

In the Matter of Missouri-American Water Company

Missouri-American Water Local Public Hearing

January 25, 2023

Vol 7

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

6:32 p.m. - 6:44 p.m.

WebEx

VOLUME 7

Pages 1 - 14

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

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

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

Job No.: 289244

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1 The following proceedings began at 6:32 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: Can we go on the record now?

3 Good evening. It's January 25 of 2023, and the current
4 time is 6:32 p.m. You just completed the question and
5 answer portion of the hearing. If you had questions
6 about this rate case, I hope you were able to get those
7 questions answered. Now, I'm pleased to see that so
8 many people showed up tonight since we had to change
9 this from in person to WebEx.

10 Before I take comments, I'm going to ask that
11 anybody who is participating by phone or computer that
12 you mute yourself unless you are speaking. If you're
13 participating by phone and you need to unmute yourself,
14 just dial *6 at that time.

15 Now, the Missouri Public Service Commission
16 has set aside this time for a local public hearing in
17 File No. WR-2022-0303, which is a general rate case
18 captioned as In the Matter of Missouri-American Water
19 Company's Request for Authority to Implement a General
20 Rate Increase for Water and Sewer Services Provided in
21 its Missouri Services Area.

22 My name is John Clark, and I'm the Regulatory
23 Law Judge that's going to be presiding over this hearing
24 tonight. The Missouri Public Service Commission
25 regulates the rates charged by investor-owned utility

1 companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates are
2 just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the
3 quality of service and the safety of operations of
4 investor-owned utilities.

5 Now, the Commission is made up of five
6 Commissioners: Chairman Scott Rupp and Commissioners
7 Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman and Glen Kolkmeyer. One
8 Commission seat is currently vacant. The Commissioners
9 are appointed by the Governor to fixed terms and
10 confirmed by the Senate. The Commissioners employ a
11 staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
12 analysts and other specialists in the areas of utility
13 regulation.

14 With me tonight are Chairman Rupp and
15 Commissioner Coleman. Do I have any other Commissioners
16 on at this time?

17 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thanks, Judge.
18 Commissioner Holsman is here.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I also have
20 Commissioner Holsman.

21 Now, the court reporter is transcribing this
22 hearing so that Commissioners that are not present will
23 have an opportunity to review the comments. I'm going
24 to begin by asking counsel to enter their appearance for
25 the record starting with Missouri-American Water

1 Company?

2 MS. NIEMEIER: Good evening. Rachel Niemeier
3 on behalf of Missouri-American Water Company this
4 evening.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Niemeier. On
6 behalf of the Commission Staff?

7 MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, Staff Counsel.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Stacey. If you
9 can, get a little bit closer to the microphone when
10 you're speaking. I had a little difficulty in hearing
11 you. From the Office of the Public Counsel?

12 MS. VanGERPEN: Good evening. Lindsay
13 VanGerpen on behalf of OPC.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. VanGerpen. We
15 have some intervening parties. Are there any parties
16 that I have not called? Okay. I hear no one.

17 Now, for those who would like to provide
18 comments today, I'm going to call the names listed, and
19 currently I have only one person listed. When I call
20 your name, I'm going to ask you to -- I'm going to place
21 you under oath and I'm going to ask you to state and
22 spell your name for the court reporter. Then I'll give
23 you an opportunity to offer your comments to the
24 Commission. Now, there's no specific time limit, but
25 please try and keep your remarks short and concise. If

1 it starts to get repetitive and we cover areas that your
2 comments have already addressed before, I may cut you
3 off just so that other people who might want to speak
4 get an opportunity to speak. Also, please after you've
5 made your comments stick around for just a second,
6 because the Commission, myself or the attorneys may have
7 questions to ask you. Now, if the attorneys have
8 questions to ask, don't use the hands up feature in
9 WebEx. Just say something. Otherwise, I might miss
10 you. So if you have a question for anyone, let me know.

11 Now, the Commission will not be able to answer
12 your questions this evening. The reason why is because
13 the Commissioners have to remain impartial until after
14 the evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing in
15 this case. If you have questions, please speak to the
16 representatives of the Company, the Commission Staff or
17 the Office of the Public Counsel.

18 Also, please be polite and courteous to
19 everyone speaking here today and treat them as you would
20 like to be treated. With that in mind, I'm going to
21 call the only name I currently have on my list. After
22 that, I will ask if anybody else has comments that they
23 would like to offer for the Commission this evening.
24 So is Joseph Gallagher here?

25 MR. GALLAGHER: I am here.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Gallagher, speak up just a
2 touch. And would you raise your right hand to be sworn.
3 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony
4 you're about to give at this local public hearing is the
5 truth?

6 MR. GALLAGHER: I do.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell
8 your name for the record?

9 MR. GALLAGHER: Joseph Gallagher, J-o-s-e-p-h
10 G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Gallagher, what would you
12 like to tell the Commission this evening? I'm going to
13 say right now, because I've got a monitor here, at no
14 point am I rolling my eyes this evening. Catching a
15 look at myself I can see when I look up at the monitor
16 that my eyes look up. So Mr. Gallagher, please, what
17 would you like to tell the Commission?

18 JOSEPH GALLAGHER,
19 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 MR. GALLAGHER: I appreciate and enjoy having
21 clean, delicious water available from my tap anytime I
22 want. It's a miracle of engineering. So great work.
23 That's all I have to say.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much for
25 your comment. I don't have any questions. Is there

1 anybody who has any questions for this witness?

2 CHAIRMAN RUPP: No questions, Judge. Thank
3 you for the comment.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Gallagher, and you're excused.

6 MR. GALLAGHER: You're welcome.

7 JUDGE CLARK: At this time I'm going to open
8 it up. And if anybody -- Is there anybody else who
9 would like to offer comments to the Commission this
10 evening? Okay. I don't hear anybody. I'm going to say
11 going once, going twice.

12 MS. SANTOS: Hello.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

14 MS. SANTOS: I would like to make a comment.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. What's your name, ma'am?

16 MS. SANTOS: Jill Santos, S-a-n-t-o-s.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Santos, would you raise your
18 right hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or affirm
19 that the testimony you're about to give at this local
20 public hearing is the truth?

21 MS. SANTOS: Well, I don't really think it's
22 testimony. I thought we were giving a comment.

23 JUDGE CLARK: You are technically correct.
24 We've debated over this a number of times. I'm calling
25 it testimony for the purposes of this local public

1 hearing, but you are, in fact, correct it is comments.
2 Are the comments that you are going to give this evening
3 truthful?

4 MS. SANTOS: Yes.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much, Ms. Santos.
6 You can go ahead and tell the Commission what you would
7 like to tell us.

8 JILL SANTOS,
9 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 MS. SANTOS: I just can't believe how
11 ridiculous a 25 percent increase is at one time on the
12 consumers of St. Louis County or anywhere in America
13 right now. It's ridiculous, absurd. I can go on and on
14 with adjectives, you know. That's all I've got to say,
15 and I think I speak for a lot of people.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I don't have any
17 questions in regard to that. Thank you for your
18 comments, Ms. Santos.

19 Is there anybody else who would like to
20 comment to the Commission this evening about
21 Missouri-American's rate case?

22 Okay. I heard no one. Would any of the
23 Commissioners like to make any closing remarks?

24 CHAIRMAN RUPP: No, thank you, Judge. I
25 appreciate the comments and people's attention.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: I echo that as well,
3 Judge.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Judge, did Ms. Santos
5 mention what part of the county she lives in?

6 JUDGE CLARK: She did not. Would you like me
7 to get that information?

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I would like to know,
9 please.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Customer specific information is
11 confidential, but in regard to the county that's a
12 larger --

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Sure, just the area.

14 JUDGE CLARK: I know and I was getting into
15 that. In regard to the county, that's a larger area.
16 That is information that can come in. Ms. Santos, would
17 you like to, without disclosing your specific address,
18 let us know what part of St. Louis you reside in. Ms.
19 Santos?

20 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: She might be having a
21 hard time getting back in. That's another thing if you
22 would mention how to get off mute for those that's
23 calling in on the phone again. Sometimes that has to be
24 repeated numerous times.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Absolutely. Thank you,

1 Commissioner Coleman. If you are joining by computer,
2 you should have a mute, a little microphone you can
3 click. If you're joining by phone and you would like to
4 unmute yourself, you may do so by dialing *6.

5 Ms. Santos, would you like to tell us what
6 part of St. Louis you live in? I'm going to take that
7 as a no at this point, Commissioner. Again, I'd like to
8 thank all the participants today who showed up to get
9 information about this rate case. While the comments
10 were brief, I appreciate the comments that we received
11 tonight.

12 If anyone here has additional comments or you
13 talk to somebody and they were unable to be here tonight
14 to offer comments, you may still make a comment before
15 the Commission. Written comments can be made by
16 contacting the email address pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. You
17 can also go to the Commission's website and there will
18 be a link on there that you can click to make comments.
19 If you make comments, you will need to offer the case
20 number. The case number for this case is WR-2022-0303.
21 And you can also contact the Office of the Public
22 Counsel.

23 With that in mind, again, I'd like to thank
24 everybody for showing up tonight to get information
25 about Missouri-American's rate case and this hearing is

1 adjourned and we are off the record.

2 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at 6:44

3 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 13, 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 6th day of February, 2023.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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