to testify before the
22 Commission today?

23 All right. Going once, going twice. Let me
24 give people just another minute in case they're having
25 technical problems or just calling in. Let me give them

1 one last opportunity. Does anyone wish to testify in
2 today's hearing? All right. I think I've given three
3 opportunities. So I believe I will wrap up this hearing
4 if nobody wishes to testify.

5 Is there anything further from the
6 Commissioners or from counsel before we go off the
7 record? All right. I'm hearing nothing from
8 Commissioners or counsel or from witnesses. One last
9 opportunity. I'll give just a few seconds before I
10 close.

11 Anything from any witnesses or from the bench
12 or from counsel? All right. I'm receiving no response.
13 So that will conclude today's hearing in WR-2022-0303.

14 Thank you very much. We are off the record.
15 Thank you everyone for attending today. We'll try again
16 tomorrow night. Thank you so much.

17 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 12:22
18 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 8, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2023.



Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>12:13 3:1</p> <p>12:22 8:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>200 6:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6 7:13,15</p> <p>63141 5:7</p> <p>65102 6:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>727 5:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>9 7:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> <p>accountants 3:14</p> <p>address 5:7,20 6:2</p> <p>afternoon 3:3,17 5:3,4, 24,25</p>	<p>analysts 3:15</p> <p>appearance 5:1,9,10,11, 18 6:7,8</p> <p>appearing 5:5</p> <p>appointed 3:12</p> <p>asterisk 7:15</p> <p>attending 8:15</p> <p>attorney 5:20 6:1</p> <p>attorneys 3:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>began 3:1</p> <p>begin 5:1</p> <p>behalf 5:5,23</p> <p>bench 8:11</p> <p>blind 7:5</p> <p>business 5:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>calling 7:11,14,25</p> <p>Carolyn 5:19</p>	<p>case 3:6 4:10,22 7:19,24</p> <p>chance 4:5,9,13,25</p> <p>charged 3:7</p> <p>City 6:3</p> <p>close 8:10</p> <p>Coleman 3:20 6:15,16</p> <p>comments 6:25</p> <p>Commission 3:3,6,10,18, 22 5:10,20 7:7,22</p> <p>Commissioner 4:1,3 6:10, 12,14,15,16, 18,21,22,23 7:2,9,10,17, 18</p> <p>Commissioners 3:12,13,20 4:5,21 5:4,25 6:9 8:6,8</p> <p>companies 3:7</p> <p>Company 4:7 5:2,6</p> <p>conclude 8:13</p> <p>concluded 8:17</p> <p>conducting</p>	<p>7:3</p> <p>confirmed 3:13</p> <p>correctly 4:16</p> <p>counsel 4:25 5:12,23 6:2,6 8:6,8, 12</p> <p>court 3:24 4:15</p> <p>Craig 5:7</p> <p>cues 7:5</p> <p>customer 4:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>employ 3:14</p> <p>engineers 3:14</p> <p>ensure 3:8</p> <p>enter 4:25 5:15 6:6,8</p> <p>entry 5:9,11,18,23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>field 3:16</p> <p>File 3:4</p>
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