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

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In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Aquila, Inc., to Implement a General Rate Increase for Retail Electric Service Provided to Customers in its Aquila Networks—MPS and Aquila Networks—L&P Missouri Service Areas.

<u>Case No. ER-2007-0004</u> Tariff No. YE-2007-0001

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES LIST

The Office of the Public Counsel respectfully asks the Commission to permit Public Counsel to amend the Issues List for this case due to an omission of Accounting Authority Orders issues. This case's lead counsel was in hearings in the AmerenUE rate case (ER-2007-0002) during all of March (including at the time the issues list and other pre-trial pleadings were discussed, prepared and circulated) in this case. The undersigned counsel only was involved in this case for the last two weeks and inadvertently overlooked this issue omission.

On March 22, 2007, Staff filed the "List Of Issues, Order Of Issues, List Of Witnesses, Order Of Witnesses And Order Of Cross-Examination" with the input of all parties. Included in the pleading were a list of contested issues identified by the prefiled testimony and the parties. In reviewing the proposed issues lists circulated by Staff, counsel overlooked the omission of Public Counsel's issues concerning the annual expense amortization for the Ice Storm and rate base treatment for deferred income taxes associated with the Sibley AAOs under the Accounting Authority Orders (AAO) list of issues

Specifically, Public Counsel proposes to insert the following issue under

Accounting Authority Orders (AAO) so that it now reads:

- 6. Accounting Authority Orders:
  - (a) Should the unamortized balance of the accounting authority orders the Commission issued for the Rebuild and Western Coal Conversion of Aquila's Sibley generating facility be included in Aquila Networks-MPS's rate base?
  - (b) <u>Should the Company be allowed to recover the Ice Storm AAO expense</u> <u>amortization in its cost of service at an annual level of expense proposed</u> <u>by the Company and the Staff that exceeds the one month cost balance</u> <u>that remains to be amortized?</u>
  - (c) <u>Deferred Taxes AAO: Should deferred income taxes associated with the</u> <u>Sibley accounting authority orders be determined and applied as an</u> <u>offset to Aquila Network-MPS's rate base even if the Commission</u> <u>excludes AAO deferred costs</u>

(emphasis indicates amendment)

Ron A. Klote (Aquila) Phillip K. Williams (Staff) Ted Robertson (OPC)

The omission was inadvertent and not made with any intent to prejudice the other parties or give Public Counsel an unfair advantage. The Company, the Staff and some of the parties were aware that Public Counsel still considered as contested issues: (1) the rate base inclusion of the Sibley AAO deferred costs and the treatment of associated accumulated deferred income taxes (ADIT) for all the Sibley AAOs and (2) the recovery treatment of the amortized Ice Storm total expense amount that exceeds the remaining one month cost balance. The parties had conferences on the issues in the case on March 16, 29, and 30; on March 29, Mr. Robertson by e-mail advised Staff of the value of OPC's 'live" issues for the Staff's preparation of the Reconciliation of the parties' positions and filed Surrebuttal Testimony on March 30<sup>th</sup>. In each instance, Public Counsel made its issues and position known and did not abandon or waive these issues. In addition, the Issues List provides in paragraph 6 that "This "non-binding" listing of issues is not to be construed as impairing any party's ability to argue about any of these issues or related matters, or to restrict the scope of its response to arguments made by other parties."

Wherefore, for the foregoing reasons, Public Counsel requests the amendment to the Issues List set out in this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE Public Counsel

## /s/ Michael F. Dandino

By:\_

Michael F. Dandino (#24590) Deputy Public Counsel P O Box 2230 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-5559 (573) 751-5562 FAX mike.dandino@ded.mo.gov

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to Counsel of Record this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2007:

Office General Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 GenCounsel@psc.mo.gov

John B Coffman AARP 871 Tuxedo Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63119-2044 john@johncoffman.net

Stuart Conrad AG Processing, Inc 3100 Broadway, Suite 1209 Kansas City, MO 64111 stucon@fcplaw.com

Thomas M Byrne AmerenUE 1901 Chouteau Avenue P.O. Box 66149 (MC 1310) St. Louis, MO 63166-6149 tbyrne@ameren.com

Dean L Cooper Aquila Networks 312 East Capitol P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102 dcooper@brydonlaw.com

Russell L Mitten Aquila Networks 312 E. Capitol Ave P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102 rmitten@brydonlaw.com Nathan Williams Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Nathan.Williams@psc.mo.gov

David Woodsmall AG Processing, Inc 428 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300 Jefferson City, MO 65102 dwoodsmall@fcplaw.com

James B Lowery AmerenUE 111 South Ninth St., Suite 200 P.O. Box 918 Columbia, MO 65202-0918 lowery@smithlewis.com

Renee Parsons Aquila Networks 20 West 9th Street Kansas City, MO 64105 renee.parsons@aquila.com

Paul A Boudreau Aquila Networks 312 East Capitol Avenue P.O. Box 456 Jefferson City, MO 65102 PaulB@brydonlaw.com

Mark W Comley City of Kansas City, Missouri 601 Monroe Street., Suite 301 P.O. Box 537 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0537 comleym@ncrpc.com Mary Ann Young City of St. Joseph, Missouri 2031 Tower Drive P.O. Box 104595 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4595 myoung0654@aol.com

Jeremiah D Finnegan County of Jackson, Missouri 3100 Broadway, Suite 1209 Kansas City, MO 64111 jfinnegan@fcplaw.com

Shelley A Woods MO Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 899 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0899 shelley.woods@ago.mo.gov

David Woodsmall Sedalia Industrial Energy Users Assoc. 428 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300 Jefferson City, MO 65102 dwoodsmall@fcplaw.com

Koriambanya S Carew The Commercial Group 2400 Pershing Road, Suite 500 Crown Center Kansas City, MO 64108 carew@bscr-law.com William D Steinmeier City of St. Joseph, Missouri 2031 Tower Drive P.O. Box 104595 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4595 wds@wdspc.com

Capt Frank Hollifield Federal Executive Agencies AFCESA/ULT 139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1 Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403-5319 frank.hollifield@tyndall.af.mil

Diana M Vuylsteke Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers 211 N. Broadway, Suite 3600 St. Louis, MO 63102 dmvuylsteke@bryancave.com

Stuart Conrad Sedalia Industrial Energy Users Assoc. 3100 Broadway, Suite 1209 Kansas City, MO 64111 stucon@fcplaw.com

Rick D Chamberlain The Commercial Group 6 NE 63rd Street, Ste. 400 Oklahoma City, OK 73105 rdc\_law@swbell.net

/s/ Michael F. Dandino

Michael F. Dandino Deputy Public Counsel