

MEMORANDUM

EXhibit A

Distributed Via E-Mail

TO:

Wess Henderson

FROM:

Dale Johansen

/s/ <u>DW</u>J

SUBJECT:

Lake Carmel - Becker Development and Aqua Missouri

DATE:

May 3, 206

This Memorandum is being written as a follow-up to our meeting with Aqua Missouri representatives Marc Ellinger and Tena Hale-Rush on April 28, 2006, and our telephone conversation with Jason Becker on May 1, 2006. Once you have reviewed this Memorandum, please let me know if you have any questions and how you think we should proceed from here.

In conjunction with the information presented below, the following documents are attached to this Memorandum as part of the "memo packet": (1) the portion of Aqua Missouri's tariff that relates to the extension/expansion of its facilities - including the definitions rule (one of the definitions is the definition of a "developer", which is critical to this overall situation) and the rule regarding the extension/expansion of facilities (including the applicable contract forms); and (2) the Staff's case file memorandum from Case No. WM-98-130, which is the case related to Aqua Missouri's predecessor, Capital Utilities, purchasing the Lake Carmel water and sewer systems.

Information Regarding Mr. Becker's Positions

Based on the above-referenced telephone conversation with Mr. Becker, it appears that one of the major items at issue in this overall situation is Mr. Becker's position that he, as a developer, should not be responsible for the expansion of the capacity of the existing sewage treatment plant (a three-cell lagoon) for the provision of service to thirteen lots that he owns and wants to develop. The basis for this position is apparently Mr. Becker's reliance on information contained in the Staff's case file memorandum filed in Case No. WM-98-130 regarding the capacity of the existing sewage treatment facility.

Specifically, Mr. Becker is apparently relying on the following sentence from that memorandum, which recounts a discussion between the Staff and the owner of Capital Utilities, Mr. Rick Helms: "Mr. Helms noted that the sewer system was designed for a maximum of 70 homes, which will allow for considerable customer growth." During our conversation with Mr. Becker, I believe he also stated that this information was even a factor in his decision to continue the operations of Becker Development Company after the death of his father.

Regarding a proposed second phase of the Lake Carmel development, I do not believe there are any issues regarding Mr. Becker's responsibility for financing the expansion of the existing treatment facility or the construction of a second treatment facility, or his responsibility for participating in an equitable manner in the financing of a new, replacement treatment facility, one of which would be required to provide treatment capacity for the homes to be constructed in this second phase of the development. In fact, Mr. Becker has previously suggested that a new, replacement facility should be constructed and that the cost of such a facility should be shared between the development company and the utility company.

Memo to Wess Henderson RE: Lake Carmel Development 05/03/06 - Page 2 of 3 Pages

Information Regarding Aqua Missouri's Positions

Until our meeting with Mr. Ellinger and Ms. Hale-Rush last week, and the receipt of Mr. Ellinger's letter of April 28, 2006 regarding that meeting, I believed there was an issue between the Staff and the Company regarding the applicable tariff provisions. In particular, I thought that the Company did not believe that it was responsible for the design and permitting of facility extensions/expansions under all circumstances, but that these responsibilities could be "shifted" to a developer within the context of a company/developer contract pertaining to facility extensions/expansions.

However, based on the discussions during our meeting and the contents of Mr. Ellinger's follow-up letter regarding the two options set out in the Company's tariff for situations like the Lake Carmel situation, I no longer believe this is the Company's position. As a result, I do not believe there are any issues remaining between the Company and the Staff regarding the application of its tariff provisions for the Lake Carmel situation. In other words, I believe the Company and the Staff now agree that a company/developer contract is necessary and that it is the details of such a contract that will need to be worked out between Aqua Missouri and Mr. Becker depending on what approach is taken to address the short-term capacity needs and/or the long-term capacity needs. However, there still needs to be "a meeting of the minds" on what is going to be done to provide the needed treatment capacity.

Information Regarding the Capacity of the Existing Sewage Treatment Facility

As noted above in the information regarding the Staff's case file memorandum from WM-98-130, it was originally believed that the existing three-cell lagoon treatment facility had sufficient capacity to serve up to 70 total connections. However, recent flow information obtained by the Company for the sewer system clearly shows that there is a capacity issue with regard to that facility, albeit that it is expected that at least some portion of the excess system flow is not related to customer usage but instead to inflow/infiltration problems.

Additionally, based on this recently-obtained flow information, it does not appear likely that the entirety of the identified capacity/flow problems will be "resolved" only through correction of the inflow/infiltration problems that apparently exist. As a result, it appears that an expansion of the capacity of the existing treatment facility will be necessary to serve additional customer connections, and the responsibility for the financing of any such expansion could be both the responsibility of the Company (for individual customers) and Mr. Becker as a developer requesting service for multiple lots, with a company/developer contract then being necessary as noted above.

As also noted above, there needs to be "a meeting of the minds" regarding what needs to done so far as the needed capacity expansion is concerned and then how the responsibility for financing the selected approach will be split between the Company and Mr. Becker.

Memo to Wess Henderson RE: Lake Carmel Development 05/03/06 - Page 3 of 3 Pages

Conclusions

- (1) An expansion of the capacity of the existing treatment facility is apparently needed so that service can be provided for the remaining possible customer connections in the original phase of the Lake Carmel development.
- (2) A decision needs to be made regarding what actions will be taken to provide the additional treatment capacity needed in the existing facility to serve the original phase of the Lake Carmel development. This decision will, at least in part, be affected by the identification and correction of the system's apparent inflow/infiltration problems.
- (3) Once a decision is made regarding the actions that will be taken to provide additional treatment capacity in the existing facility, a decision will need to be made regarding how the cost of the capacity expansion will be split between the Company and Mr. Becker, and a company/developer contract setting out Mr. Becker's responsibilities will be needed.
- (4) Though understandable and well-intentioned, Mr. Becker's reliance on previous statements regarding the capacity of the existing treatment facility was apparently misplaced.
- (5) Additional treatment capacity, over and above that referenced in (1) above, will be needed for service to be provided to the proposed second phase of the Lake Carmel development.
- (6) In order for a determination to be made regarding the treatment capacity needed for the second phase of the Lake Carmel development, Mr. Becker needs to specify the number of lots for which service will be needed. Subsequently, Aqua Missouri will need to develop a proposal regarding how the capacity will be provided.
- (7) A company/developer contract between Aqua Missouri and Mr. Becker regarding the provision and financing of the capacity needed to serve the second phase of the Lake Carmel development will be needed.
- (8) The option of building a single treatment facility to provide service to the entirety of the first and second phases of the Lake Carmel development, with the coinciding retirement of the existing facility, is an acceptable option, but would require an agreement regarding how the cost of such a facility would be shared between Aqua Missouri and Mr. Becker.

Attachments

Tariff Provisions Related to Extensions Staff's Case File Memorandum from Case No. WM-98-130

Copies: Warren Wood

Jim Russo Kevin Thompson Jerry Scheible Martin Hummel Jim Merciel

P.S.C. MO.

(original) (revised)

Sheet No. Title Page

Cancelling P.S.C. MO

Aqua Missouri, Inc. Name of Issuing Corporation No. ___2_

(original)

Sheet No. __<u>S-1</u>

(revised)

All Communities and Rural Areas For Missouri Certificated Service Area

Community, Town or City

Missouri Public

Service Commission

Aqua Missouri, Inc.

SEWER SERVICE TARIFF

SERVICE AREA DEFINITION SCHEDULE OF RATES SCHEDULE OF SERVICE CHARGES RULES AND REGULATIONS

DATE OF ISSUE January 14, 2004

month day year

DATE EFFECTIVE

February 13, 2004 month day year

ISSUE BY Terry Rakocy name of officer President title

5400 Bus. Highway 50, Jefferson City, Mo

address

Missouri Public Service Commission WN-2004-0285 FLED FEB 13 2004

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DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992

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President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

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to the Company is expected.

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Capital Utilities, Inc.

For Missouri Certificated Service Area

Name of lesuing Corporation

Community, Town or City

Sewer Division

Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service

Rule (DEFINITIONS (continued)

- (f) "B.O.D." denotes biochemical oxygen demand. It is the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory conditions expressed in milligrams per liter.
- A "COLLECTING SEWER" is a pipeline, includ-(g) pressure mains, gravity sewers, piping, wyes, tees, clean-outs, manholes, lampholes and necessary appurtenances, which owned and maintained by the Company, located on public property or on Company or utility easements, and used to transport Customer's service sewage waste from the sewer connection to the point of disposal.
- The term "COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER" shall (h) designate :
 - A retail or service business utilizing (1) building, portion of a building or combination of buildings in the same compound which does not manufacture any item or items on the premises.
 - tourist court, pr motel, A hotel, recreational vehicle park which rents leases rooms or spaces to tenants.
- The "COMPANY" is Capital Utilities, Inc. (i) Jefferson City, Missouri acting through officers, managers, operations contractor, or other duly authorized employees or agents.

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President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mag title addit ess

- (k) The "DATE OF CONNECTION" shall be the date the application for service connection is issued by the Company. In the event no application is filed and a service connection is made, the date of connection shall be determined by the Company based on available information, such as construction/occupancy permits, or water or electric service turnon dates.
- (1) A "DEVELOPER" shall mean a person or group of persons who has or intends to sell two (2) or more lots, parcels or tracts of land to others for the purpose of constructing thereon any type of building.
- (m) The term "DISCONNECTION" may be used literally in the case where a Customer's service is physically disconnected or plugged to prevent flow to the Company's system. It may also be used to refer to Customer's service simply being discontinued by reason of the Customer vacating the building or unit served.

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President, F.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.
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Milton E. Leeds

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| | Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service RECTURE 03 2002 |
| Rule | DEFINITIONS (continued) |
| (n) | A "DISCONNECTION CLEANOUT" or "ELDER VALVE" is a device consisting of a special tee and a plunger, owned by the Company on the Customer Service Sewer, used to physically stop any flow through the service sewer. It may be used if it is known that any sewer service lateral may be disconnected in the event raw sewage may back up into the residence. It may also be used by the Company if a property owned or a customer has a past due or delinquent account for serviced rendered by the Company. In addition, it may also be used by the Company if the owner or customer simply wishes temporary discontinuance by reason of the Owner/Customer vacating the building or unit served. |
| (0) | "DOMESTIC SEWAGE" is sewage, excluding storm and surface water, resulting from normal house hold activities. |
| (p) | A sewer system "EXTENSION" may refer to continuation of piping or an addition to the existing Company owned system, reconstruction, or the construction of an entirely new wastewater collection/treatment system. |
| (p) | A "FOUNDATION DRAIN" is a pipe installed inside or outside the foundation of a structure for the purpose of draining ground or subsurface water away from the foundation. |
| (r) | "GRINDER PUMP STATION SYSTEM" is the pumps, related equipment, tankage, piping and appurtenances, which grinds and pumps sewage waste from an individual unit under pressure to collection lines. The system also contains level controls for interim storage of liquid waste and intermittent pump operation as a function of liquid level with appropriate malfunction alarms, controls and valves to assure compatible operation with similar units. |
| (s) | The term "INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER" is a single entity utilizing any building, portion of a building, or combination of buildings in the same company and Public whose primary use is for the manufacture, fabrication, and/or assembly of anynmionion product. |
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Milton E. Leeds

- under this rule shall be of a type and size which will be adequate to supply the area to be served. If the area is to be served by conventional gravity piping, an B-inch minimum diameter shall be required. Such determination as to size and type of pipe shall be left solely to the judgement of the Company. If the Company desires a pipe size, lift station or treatment facility larger than reasonably required to provide service to the lots abutting said extension area, the additional cost due to larger size shall be borne by the Company.
- (3) The Company, or its representative, shall have the right to inspect and test the sewer extension prior to connecting it to the Company's collecting sewers.
- (4) Connection of the extension to existing Company collecting sewers shall be made only by a duly authorized representative of the Company.

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DATE OF ISSUE April 27, month day 1992 <u>year</u> DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 1992 month day year President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo. title address name of officer

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992

Month day year

ISSUED BY

President, F.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

name of officer

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| M NO. 13 P.S.C.MO. No. 2 (Original) SHEET N | |
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| Capital Utilities, Inc. For Missouri Certificated Service | e Are |
| Name of lasuing Corporation Community, Town or City, Sewer Division | |
| Sewer DIVISION TIKE SENT OF | اليا |
| Rules and Regulations APR 27 199 | 4 |
| Governing Rendering of Service | |
| Public Service Con | 1 |
| EXHIBIT "A" | 111100 |
| EXTENSION AGREEMENT - Individual(s) | |
| | |
| AGREEMENT between Capital Utilities, Inc., P.O. Box 7017, 312 Lafayette Street; Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, a Missouri corporation, hereinafter called the "Company" and | |
| hereinafter called the "Applicant(s)". | |
| December Carred the Abbricantist. | Į |
| WHEREAS, the Applicant(s) has requested the | ł |
| Company to extend its system for the expressed | ĺ |
| purpose of providing sewer service. This extension | j |
| is to be constructed in accordance with the |) |
| Company's Technical Specifications and will | } |
| generally be routed as depicted on the attached plan | 1 |
| or plat, referred to as Exhibit No. 1 attached | } |
| hereto, and made a part of this Agreement; and | |
| WHEREAS, the Company is willing to make such an | 1 |
| extension upon the terms and conditions hereinafter | i |
| set forth; and | |
| | } |
| WHEREAS, the Applicant(s) is willing and desires to assist in the installation of such extension and | |
| | 1 |
| desires to bear the cost thereof. | 1 |
| NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises | |
| and the mutual covenants and agreements herein | ł |
| contained, THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS: | |
| Applicant(s) hereby applies to the Company for | |
| the said extension of its system, and the | 1 |
| Company agrees to construct the said extension | 1 |
| the first the contract of the | d D |
| forth. | 70 |
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month day year DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 1992 month day year President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo. ISSUED BY-

| Rules and Regulations | APR 27 1994 |
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| Governing Rendering of Service | |
| | WISSOUR |
| | Public Service Commission |

- Upon execution hereof, the Applicant(s) shall deposit with the Company the sum of
 - Such deposit shall be DOLLARS (\$). adjusted based upon the determination of the actual cost by Company of facilities installed including sewer pipe and appurtenances, connectfees, engineering, accounting, and legal ٥f obtaining any plus the cost expenses necessary easements or permits from governmental If it is necessary to adjust the agencies. amount of such deposit, in accordance with this paragraph, a supplemental αf memorandum will be prepared setting forth the actual costs and shall be attached hereto made a part hereof.
- 3. The Company will use its best efforts to commence and carry to completion as soon as possible the installation of said extension, having in mind, however, delays which may be occasioned by weather, acts of God, strikes, or other matters not within its control.
- 4. It is further mutually understood and agreed that the collecting sewer(s) and appurtenances within the limits of the street, avenues, roads or easement areas, whether or not attached to or serving customers but constructed as part of the extension shall be and remain the property of the Company, its successors. By the terms of this Agreement the Company may further extend or connect collecting sewers in or to other lands, streets, or easements without incurring any liability to Applicant(s) whatsoever.
- 5. Applicant(s) will, upon the request of the Company, grant to it an exclusive and irrevocable easement, at no cost to Company, for the FILED

DATE OF ISSUE April

MAY 27 1992

MO. PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 1992
month day year

ISSUED BY President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

name of officer

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27, 1992

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^{*}Indicates new rate or text +Indicates change

Cancelling P.S.C.MO. No. All Previous Schedules Original \ SHEET No.

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Capital Utilities, Inc.

Name of Issuing Corporation

For Missouri Certificated Service Area

Community, Town or City ED Sewer Division

Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service APR 27 19:112

Public Senior Commission

installation, maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of said collecting sewer extension and appurtenances within the limits of any existing or proposed street, roadway, or easement area, together with right of ingress and egress thereto, in form satisfactory to the Company and duly executed and acknowledge in proper form for record. The Company shall also have the right to request additional easement area over property owned by the Applicant(s) for the purpose of future extension of system to provide service to adjacent property.

- It is further understood and agreed by and 6. between the parties hereto that the Company's agreement to construct the said extension is subject to the Company obtaining all necessary consents, orders, permits, easements, and approvals of public officers or public bodies having jurisdiction over or lawful interest in any of the subject matters herein. In the event that the Company, after prompt application and delingent effort, is unable to obtain any necessary consent, order, permit, easement, or approval as aforesaid, or in the event that the Company is enjoined or prevented by lawful action of any such public officer or official body from constructing the said extension, the Company shall have no obligation to the Applicant(s) to proceed with the installation until such time as the aforesaid lawful action shall be resolved.
 - It is agreed by Applicant(s) that he will not build at any time hereafter on, in or over the said easement any structure, the construction or presence of which will endanger or render FILED

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992 month day year

DATE EFFECTIVE May 27 1992 month day year

President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

^{*}Indicates new rate or text +indicates change

Sewer Division PECEIVED

Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service

APR 27 19h2

MISSOUF Public Service Columission ineffective or difficult the access collecting sewer O۳ appurtenances o f the Company, or lay other pipes or conduits within two (2) feet, measured horizontally or ten (10) feet for water main, measured horizontally, from the said collecting sewers except pipes crossing same at right angles in which latter case a minimum distance of eighteen (18) inches be maintained between the pipes. No excavation or blasting shall be carried on which in any way endangers the said collecting sewers. Provided, however, that should the Applicant(s) wish to do so, he may at his own expense provide a new location acceptable to the Company for the said collecting sewers and the Company will then said collecting sewers and appurtenances to new location, and the whole cost of such moving and altering and any expenses incident thereto, shall be borne by the Applicant(s). further understood and agreed that in case of any damage by Applicant(s) or caused by neglect of Applicant(s) to the collecting sewers or their appurtenances, connection therewith, these facilities will be repaired and brought to proper grade by the Company or Company's contractor at Applicant's expense.

- The Company reserves the right to withdraw 8. this proposal at anytime before it has been accepted by the Applicant(s). In the event it is not accepted and the payment for the collecting sewers main extension is not in possession of the Company within sixty (60) days from the date this Agreement is transmitted to the Applicant(s), this proposal will be null and
- FILLED During the first ten (10) years after the extension is complete, the Company will refund

*Indicates new rate or text

+Indicates change

MO. PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992 month day year

DATE EFFECTIVE May 27 month day

ISSUED BYname of officer

President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mc. title

| FORM NO. 13 P.S.C.MO. No | 2 {Original } SHEET No. SE 5 |
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| Rules and Governing Rende | Regulations APR 27 1992 |
| monies collected accordance with tions on file wi Commission. Thi future users the sewers extension the expense asso | Public Service Commission from future sewer users in the Company's Rules and Regulath the Missouri Public Service s is intended to insure that at connect to said collecting in are assessed a fair share of ciated with the original cost of ing sewers extension. |
| agreed to the above | REDF, the parties hereto have conditions as indicated by their below on this day of |
| | COMPANY |
| ATTEST: | BY |
| | APPLICANT(S) |
| ATTEST: | |
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| *Indicates new rate or text findicates change | MAY 2 1992 92 - 195 Mo. Public Service Comm. |

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992

month day year

DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 1992

month day year

President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

name of officer title address

forth.

Upon execution hereof, the Developer shall

*Indicates new rate or text +indicates change

MO. PUBLIC SERVICE

FILLED

27, DATE OF ISSUE April 1992 DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 19 month day year month day year ISSUED BY

name of officer

President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

title

Address

*Indicates new rate or text +Indicates change

MO. PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

FILED

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992 DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 1992 month day year month day year

extension shall be and remain the property of the Company, its successors and any collecting

SUED BY President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

Capital Utilities. Inc. Name of Issuing Corporation

For Missouri Certificated Service Area Community, Town or City

Sewer Division

Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service

sewers installed by it pursuant to the terminor but this Agreement in or to other lands, streets roan Commission easements without incurring any liability to Applicant(s) whatsoever.

- Developer will, upon the request of the Company, grant to it an exclusive and irrevocable easement, at no cost to Company, for the installation, maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of said extensionand appurtenances within the limits of any existing proposed street, roadway, or easement right of together with ingress and thereto, in form satisfactory to the Company and duly executed and acknowledge in proper form for The Company shall also have the right record. to additional easement area over property owned by the Developer for the purpose of extension of system to provide service adjacent property.
- 7. It is further understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that the Company's agreement to construct the said extension is subject to the Company obtaining all necessary consents, orders, permits, easements, and approvals of public officers or public bodies having jurisdiction over or lawful interest in any of the subject matters herein. In the event that the Company, after prompt application and delingent effort, is unable to obtain any necessary consent, order, permit, easement, or approval as aforesaid, or in the event that the Company is enjoined or prevented by lawful action of any such public officer or official body from constructing the said extension, the Company shall have no obligation to the FILED

*Indicates new rate or text +Indicates change

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1992 DATE OF ISSUE _April DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 10 month day year month day President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo. name of officer title

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Capital Utilities, Inc. Name of Insulng Corporation

For Missouri Certificated Service Area Community, Town or City

Sewer Division

Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service

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Public Service Commission such time as the aforesaid lawful action shall be resolved.

- It is agreed by Developer that he will not 8. build at any time hereafter on, in or over the said easement any structure, the construction or presence of which will endanger or render ineffective or difficult the access to collecting sewers or appurtenances of the Company, or lay other pipes or conduits within two (2) feet, measured horizontally or ten (10) feet for water measured horizontally, from collecting sewers except pipes crossing same at latter case right angles in which (18) inches shall eighteen distance of No excavation or maintained between the pipes. blasting shall be carried on which in any endangers the said collecting sewers. Provided, however, that should the Developer wish to so, he may at his own expense provide location acceptable to the Company for the said collecting sewers and the Company will then move said collecting sewers and appurtenances to said new location, and the whole cost of such moving and altering and any expenses incident thereto, shall be borne by the Developer. It is further understood and agreed that in case of any damage by Developer or caused by neglect of Developer to the collecting sewers or their appurtenances, connection therewith, these facilities will be repaired and brought to proper grade by the at Developer's Company or Company's contractor expense.
 - It is further mutually understood and agreed by 9. and between the parties hereto that this Agreement is subject to all the requirements of FILED

DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992 DATE EFFECTIVE May 27, 19 month day year

month day year ISSUED BY

President, P.O. Box 7017, Jefferson City, Mo.

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| | 10. | the Company's Rendering of with the Misso they expressed specifically no of a sewer seither continu Company owned construction of collection/treather Company resproposal at any by the Developted and textension is Company within this Agreement this proposal withis Agreement of the Company within this Agreement of the Company within the Co | Sewer Servicuri Public herein ted that the system "extention of collecting from entitlement system timent system time before per. In the payment not in the sixty (60) is transmitted to the null hereby, the | Regulation ce curren Service Co or not. The Company of the company | ns Gove tly on mmissio lt s defin y refe om exi or waste hdraw te en acce it is ewer s ion of om the Devel | rning file n be is ition r to sting the water his pted ystem date oper, have | | |
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DATE OF ISSUE April 27, 1992

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MEMORANDUM

JAN 14 1908

To:

Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File

Case No. WM-98-130

Lake Carmel Development Co., Inc. and Capital Utilities, Inc.

From:

Jim Murciel, Water and Sewer Department

1/1:/-15 2000/1/12/98

Director-Utility Services Invision/Date

Director Willity Operations Division/Date

General Counsel's Office/Date

Subject: Staff's Recommendation for Approval of Sale and Transfer of Franchise

Date: January 12, 1998

On September 22, 1997, a joint application was filed seeking authority for Lake Carmel Development Co., Inc. (LCD) to sell and transfer its franchise, works or system to Capital Utilities, Inc. (CU). LCD is a regulated sewer utility located in Cole County and currently provides service to 27 customers. It also owns a water system, but does not have a certificate to provide water service. CU provides regulated water and sewer service to over 1,200 customers in numerous areas of Cole, Callaway and Pettis Counties, and proposes to provide water and sewer service under its existing tariff rules and rates.

LCD was certificated as a sewer utility in Case No. 17,718 by an order issued by the Commission on October 31, 1973. It was owned by Alfred Lepper. Mr. Lepper, as developer of the area, contributed the utility plant to LCD and operated the system on behalf of LCD. After the death of Mr. Lepper, the family continued to maintain the system but was receptive to selling the system and the undeveloped lots at LCD. The approximately 130 undeveloped lots are being sold to another individual who plans to build additional homes.

After reviewing the application, the Accounting Department met with Garah F. "Rick" Helms, President of CU, to discuss the plans for the LCD property. Mr. Helms noted that the sewer system was designed for a maximum of 70 homes, which will allow for considerable customer growth. There

MO PSC Case No. WM-98-130 Official Case File Memorandum January 12, 1998 Page 2 of 4

is no plan to immediately improve the sewer system. The treatment facility would need to be expanded or upgraded if the time comes that plant capacity is exceeded due to customer growth. Mr. Helms also stated that additional storage capacity for the water system will be added. CU plans to improve the water system by using a 10,000 gallon pressure tank that was salvaged from another water system it owns. This tank would meet the Missouri Department of Natural Resources design criteria for pressure tank size. There will be no rate base involved initially, however, future plant additions should be recorded and depreciated the same as CU's existing plant. Expenses listed on Appendix 6 of the Application were based on the CU 1996 Annual Report and the average costs of similar systems already being operated by CU.

A letter was sent to Mrs. Lepper on November 12, 1997 and a response was received on December 18, 1997, in her behalf, from LeefTering Accounting which separated the water and sewer revenues that had been combined on the 1996 annual report. An analysis of LCD annual reports going back several years shows that while only the sewer utility was certificated, revenues and expenses related to sewer, water and lot sales were all combined for filing purposes. Based on the annual reports as filed, the sewer and water rates combined did not provide enough revenue for the payment of all of the expenses. This was noted on several annual reports.

The following bill comparison shows the current metered water rate being charged to customers on the uncertificated LCD water system, and CU's current approved metered water rate which is requested to become effective for this area. The current sewer rate at LCD is a flat \$4.75 per month. This rate has not changed since the mid-seventies. CU proposes to charge \$22.53 per month, which is the same as for other CU customers in Cole County. While this rate is considerably higher than the \$4.75 rate, the Staff believes that this higher rate is necessary to cover the expenses of maintaining the system, as well as to provide a reasonable level of customer service and emergency response capability.

| Consumption | Utility Rate Coroparis Lake Carmel | on Capital Utilities |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Water (26 customers) | | |
| 1,000 gallons | \$ 4.50 | \$ 440 |
| 3,000 | 8.00 | 7.30 |
| 6,000 | 10 80 | 11 65 |
| Sewer (27 customers) | | |
| Flat Rate | \$ 4.75 | \$ 22.53 |

MO. PSC Case No. WM-98-130 Official Case File Memorandom January 12, 1998 Page 3 of 4

Mr. Helms informed the Staff that he had met with residents of LCD to discuss the plans for the system. He indicated that customers were primarily concerned about future expansion of the system and who would have to pay for it. Mr. Helms stated he told the residents attending that the expansion costs would be absorbed by CU on a company wide basis. He also stated his belief that the proposed rate increase for the sewer system was not a concern voiced by customers. The Staff notes there are two letters that were sent by customers responding to the customer notice. One telephone call was also received by the Staff. These customers expressed concern about the difference in rates, but also seem to understand the need for this sale to take place in order that good utility service continue into the future.

Regarding the difference in sewer rates, the Staff believes that CU's existing rates are appropriate because these rates are presently in effect for existing CU customers in Cole County. The Staff also notes that some of these customers are served by lagoon systems similar to the Lake Carmel system.

Based on our review of the application, annual reports, the interview with Mr. Helms and the Staff's inspection of the water and sewer systems, the Staff believes that this sale and transfer of assets is not detrimental to the public interest.

The Staff recommends the transfer of assets and the granting of appropriate Certificates to CU be approved. The Staff believes it is reasonable for CU to operate the water and sewer system under its existing rates and rules. The Commission's approval of the transfer of assets should also include granting CU Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (Certificates) to provide water and sewer service in the Lake Carnel area, and cancel the Certificate that was granted to LCD. CU will need to amend its water tariff and its server facilit to reflect the Lake Carnel service area, and the filed tariff approved for LCD will need to be canceled.

Since CU presently has no particular date set for closing on the assets, the Staff recommends that CU submit 30-day tariff filmgs, for water and for sewer, with the effective date to be the date to be scheduled for closing of the assets. The Commission could cancel the LCD tariff at the time the CU tariff, become effective

To summarize, the Staff recommends that

- 1. The transfer of water and sewer system assets owned by LCD to CU be approved,
- Certificates to provide water and sewer service be granted to CU for the Lake Carmel
 area, with such service to be provided under existing CU rates and tariffs, effective upon the
 effective date of tariffs to be filed by CU as described herein;
- 3. CU be ordered to submit tariff sheets revising its water and sewer tariffs with a map and

MO FSC Case No. WM 98-130 Official Case File Memorandum January 12, 1998 Page 4 of 4

legal description of the Lake Carmel area, and

The Certificate granted LCD, and the tariff approved for LCD, be canceled upon approval
of tariffs to be filed by CU

The Water and Sewer Department will file an additional memorandum regarding the tariffs to be filed by CU.

cc: Director - Utility Operations Division

Director - Utility Services Division

Director - Advisory and Public Affairs Division

General Counsel

Manager - Financial Analysis Department

Manager - Accounting Department

Manager - Water and Sewer Department

Manager - Customer Service

Manager - Depreciation Department

Office of the Public Counsel

Curt Lepper, President - Lake Carnicl Development, Inc

Rick Helms, President - Capital Utilities, Inc.

Dean Cooper-Brydon, Swearenger & England, P.C. - Attorney for Applicants

Staff Positions re: Tariff Provisions: Aqua Missouri – CU-Sewer

- (1) Regarding the expansion/modification, rehabilitation or replacement of an existing sewage treatment plant that is needed due to factors such as a lack of capacity for serving existing customers, normal "wear and tear" or changes in applicable regulations, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner. Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the Company will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects.
- (2) Regarding the expansion/modification of an existing sewage treatment plant that is needed due to requests for new service connections from individual customers, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner. Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the Company will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects.
- (3) Regarding the expansion/modification of an existing sewage treatment plant that is needed due to a request for new service connections from a developer, as that term is defined in the Company's tariff, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner. Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the developer will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects through the execution of a company/developer contract as set forth in the Company's tariff. Additionally, the Staff acknowledges that the company/developer contract called for by the Company's tariff may provide that the construction of the project be done by the developer subject to the Company's inspection, approval and acceptance.
- Regarding the replacement of an existing sewage treatment plant that is needed due to a request for new service connections from a developer, as that term is defined in the Company's tariff, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner. Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the Company and the developer will jointly provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects through the execution of a company/developer contract as set forth in the Company's tariff, with that joint funding to be reflective of the number of existing service connections and the number of potential new service connections. Additionally, the Staff acknowledges that the company/developer contract called for by the Company's tariff may provide that the construction of the project be done by the developer subject to the Company's inspection, approval and acceptance.
- (5) Regarding the construction of a new sewage treatment plant that is needed due to a request from a developer, as that term is defined in the Company's tariff, for service in an area in which the Company does not currently provide service, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects

in a timely manner. Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the developer will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects through the execution of a company/developer contract as set forth in the Company's tariff. Additionally, the Staff acknowledges that the company/developer contract called for by the Company's tariff may provide that the construction of the project be done by the developer subject to the Company's inspection, approval and acceptance.

- (6) Regarding the extension of a sewer collecting main that is needed due to a request for a new service connection from an individual customer, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the customer will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects through the execution of a company/customer contract as set forth in the Company's tariff. Additionally, the Staff acknowledges that the company/customer contract called for by the Company's tariff may provide that the construction of the project be done by the customer subject to the Company's inspection, approval and acceptance.
- (7) Regarding the extension of a sewer collecting main that is needed due to a request for new service connections from a developer, as that term is defined in the Company's tariff, it is the Staff's position that the Company is responsible for developing the plans for such projects in a timely manner, for obtaining the necessary DNR permits for such projects in a timely manner and for constructing such projects in a timely manner Further, it is the Staff's understanding that the developer will provide the funds for the design, permitting and construction of such projects through the execution of a company/developer contract as set forth in the Company's tariff. Additionally, the Staff acknowledges that the company/developer contract called for by the Company's tariff may provide that the construction of the project be done by the developer subject to the Company's inspection, approval and acceptance.