

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

In the Matter of a Request for Increase in     )  
Annual Water System Operating Revenues    )     File No. WR-2015-0246  
for Raytown Water Company.                    )

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REQUEST  
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Request for Local Public Hearing states as follows:

1. On April 1, 2015, Raytown Water Company (Raytown) initiated a small company rate increase proceeding with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting an increase in its water rates of \$544,980.93 (approximately 15.5%) per year.
2. On August 31, 2015, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Notice of Disposition (Company/Staff Agreement) indicating agreement between Staff and Raytown for a water rate increase of \$578,760 annually (approximately 18%). Public Counsel did not join in the agreement.
3. Revised tariff sheets reflecting the proposed rates agreed to in the Company/Staff Agreement were filed by Raytown on September 3, 2015. These proposed tariff sheets contain an effective date of October 23, 2015.
4. As the Company/Staff Agreement was executed by only Raytown and Staff, 4 CSR 240.3-050(15) requires Public Counsel to file a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff Agreement and the related proposed tariff revisions, or requesting a local public hearing or an evidentiary hearing, no later than five (5) working days after the end of the comment period for the written customer notice contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14).

5. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process. The amount of the increase proposed in the Company/Staff Agreement is quite significant and is more than requested by Raytown. Customers should have the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the proposed increase to the Commission at a local public hearing. Therefore, pursuant to 4 CSR 240-3.050(15), Public Counsel requests a local public hearing.

6. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the local public hearing promptly, as long as customers are given at least 7 days notice.

7. Section 393.150, RSMo., provides that the Commission may suspend tariff sheets for a maximum period of 120 days plus six months. Scheduling and providing notice of a local public hearing in this case would require additional time beyond the October 23<sup>rd</sup> effective date of the proposed tariff revisions. Therefore, Public Counsel requests that the Commission suspend the proposed revised tariff sheets for a sufficient period to allow adequate time for a local public hearing and subsequent case disposition as appropriate.

**WHEREFORE**, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

**/s/ Christina L. Baker**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2015:

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**/s/ Christina L. Baker**

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