

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company

Missouri-American Water Local Public Hearing

January 19, 2023

Vol 5

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Thursday, January 19, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:02 p.m.

Missouri Southern State University
Robert Plaster Hall Auditorium
3950 Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
and WebEx

VOLUME 5
Pages 1 - 26

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)

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

MAIDA J. COLEMAN, Commissioner
JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner
GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner

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25

1 I N D E X

2		Page
3	Entries of Appearance	5
4	Witnesses:	
5	Thomas Aley	8
	Tammy Walker	14
6	Mike Hunley	18
	Marsha Miller	19
7	John Ockert	22
8	Certificate of Reporter	26

9

10 E X H I B I T

11		Page
12	Commission Local	
	Public Hearing Exhibit 1 -	
13	Statement of Thomas Aley at Missouri	
	Public Service Commission Hearing,	
14	Joplin, Missouri January 19, 2023	13

15 (The exhibit was retained by Judge John Clark
16 with the Missouri Public Service Commission.)

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1 The following proceedings began at 6:30 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: We're on the record. Good
3 evening. It is January 19, 2023, and the current time
4 is right around 6:30 p.m. and we are just outside of
5 Joplin, Missouri -- we're in Joplin, Missouri. Sorry
6 about that. Thank you.

7 We just finished the question-and-answer
8 portion. Hopefully you were able if you had questions
9 to get those questions answered.

10 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set
11 aside this time for a local public hearing in File No.
12 WR-2022-0303, which is a general rate case captioned as
13 In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company's
14 Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate
15 Increase for Water and Sewer Service Provided in its
16 Missouri Service Areas.

17 My name is John Clark, and I'm the Regulatory
18 Law Judge overseeing tonight's local public hearing.
19 Now, the Missouri Public Service Commission regulates
20 the rates charged by investor-owned utility companies in
21 Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and
22 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality
23 of service and the safety of operations for
24 investor-owned utilities.

25 The Commission is made up of five

1 Commissioners: Chairman Scott Rupp and Commissioners
2 Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman and Glen Kolkmeyer. Now,
3 if you'll notice I just said four Commissioners and
4 that's because one Commission seat is currently vacant.

5 Now, the Commissioners are appointed by the
6 Governor to fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate.
7 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
8 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other
9 specialists in the field of utility regulation. With me
10 today via WebEx are Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason
11 Holsman and Glen Kolkmeyer.

12 Would any of the Commissioners like to make an
13 opening statement? The court reporter is also present
14 via WebEx and will be transcribing this hearing so that
15 the Commissioners have an opportunity to review this
16 later and read any of the comments that are made.

17 I'm going to begin by asking counsel to enter
18 their appearance for the record starting with
19 Missouri-American Water Company.

20 MS. NIEMEIER: Good evening. Rachel Niemeier
21 and Tim Luft on behalf of Missouri-American Water
22 Company this evening.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Luft, thank
24 you. On behalf of the Staff of the Commission?

25 MR. COSPER: Good evening. I'm Don Cosper on

1 behalf of Staff.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Cospers. On
3 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel?

4 MS. VanGERPEN: Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of
5 the Office of the Public Counsel.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. VanGerpen. Are
7 there any intervenors who are present or any attorneys I
8 haven't called? Okay. I see none.

9 Now, for those who would like to provide
10 comments to the Commission today, I'm going to call the
11 names listed on the sign-up sheet in the order they
12 appear. When I call your name, please come to one of
13 the microphones that are up here and at that time I'll
14 place you under oath and I will ask you to state and
15 spell your name for the record and then you'll have an
16 opportunity to offer your comments to the Commission.
17 There aren't a lot of comments, so I'm not going to set
18 any time limitation on comments. But if comments start
19 to get repetitive or go off track from the case we're
20 talking about, then I may start to wind it up and cut
21 you short.

22 After you've finished offering your remarks,
23 please stay at the microphone until you've been excused.
24 Myself or the Commissioners may have questions for you.
25 If the attorneys have questions, please just get my

1 attention. I can't really see out of my peripheral
2 vision, so you may have to say something.

3 Now, the Commission will not be able to answer
4 your questions today, and that's because they have to
5 remain impartial until after evidence is presented at
6 the evidentiary hearing. If you have questions, please
7 speak to a representative of the Company, Commission
8 Staff or the Office of the Public Counsel. I know I'm
9 turning my head away from the mike. Can everybody hear
10 me okay?

11 Okay. Also, I would ask that everybody be
12 polite and treat the people at the microphone as you
13 would like to be treated. With that in mind, I will
14 call the first name, and correct me if I butcher your
15 name. Thomas Aley.

16 MR. ALEY: I pronounce it Aley.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Aley, I got it wrong the
18 first try. Thank you.

19 MR. ALEY: That's all right. Most do.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
21 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
22 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
23 truth?

24 MR. ALEY: I do.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell

1 your name for the record?

2 MR. ALEY: Thomas Aley, A-l-e-y.

3 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Aley, what would you
4 like to tell the Commission this evening?

5 THOMAS ALEY,
6 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 MR. ALEY: I have a written statement one page
8 long that I would like to leave with you after I present
9 it orally.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Would you like it admitted as an
11 exhibit for the purposes of this hearing?

12 MR. ALEY: Yes, I would.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Aley.

14 MR. ALEY: I'm Thomas Aley and I'm President
15 of the Ozark Underground Laboratory, 1572 Aley Lane,
16 Protem, Missouri. I specialize in groundwater tracing
17 with tracer dyes and have conducted major studies at
18 Joplin, at George Washington Carver National Monument,
19 and in Neosho. I am a licensed Missouri Registered
20 Geologist and have conducted groundwater investigations
21 at Missouri-American Water Company's planned water
22 supply reservoir 15 miles south of Joplin.

23 These studies were funded by property owners
24 who will be affected by this ill-planned reservoir.
25 This hearing is on Missouri-American's plan to raise

1 water rates by over 25 percent. My testimony is
2 relevant to this hearing because the planned reservoir
3 will result in major costs to water users in the Joplin
4 area in addition to the over 25 percent increase already
5 proposed.

6 Missouri-American has already applied for a
7 federal permit to build the reservoir and their project
8 is well advanced. With the pending reservoir, the 25
9 percent plus rate increase is only the tip of the rate
10 increase iceberg for local water users.

11 Missouri-American wants a lake on Baynham
12 Branch that would cover 1,200 acres, be 100 feet deep at
13 the dam and 80 feet deep over Lime Kiln Road, and supply
14 30 million gallons of water per day during periods when
15 the flow of Shoal Creek is low. Shoal Creek is the main
16 water supply for Joplin.

17 Much of the streamflow in the Baynham Branch
18 valley sinks into the cavernous limestone bedrock at
19 multiple points in the planned lakebed. The sinking
20 water bypasses the dam and discharges from springs where
21 it cannot be captured by the dam.

22 The rapid groundwater flows through multiple
23 natural conduits dissolved in the limestone has been
24 proven by our three groundwater traces. Leakage rates
25 in Baynham Branch are so great that the stream channel

1 at the planned dam site is routinely dry in the summer
2 even though the surface watershed is 15.7 square miles.
3 A dry channel is clearly not a good site for a dam to
4 store water for dry periods.

5 The springs fed by the leakage points in the
6 planned lakebed are at the base of a limestone bluff
7 along Shoal Creek. We installed continuous water flow
8 monitoring equipment at the largest of the springs and
9 recorded flow rates for 15 months. The highest measured
10 flow rate at this spring was 45.4 million gallons per
11 day. This occurred during a stormflow period on Baynham
12 Branch when the depth of the water in the channel
13 between Lime Kiln Pike and the planned dam averaged
14 about 8 feet.

15 If the lake were at the level that
16 Missouri-American plans, water over this stream channel
17 would be 80 to 100 feet deep. The deeper the water the
18 greater the leakage rates; leakage would be many times
19 the 45 million gallons per day we measured if the
20 reservoir were ever to fill. But it leaks too fast to
21 ever fill.

22 The leakage points are in the basin, not under
23 the dam. As a result, foundation treatments at the dam
24 will not solve the basin leakage. Missouri-American's
25 planned reservoir in Baynham Branch is a mirage based on

1 wishful corporate thinking. Given the massive leakage
2 rates, the lake will never fill and water users will not
3 get the water they need. If constructed,
4 Missouri-American will seek another big rate increase
5 for the cost of a failed project plus the profit margin.
6 There clearly is not much incentive in the public
7 utility business for making good water management
8 decisions.

9 Copies of our reports on Baynham Branch are
10 available at www.proposedjoplinreservoir.com. Thank
11 you.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second, Mr. Aley.
13 Is that proposedjoplinreservoir.com?

14 MR. ALEY: Correct.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Now, when you say you did a
16 continuous trace, would you just for my education tell
17 me what that is?

18 MR. ALEY: There are two things there. We had
19 continuous flow rate monitoring of the water coming out
20 of the spring to know what its flow rate was. That's
21 where we found during that 15-month period that the
22 highest instantaneous flow rate was the 45.4 million
23 gallons per day. The dye tracing was separate from
24 that. The dye tracing, we would put the tracer dyes in
25 losing stream segments of Baynham Branch where the flow

1 would go into the ground to see where that water went.
2 It does not have to stay in the basin, especially in
3 karst areas like this. We put the dye in and sampled
4 for it at a number of sampling points in the area. I
5 think we had something like 20 or 25 sampling points.
6 The results of that tracing were the dye comes out of
7 the springs that are adjacent to Shoal Creek. They are
8 not within the basin where the dam would be built.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. You indicated that
10 45.4 million was the maximum flow rate. Do you know per
11 chance what the average flow rate?

12 MR. ALEY: In the 15 months of record we have,
13 it is in one of the three reports we have. I don't have
14 those reports with me now. The important thing I think
15 is much of that monitoring -- well, it went through a
16 complete year. Sometimes the flows were routinely 10 or
17 15 million gallons per day. Other times at this
18 particular sampling point the flow was zero because
19 there was a lot of leakage out of the lake into which
20 this dam -- this spring discharged. The spring is
21 covered up by a 3-acre lake. In order to measure the
22 flow of the spring, we had to gauge the flow coming out
23 of the pipe that drained the lake. That flow would
24 sometimes go to zero indicating that we were not getting
25 all of the flow at the spring.

1 JUDGE CLARK: That makes sense. You had
2 indicated you wanted to submit your statement as an
3 exhibit.

4 MR. ALEY: May I come forward.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Please. I will take that.
6 Thank you, Mr. Aley. If you'll stand back to the
7 microphone for just a second, I'll see if there are any
8 more questions. Are there any more questions for Mr.
9 Aley?

10 Go ahead, Mr. Luft.

11 MR. LUFT: Mr. Aley, were you present in the
12 question-and-answer session when representatives of
13 Missouri-American said the reservoir is not part of this
14 rate case?

15 MR. ALEY: Yeah, I heard that.

16 MR. LUFT: Thank you.

17 MR. ALEY: And I recognize that.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other questions
19 for Mr. Aley? Okay. Mr. Aley, I'm going to take your
20 statement. It says Statement of Thomas Aley at Missouri
21 Public Service Commission Hearing, Joplin, Missouri,
22 January 19, 2023, and that will be marked as Commission
23 Local Public Hearing Exhibit 1, and that will be
24 admitted onto the record of this local public hearing.

25 (COMMISSION LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING EXHIBIT 1 WAS

1 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION AND RECEIVED AND MADE A PART
2 OF THIS RECORD.)

3 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for your
4 comments, Mr. Aley.

5 MR. ALEY: Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Is there a Ralph Tyler?

7 MR. TYLER: Decline for now.

8 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. Say that again,
9 please.

10 MR. TYLER: Decline for now.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. If you want to make a
12 statement at the end, I'll come back to you.

13 MR. TYLER: Okay.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Tammy Walker. Ms. Walker, would
15 you raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or
16 affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this
17 local public hearing is the truth?

18 MS. WALKER: Yes.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Would you state and spell your
20 name for the record?

21 MS. WALKER: Tammy Walker, T-a-m-m-y
22 W-a-l-k-e-r.

23 TAMMY WALKER,
24 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 JUDGE CLARK: And Ms. Walker, what would you

1 like to tell the Commission this evening?

2 MS. WALKER: I have a prepared statement. My
3 name is Tammy Walker, and I'm the Director of Community
4 Development at Economic Security Corporation. We are a
5 nonprofit community action agency serving Jasper,
6 Barton, Newton and McDonald Counties. Our agency has a
7 cornucopia of programs that help low-income families and
8 individuals.

9 Our agency receives a number of grants that
10 help low-income families and individuals with utilities.
11 The largest utility program we receive is LIHEAP.
12 That's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. With
13 these funds, we operate the Energy Assistance Program
14 and Energy Crisis Intervention Program.

15 Last year our agency served 5,328 households
16 in the Energy Assistance Program.

17 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. Can you say that
18 number again, please?

19 MS. WALKER: 5,328.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

21 MS. WALKER: The average household size was
22 2.23, and 92 percent of those households we served were
23 elderly and/or disabled. Also, 92 percent of those
24 assisted households had incomes under 75 percent of the
25 poverty guideline.

1 To give you an example of how much money this
2 is, for a one-person household this is less than \$849
3 per month. We also receive winter and summer funds in
4 our Energy Crisis Intervention Program, and last year we
5 served 2,897 households with assistance. I know these
6 two programs do not help with water bills, but it is a
7 good representation of our customer base that we serve.

8 Last year our energy -- our agency rolled out
9 a new federally funded program to help with water bills.
10 We received LIHWAP funds, Low Income Household Water
11 Assistance Program. This program is designed to assist
12 low-income individuals and families with their water and
13 wastewater bills.

14 A qualifying customer can receive assistance
15 with their water and/or wastewater bill only one time
16 during the year. The maximum amount of assistance a
17 household could receive is up to \$750. Our agency has
18 assisted 865 households since the program started. 56
19 percent of those customers are Missouri-American Water
20 customers who received assistance that totals
21 \$76,546.24.

22 Here are a few examples of some of our utility
23 customers. I've changed their names. David is a 71
24 disabled veteran with a household income of \$1,236 a
25 month. Mary and Bill are both in their 60s, they're

1 both disabled, they both receive SSI, their two
2 grandchildren live with them. Their household income is
3 \$1,682 a month.

4 Cathy is a 37-year-old single mom with five
5 kids who range from age from 2 years old to 16 years
6 old. Her household income is \$1,265 per month in child
7 support. The cost of basic needs is a huge challenge
8 for our customers who struggle each month to make their
9 ends meet. Any rate increase for the economically
10 disadvantaged and our most vulnerable populations which
11 are our elderly and disabled households is too much.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Did you want to have
13 your statement admitted onto the record or are you happy
14 just reading it into the record?

15 MS. WALKER: I'm happy just reading it.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Any questions for Ms. Walker? I
17 have no questions. Thank you very much for your
18 comments.

19 MS. WALKER: Thanks.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Mike Hunley. Mr. Hunley, would
21 you raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you swear or
22 affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this
23 local public hearing is the truth?

24 MR. HUNLEY: I do.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell

1 your name for the record?

2 MR. HUNLEY: Mike Hunley, H-u-n-l-e-y.

3 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Hunley, what would you
4 like to tell the Commission this evening?

5 MIKE HUNLEY,
6 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 MR. HUNLEY: I know I heard the same thing the
8 attorney said about the prehearing and the question and
9 answer and that the Joplin reservoir is not part of this
10 rate case. However, I wanted to add that, Mr. Aley, we
11 own the property where the spring is, the large spring
12 just downstream of the lake where Ozark Underground did
13 much of the testing for the reservoir. The point I
14 wanted to make this evening is that Missouri-American
15 has done no testing on our property whatsoever, no dye
16 tracing, no testing at all. So how they can determine
17 that it's a viable reservoir when our property is where
18 all the water is going is a mystery to me.

19 I also want to know what contingency plan
20 Missouri-American has when this reservoir fails.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Did you have an opportunity to
22 ask them about that during the question and answer?

23 MR. HUNLEY: I did. I did not ask them.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any questions for
25 Mr. Hunley? I have no questions. Thank you very much

1 for your comment. Marsha Miller. Yes, it would be
2 easier for me to hear you. They may bring the mike down
3 to you if that would be easier.

4 MS. MILLER: Marsha S. Miller.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right hand
6 to be sworn. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
7 you are about to give at this local public hearing is
8 the truth?

9 MS. MILLER: Yes.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell
11 your name for the record?

12 MS. MILLER: Okay. It's Marsha, M-a-r-s-h-a,
13 middle initial S, and the last name is Miller,
14 M-i-l-l-e-r.

15 JUDGE CLARK: And what comments do you have
16 for the Commission?

17 MARSHA MILLER,
18 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 MS. MILLER: I do not mean this disrespectful,
20 but I do have a comment about rate cases in general. It
21 seems to me that -- it kind of looks like maybe you all
22 get together, all of you here in this room in your suits
23 and you decide what you're going to do regardless of
24 what the information indicates. Like I said, you know,
25 I don't know anything about, you know, the big process.

1 But it just seems that somebody wants a rate increase,
2 the Public Service Commission listens to all of this,
3 and then there generally is a rate increase oftentimes
4 not as much as the company may want, but it just seems
5 like there's a lot of backroom stuff going on. And
6 again, I don't mean that to, you know, sound like I know
7 what you're doing because I don't.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Well, I certainly am happy to
9 hear from you. I certainly want to hear your comments,
10 because it's important for us to know how this process
11 appears. As I indicated earlier, the Commission can't
12 answer questions because we have to remain impartial,
13 but I can assure you that that's not the case.

14 MS. MILLER: Right. One other thing I might
15 mention just as a suggestion. I think it would really
16 be helpful if more information is available through the
17 press, through the local newspapers or whatever, about
18 rate cases and, you know, a little bit more detail as to
19 what is available, what is taken into account so
20 everybody feels a little more comfortable. Now, maybe
21 I'm the only one that is kind of like what the heck is
22 going on here.

23 JUDGE CLARK: What kind of information do you
24 think would be helpful for the public to know?

25 MS. MILLER: Well, I think just a little bit

1 more detailed information about what goes into deciding
2 yes, there will be an increase, no, there won't be, we
3 won't be approving that, we'll be approving part of it,
4 why are we not approving all of it, just things like
5 that just to kind of have more information available.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Most of those things
7 would not be available until after the Commission has
8 made its decision. The decision is generally in a
9 published order which the public certainly has a right
10 to read. But you had indicated you were saying that
11 would be more helpful if that were supplied better to
12 media outlets or if it were covered better by media.

13 MS. MILLER: I think it would be helpful.
14 Then again, you know, maybe a lot of people wouldn't,
15 you know, read it anyway. I don't know. But I think
16 it's always helpful to have something to hold in your
17 hand and read.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Okay.

19 MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for your
21 comments. I'll certainly look into this. And I don't
22 have any questions for Marsha S. Miller. Does anybody
23 else?

24 I'm sorry. I think I'm going to butcher this
25 last name. I apologize. John F. Ockest?

1 MR. OCKERT: The blame can lay on me for
2 penmanship but it's Ockert.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Ockert?

4 MR. OCKERT: Yes, sir.

5 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, Mr. Ockert.

6 MR. OCKERT: That's J-o-h-n O-c-k-e-r-t. Got
7 a little flamboyant with that T. Makes it look like an
8 S. I apologize.

9 JUDGE CLARK: That's perfectly fine. Would
10 you raise your right hand and be sworn, Mr. Ockert.

11 MR. OCKERT: Yes, sir.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Do you swear or affirm that the
13 testimony you're about to give at this local public
14 hearing is the truth?

15 MR. OCKERT: Yes, sir.

16 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell
17 the Commission this evening?

18 JOHN OCKERT,
19 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 MR. OCKERT: First and foremost I would like
21 to say that I appreciate your time and this forum so
22 that we can acquire more information and provide our
23 opinion. It is also my opinion that a for-profit
24 company such as American-Water dip into or use portions
25 of that profit and pay for upgrades, whether those

1 upgrades are for just technology based or to acquire
2 more customers or to service a growing customer base
3 based on population or expansion like with what happened
4 with Purcell, you know, increasing the population that
5 way. I do believe that the requested rate increase
6 should be adjusted to a lower rate. And whether that be
7 based on inflation or material cost increase, that
8 should be up to the Commission, or this is my altering
9 this, that the rate increase have a step-down time
10 period. And what I mean by that is the investment of
11 770 million is a one-time capital investment by the
12 for-profit corporation and that the rate increase, the
13 amount that is being, I wouldn't count it as revenue,
14 but taken as an increase be paid off that initial
15 investment and either step down to cover inflation or
16 the material costs or just, you know, go away. So that
17 is my opinion.

18 JUDGE CLARK: I think I understand what you're
19 saying. You're saying after whatever capital
20 improvements are paid for, then you're talking about the
21 rate then at that point reducing?

22 MR. OCKERT: Reducing to the lower adjusted
23 rate for inflation or material costs. Heck, material
24 might come down. There might be advancements in
25 technology and whatever pipes put in the ground may last

1 a lot longer.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Are there any questions
3 for Mr. Ockert? I have no questions. Thank you very
4 much for your comments.

5 MR. OCKERT: Thank you.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Tyler, I'm going to circle
7 back to you. Did you want to make a comment this
8 evening?

9 MR. TYLER: No. -- in writing.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much.
11 Now, those are all the names that I had on my sign-up
12 sheet. At this time there may be people who did not
13 have an opportunity to comment but realize now that they
14 might like to say something to the Commission. Is there
15 anybody here who at this point would like to offer
16 comments to the Commission? Okay.

17 MS. MILLER: I'd like to say also I really
18 appreciate all of you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. For the record that
20 is Marsha S. Miller. And in case the microphone did not
21 pick that up, Ms. Miller was saying that she appreciated
22 us being here to take our comments and that she agrees
23 with Mr. Ockert's comments.

24 Okay. I didn't see any hands. I'll ask one
25 more time. Is there anybody who would like to make any

1 further remarks to the Commission at this time? Well, I
2 would like to say thank you. I appreciate everybody
3 turning out this evening, and I'd like to thank the
4 people that offered comments tonight.

5 If you have additional comments or you get
6 home and you're talking to friends or family that were
7 unable to be here and they wanted to offer comments to
8 the Commission, you can do that by either going to the
9 Commission's website and there's a place to offer
10 comments. If you do that, I would ask that you put the
11 case number in there, and the case number is
12 WR-2022-0303.

13 Other ways to make comments are to contact the
14 Office of the Public Counsel. They'll be happy to
15 assist you in making comments. That might involve not
16 having to know the case number right off. With that in
17 mind, everybody have a good evening and a safe drive
18 home and this hearing is now adjourned.

19 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 7:02
20 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 local public hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 25, 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 31st day of January, 2023.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

<hr/> \$ <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	acquire 22:22 23:1
\$1,236 16:24	2 17:5	60s 16:25	acres 9:12
\$1,265 17:6	2,897 16:5	6:30 4:1,4	action 15:5
\$1,682 17:3	2.23 15:22	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	add 18:10
\$750 16:17	20 12:5	71 16:23	addition 9:4
\$76,546.24 16:21	2023 4:3 13:22	75 15:24	additional 25:5
\$849 16:2	25 9:1,4,8 12:5	770 23:11	adjacent 12:7
<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	7:02 25:19	adjourned 25:18
1 13:23,25	3-acre 12:21	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	adjusted 23:6,22
1,200 9:12	30 9:14	8 10:14	admitted 8:10 13:24 17:13
10 12:16	37-year-old 17:4	80 9:13 10:17	advanced 9:8
100 9:12 10:17	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	865 16:18	advancements 23:24
15 8:22 10:9 12:12,17	45 10:19	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	affected 8:24
15-month 11:21	45.4 10:10 11:22 12:10	92 15:22,23	affirm 7:21 14:16 17:22 19:6 22:12
15.7 10:2	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> A <hr/>	age 17:5
1572 8:15	5,328 15:15,19	A-L-E-Y 8:2	agency 15:5,6,9,15 16:8,17
16 17:5	56 16:18	account 20:19	agrees 24:22
19 4:3 13:22		accountants 5:8	

ahead 8:13 13:10	4:16 12:3	basic 17:7	built 12:8
Aley 7:15,16,17, 19,24 8:2,3, 5,7,12,13,14, 15 11:12,14, 18 12:12 13:4,6,9,11, 15,17,19,20 14:4,5 18:10	assist 16:11 25:15	basin 10:22,24 12:2,8	business 11:7
altering 23:8	assistance 15:12,13,16 16:5,11,14, 16,20	Baynham 9:11,17,25 10:11,25 11:9,25	butcher 7:14 21:24
American-water 22:24	assisted 15:24 16:18	bedrock 9:18	bypasses 9:20
amount 16:16 23:13	assure 20:13	began 4:1	<hr/> C <hr/>
analysts 5:8	attention 7:1	begin 5:17	call 6:10,12 7:14
and/or 15:23 16:15	attorney 18:8	behalf 5:21,24 6:1, 3,4	called 6:8
apologize 21:25 22:8	attorneys 5:8 6:7,25	big 11:4 19:25	capital 23:11,19
appearance 5:18	Authority 4:14	bill 16:15,25	captioned 4:12
appears 20:11	average 12:11 15:21	bills 16:6,9,13	captured 9:21
applied 9:6	averaged 10:13	bit 20:18,25	Carver 8:18
appointed 5:5	<hr/> B <hr/>	blame 22:1	case 4:12 6:19 13:14 18:10 20:13 24:20 25:11,16
appreciated 24:21	back 13:6 14:12 24:7	bluff 10:6	cases 19:20 20:18
approving 21:3,4	backroom 20:5	Branch 9:12,17,25 10:12,25 11:9,25	Cathy 17:4
area 9:4 12:4	Barton 15:6	bring 19:2	cavernous 9:18
areas	base 10:6 16:7 23:2	build 9:7	Chairman 5:1
	based 10:25 23:1,3, 7		challenge 17:7

chance 12:11	17:18 19:15 20:9 21:21	constructed 11:3	Creek 9:15 10:7 12:7
changed 16:23	24:4,16,22,23 25:4,5,7,10, 13,15	contact 25:13	Crisis 15:14 16:4
channel 9:25 10:3,12, 16	commission 4:10,19,22,25 5:4,24 6:10, 16 7:3,7 8:4 13:21,22,25 15:1 18:4 19:16 20:2,11 21:7 22:17 23:8 24:14,16 25:1,8	contingency 18:19	current 4:3
charged 4:20	Commission's 25:9	continuous 10:7 11:16,19	customer 16:7,14 23:2
child 17:6	Commissioners 5:1,3,5,7,10, 12,15 6:24	Copies 11:9	customers 16:19,20,23 17:8 23:2
circle 24:6	community 15:3,5	cornucopia 15:7	cut 6:20
Clark 4:2,17 5:23 6:2,6 7:17, 20,25 8:3,10, 13 11:12,15 12:9 13:1,5, 18 14:3,6,8, 11,14,19,25 15:17,20 17:12,16,20, 25 18:3,21,24 19:5,10,15 20:8,23 21:6, 18,20 22:3,5, 9,12,16 23:18 24:2,6,10,19	companies 4:20	corporate 11:1	<hr/> D <hr/>
Coleman 5:2,10	company 5:19,22 7:7 20:4 22:24	corporation 15:4 23:12	dam 9:13,20,21 10:1,3,13,23 12:8,20
comfortable 20:20	Company's 4:13 8:21	correct 7:14 11:14	David 16:23
comment 19:1,20 24:7, 13	complete 12:16	Cosper 5:25 6:2	day 9:14 10:11,19 11:23 12:17
comments 5:16 6:10,16, 17,18 14:4	concluded 25:19	cost 11:5 17:7 23:7	decide 19:23
	conducted 8:17,20	costs 9:3 23:16,23	deciding 21:1
	conduits 9:23	counsel 5:17 6:3,5 7:8 25:14	decision 21:8
	confirmed 5:6	count 23:13	decisions 11:8
		Counties 15:6	Decline 14:7,10
		court 5:13	deep 9:12,13 10:17
		cover 9:12 23:15	
		covered 12:21 21:12	

deeper 10:17	drive 25:17	ensure 4:21	federal 9:7
depth 10:12	dry 10:1,3,4	enter 5:17	federally 16:9
designed 16:11	duly 8:6 14:24	equipment 10:8	feels 20:20
detail 20:18	18:6 19:18	evening 4:3 5:20,22, 25 8:4 15:1	feet 9:12,13 10:14,17
detailed 21:1	dye 11:23,24	18:4,14 22:17	field 5:9
determine 18:16	12:3,6 18:15	evidence 7:5	File 4:11
Development 15:4	dyes 8:17 11:24	evidentiary 7:6	fill 10:20,21 11:2
dip 22:24	<hr/> E <hr/>	examples 16:22	financial 5:8
Director 15:3	earlier 20:11	excused 6:23	fine 22:9
disabled 15:23 16:24 17:1,11	easier 19:2,3	exhibit 8:11 13:3,23, 25	finished 4:7 6:22
disadvantaged 17:10	Economic 15:4	expansion 23:3	fixed 5:6
discharged 12:20	economically 17:9	<hr/> F <hr/>	flamboyant 22:7
discharges 9:20	education 11:16	failed 11:5	flow 9:15 10:7,9, 10 11:19,20, 22,25 12:10, 11,18,22,23, 25
disrespectful 19:19	elderly 15:23 17:11	fails 18:20	flows 9:22 12:16
dissolved 9:23	employ 5:7	families 15:7,10 16:12	for-profit 22:23 23:12
Don 5:25	end 14:12	family 25:6	foremost 22:20
downstream 18:12	ends 17:9	fast 10:20	
drained 12:23	energy 15:12,13,14, 16 16:4,8	fed 10:5	
	engineers 5:7		

forum 22:21	16:7 25:17	hear 7:9 19:2 20:9	<hr/> I <hr/>
forward 13:4	Governor 5:6	heard 13:15 18:7	iceberg 9:10
found 11:21	grandchildren 17:2	hearing 4:11,18 5:14 7:6,22 8:11, 25 9:2 13:21, 23,24,25 14:17 17:23 19:7 22:14 25:18,19	IDENTIFICATION 14:1
foundation 10:23	grants 15:9		ill-planned 8:24
friends 25:6	great 9:25		impartial 7:5 20:12
funded 8:23 16:9	greater 10:18		Implement 4:14
funds 15:13 16:3,10	ground 12:1 23:25	heck 20:21 23:23	important 12:14 20:10
<hr/> G <hr/>	groundwater 8:16,20 9:22, 24	helpful 20:16,24 21:11,13,16	improvements 23:20
gallons 9:14 10:10,19 11:23 12:17	growing 23:2	highest 10:9 11:22	incentive 11:6
gauge 12:22	guideline 15:25	hold 11:12 21:16	income 15:12 16:10, 24 17:2,6
general 4:12,14 19:20	<hr/> H <hr/>	Holsman 5:2,11	incomes 15:24
generally 20:3 21:8	H-U-N-L-E-Y 18:2	home 15:12 25:6,18	increase 4:15 9:4,9,10 11:4 17:9 20:1,3 21:2 23:5,7,9,12, 14
Geologist 8:20	hand 7:20 14:15 17:21 19:5 21:17 22:10	household 15:21 16:2, 10,17,24 17:2,6	increasing 23:4
George 8:18	hands 24:24	households 15:15,22,24 16:5,18 17:11	indicating 12:24
give 7:22 14:16 16:1 17:22 19:7 22:13	happened 23:3	huge 17:7	individuals 15:8,10 16:12
Glen 5:2,11	happy 17:13,15 20:8 25:14	Hunley 17:20,24 18:2,3,5,7, 23,25	inflation 23:7,15,23
good 4:2 5:20,25 10:3 11:7	head 7:9		

information 19:24 20:16, 23 21:1,5 22:22	18:9 Judge 4:2,18 5:23 6:2,6 7:17, 20,25 8:3,10, 13 11:12,15 12:9 13:1,5, 18 14:3,6,8, 11,14,19,25 15:17,20 17:12,16,20, 25 18:3,21,24 19:5,10,15 20:8,23 21:6, 18,20 22:3,5, 9,12,16 23:18 24:2,6,10,19	lakebed 9:19 10:6 Lane 8:15 large 18:11 largest 10:8 15:11 Law 4:18 lay 22:1 leakage 9:24 10:5,18, 22,24 11:1 12:19 leaks 10:20 leave 8:8 level 10:15 licensed 8:19 LIHEAP 15:11 LIHWAP 16:10 Lime 9:13 10:13 limestone 9:18,23 10:6 limitation 6:18 Lindsay 6:4 listed 6:11	listens 20:2 live 17:2 local 4:11,18 7:22 9:10 13:23, 24,25 14:17 17:23 19:7 20:17 22:13 long 8:8 longer 24:1 losing 11:25 lot 6:17 12:19 20:5 21:14 24:1 low 9:15 15:12 16:10 low-income 15:7,10 16:12 lower 23:6,22 Luft 5:21,23 13:10,11,16
<hr/> J <hr/>	<hr/> K <hr/>		
J-O-H-N 22:6 January 4:3 13:22 Jason 5:2,10 Jasper 15:5 John 4:17 21:25 22:18 Joplin 4:5 8:18,22 9:3,16 13:21	karst 12:3 kids 17:5 Kiln 9:13 10:13 kind 19:21 20:21, 23 21:5 Kolkmeyer 5:2,11 <hr/> L <hr/>		
	Laboratory 8:15 lake 9:11 10:15 11:2 12:19, 21,23 18:12	limestone 9:18,23 10:6 limitation 6:18 Lindsay 6:4 listed 6:11	<hr/> M <hr/> M-A-R-S-H-A 19:12 M-I-L-L-E-R 19:14 made 4:25 5:16

14:1 21:8	measured 10:9,19	Missouri- american 4:13 5:19,21 8:21 9:6,11 10:16 11:4 13:13 16:19 18:14,20	8:19
Maida 5:2,10	media 21:12	Missouri- american's 8:25 10:24	newspapers 20:17
main 9:15	meet 17:9	mom 17:4	Newton 15:6
major 8:17 9:3	mention 20:15	money 16:1	Niemeier 5:20,23
make 5:12 14:11 17:8 18:14 24:7,25 25:13	microphone 6:23 7:12 13:7 24:20	monitoring 10:8 11:19 12:15	nonprofit 15:5
makes 13:1 22:7	microphones 6:13	month 16:3,25 17:3, 6,8	notice 5:3
making 11:7 25:15	middle 19:13	months 10:9 12:12	number 12:4 15:9,18 25:11,16
management 11:7	mike 7:9 17:20 18:2,5 19:2	Monument 8:18	<hr/> O <hr/>
margin 11:5	miles 8:22 10:2	multiple 9:19,22	O-C-K-E-R-T 22:6
marked 13:22 14:1	Miller 19:1,4,9,12, 13,17,19 20:14,25 21:13,19,22 24:17,20,21	mystery 18:18	oath 6:14
Marsha 19:1,4,12,17 21:22 24:20	million 9:14 10:10,19 11:22 12:10, 17 23:11	<hr/> N <hr/>	occurred 10:11
Mary 16:25	mind 7:13 25:17	names 6:11 16:23 24:11	Ockert 22:1,2,3,4,5, 6,10,11,15, 18,20 23:22 24:3,5
massive 11:1	mirage 10:25	National 8:18	Ockert's 24:23
material 23:7,16,23	Missouri 4:5,10,16,19, 21 8:16,19 13:20,21	natural 9:23	Ockest 21:25
Matter 4:13		Neosho	offer 6:16 24:15 25:7,9
maximum 12:10 16:16			offered 25:4
Mcdonald 15:6			offering 6:22
measure 12:21			

Office 6:3,5 7:8 25:14	paid 23:14,20	place 6:14 25:9	press 20:17
oftentimes 20:3	part 13:13 14:1 18:9 21:3	plan 8:25 18:19	proceedings 4:1
one-person 16:2	pay 22:25	planned 8:21 9:2,19 10:1,6,13,25	process 19:25 20:10
one-time 23:11	pending 9:8	plans 10:16	profit 11:5 22:25
opening 5:13	penmanship 22:2	point 12:18 18:13 23:21 24:15	program 15:11,12,13, 14,16 16:4,9, 11,18
operate 15:13	people 7:12 21:14 24:12 25:4	points 9:19 10:5,22 12:4,5	programs 15:7 16:6
operations 4:23	percent 9:1,4,9 15:22,23,24 16:19	polite 7:12	project 9:7 11:5
opinion 22:23 23:17	perfectly 22:9	population 23:3,4	pronounce 7:16
opportunity 5:15 6:16 18:21 24:13	period 10:11 11:21 23:10	populations 17:10	property 8:23 18:11, 15,17
orally 8:9	periods 9:14 10:4	portion 4:8	proposed 9:5
order 6:11 12:21 21:9	peripheral 7:1	portions 22:24	proposedjoplinr eservoir.com 11:13
outlets 21:12	permit 9:7	poverty 15:25	Protém 8:16
overseeing 4:18	pick 24:21	prehearing 18:8	proven 9:24
owners 8:23	Pike 10:13	prepared 15:2	provide 6:9 22:22
Ozark 8:15 18:12	pipe 12:23	present 5:13 6:7 8:8 13:11	Provided 4:15
<hr/> P <hr/>	pipes 23:25	presented 7:5	public 4:10,11,18,19 6:3,5 7:8,22 11:6 13:21,
P.m. 4:1,4 25:20		President 8:14	

23,24,25	14:15 17:21	recognize	Request
14:17 17:23	19:5 22:10	13:17	4:14
19:7 20:2,24	Ralph	record	requested
21:9 22:13	14:6	4:2 5:18 6:15	23:5
25:14	range	8:1 12:12	reservoir
published	17:5	13:24 14:2,20	8:22,24 9:2,
21:9	rapid	17:13,14 18:1	7,8 10:20,25
Purcell	9:22	19:11 24:19	13:13 18:9,
23:4	rate	recorded	13,17,20
purposes	4:12,14 9:9	10:9	result
8:11	10:10 11:4,	reducing	9:3 10:23
put	19,20,22	23:21,22	results
11:24 12:3	12:10,11	Registered	12:6
23:25 25:10	13:14 17:9	8:19	revenue
<hr/>	18:10 19:20	regulates	23:13
Q	20:1,3,18	4:19,22	review
<hr/>	23:5,6,9,12,	regulation	5:15
qualifying	21,23	5:9	Road
16:14	rates	Regulatory	9:13
quality	4:20,21 9:1,	4:17	rolled
4:22	24 10:9,18	relevant	16:8
question	11:2	9:2	room
18:8,22	read	remain	19:22
question-and-	5:16 21:10,	7:5 20:12	routinely
answer	15,17	remarks	10:1 12:16
4:7 13:12	reading	6:22 25:1	Rupp
questions	17:14,15	repetitive	5:1
4:8,9 6:24,25	realize	6:19	<hr/>
7:4,6 13:8,18	24:13	reporter	S
17:16,17	reasonable	5:13	<hr/>
18:24,25	4:22	reports	safe
20:12 21:22	receive	11:9 12:13,14	25:17
24:2,3	15:11 16:3,	representation	safety
<hr/>	14,17 17:1	16:7	4:23
R	received	representative	sampled
<hr/>	14:1 16:10,20	7:7	12:3
Rachel	receives	representatives	sampling
5:20	15:9	13:12	12:4,5,18
raise			
7:20 8:25			

Scott 5:1	short 6:21	12:7	streamflow 9:17
seat 5:4	sign-up 6:11 24:11	square 10:2	struggle 17:8
Security 15:4	single 17:4	SSI 17:1	studies 8:17,23
seek 11:4	sinking 9:19	staff 5:7,24 6:1 7:8	stuff 20:5
segments 11:25	sinks 9:18	stand 13:6	submit 13:2
Senate 5:6	sir 22:4,11,15	start 6:18,20	suggestion 20:15
sense 13:1	site 10:1,3	started 16:18	suits 19:22
separate 11:23	size 15:21	starting 5:18	summer 10:1 16:3
serve 16:7	solve 10:24	state 6:14 7:25 14:19 17:25 19:10	supplied 21:11
served 15:15,22 16:5	sound 20:6	statement 5:13 8:7 13:2,20 14:12 15:2 17:13	supply 8:22 9:13,16
service 4:10,15,16, 19,23 13:21 20:2 23:2	south 8:22	stay 6:23 12:2	support 17:7
serving 15:5	speak 7:7	step 23:15	surface 10:2
session 13:12	specialists 5:9	step-down 23:9	swear 7:21 14:15 17:21 19:6 22:12
set 4:10 6:17	specialize 8:16	store 10:4	sworn 7:21 8:6 14:15,24 17:21 18:6 19:6,18 22:10,19
Sewer 4:15	spell 6:15 7:25 14:19 17:25 19:10	stormflow 10:11	<hr/> T <hr/>
sheet 6:11 24:12	spring 10:10 11:20 12:20,22,25 18:11	stream 9:25 10:16 11:25	T-A-M-M-Y 14:21
Shoal 9:15 10:7 12:7	springs 9:20 10:5,8		

talking 6:20 23:20 25:6	tip 9:9	<hr/> U <hr/>	Walker 14:14,18,21, 23,25 15:2,3, 19,21 17:15, 16,19
Tammy 14:14,21,23 15:3	today 5:10 6:10 7:4	unable 25:7	wanted 13:2 18:10,14 25:7
technology 23:1,25	tonight 25:4	Underground 8:15 18:12	Washington 8:18
terms 5:6	tonight's 4:18	understand 23:18	wastewater 16:13,15
testified 8:6 14:24 18:6 19:18 22:19	totals 16:20	upgrades 22:25 23:1	water 4:13,15 5:19, 21 8:21 9:1, 3,10,14,16,20 10:4,7,12,16, 17 11:2,3,7, 19 12:1 16:6, 9,10,12,15,19 18:18
testimony 7:21 9:1 14:16 17:22 19:6 22:13	trace 11:16	users 9:3,10 11:2	watershed 10:2
testing 18:13,15,16	tracer 8:17 11:24	utilities 4:24 15:10	ways 25:13
thing 12:14 18:7 20:14	traces 9:24	utility 4:20 5:9 11:7 15:11 16:22	Webex 5:10,14
things 11:18 21:4,6	tracing 8:16 11:23,24 12:6 18:16	<hr/> V <hr/>	website 25:9
thinking 11:1	track 6:19	vacant 5:4	whatsoever 18:15
Thomas 7:15 8:2,5,14 13:20	transcribing 5:14	valley 9:18	wind 6:20
Tim 5:21	treat 7:12	Vangerpen 6:4,6	winter 16:3
time 4:3,11 6:13, 18 16:15 22:21 23:9 24:12,25 25:1	treated 7:13	veteran 16:24	wishful 11:1
times 10:18 12:17	treatments 10:23	viable 18:17	WR-2022-0303 4:12 25:12
	truth 7:23 14:17 17:23 19:8 22:14	vision 7:2	
	turning 7:9 25:3	vulnerable 17:10	
	Tyler 14:6,7,10,13 24:6,9	<hr/> W <hr/>	
		W-A-L-K-E-R 14:22	

writing

24:9

written

8:7

wrong

7:17

www.

**proposedjoplinr
eservoir.com.**

11:10

y

year

12:16 15:15

16:4,8,16

years

17:5