

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

In the Matter of Osage Water Company's     )  
Request for a Rate Increase for Sewer        )  
Service Pursuant to the Public Service       )  
Commission's Small Company Rate Increase    )  
Procedure.                                        )

**Case No. SR-00-556**  
Tariff No. 200000346

**DISSENTING OPINION OF COMMISSIONER CONNIE MURRAY**

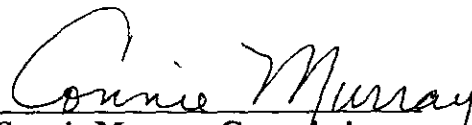
Because of my continuing concerns about the safety and adequacy of sewer service provided by Osage Water Company, I would not grant the rate increase. Based upon the evidence and upon the historical performance of the company, I have no reason to believe that the increase will result in improved service. I take this position, even though the Commission Staff agreed to the increase and the Office of the Public Council did not oppose it.

Staff witness Hummel testified that the sewer service is inadequate and that the rate increase is unlikely to solve or prevent any of the historical problems of the company. He also admitted that the company's record keeping is inadequate and that his expectations for improvement, based upon past performance, are not high.

OPC witness Bolin stated that OPC still has concerns about the safety and adequacy of sewer service provided by the company. Because of the small size of the increase, however, OPC did not believe anything would be gained by pursuing a challenge.

I cannot support even a small increase in rates for customers that are not receiving safe and adequate service, particularly when there is no reason to believe that service will improve. Therefore, I dissent.

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
**Connie Murray, Commissioner**

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 22nd day of March, 2001.