STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 14th day of May, 2014.

In the Matter of a Working Case to Draft a Rule)
Regarding Utility Pay Stations and Loan Companies)

File No. AW-2014-0329

ORDER OPENING A WORKING CASE TO ASSIST IN THE DRAFTING OF A RULE REGARDING UTILITY PAY STATIONS AND SHORT-TERM LENDERS

Issue Date: May 14, 2014 Effective Date: May 14, 2014

Recently, while considering numerous changes to its Chapter 13 rules regarding utility billing and payment standards, the Commission was presented with a proposal to amend those rules to forbid utilities to establish pay agent relationships with companies that make secured or unsecured short term loans; companies that are sometimes described as payday lenders. The Commission did not add such a provision to the rules at that time, but indicated the proposal deserved full consideration and a fair opportunity for response. The Commission said it would direct its Staff to bring the matter back to the Commission for consideration in a future rulemaking. The Commission is creating this working file to facilitate Staff's efforts to obtain input from interested stakeholders regarding the drafting of such a rule.

Staff may solicit opinions and recommendations from interested stakeholders in whatever manner it believes will be effective. If it believes that an order from the Commission scheduling a workshop or otherwise assisting Staff in obtaining information is necessary it may file a motion requesting such action. Staff shall file a report in ninety

days either proposing language for a rule, or explaining why such a rule is not appropriate.

This file will serve as a repository for documents and comments. Using this file, any person with an interest in this matter may view documents and may submit comments or documents. As this is not a contested case, anyone may file a comment without legal counsel and without *ex parte* constraints. Intervention requests are not necessary to submit comments or view documents.

The public is welcome to submit comments by forwarding electronic communications through the Commission's electronic filing and information system (EFIS) or by mailing written comments. You may submit electronic comments at the Commission's website at http://www.psc.mo.gov. (Click on the EFIS/Case filings link on the left side of the page. Scroll down and click on the public comment link. Please refer to File No. AW-2014-0329. Written comments in hard copy should be addressed to the Commission at P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 and should also reference File No. EW-2014-0329. The public can view the contents of the file by following the link at http://www.psc.mo.gov.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- The Commission's Data Center shall provide a copy of this order to all Commission-certificated electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities in the State of Missouri.
- 2. The Commission's Public Information Office shall make notice of this order available to the news media and to the members of the General Assembly.

- 3. Staff shall investigate as directed in the body of this order and shall file its report no later than August 13, 2014.
 - 4. This order shall become effective upon issuance.





Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

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R. Kenney, Chm., Stoll, W. Kenney, Hall, and Rupp, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge