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Issues:	Capital Investment Program, Description of Plant Additions, Risks of Furnishing Public Water and Sewer Service
Witness:	Bruce W. Aiton
Exhibit Type:	Direct
Sponsoring Party:	Missouri-American Water Company
Case No.:	WR-2017-0285 SR-2017-0285
Date:	June 30, 2017

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**CASE NO. WR-2017-0285
CASE NO. SR-2017-0286**

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

BRUCE W. AITON

ON BEHALF OF

MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
BRUCE W. AITON
MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
CASE NO. WR-2017-0285
CASE NO. SR-2017-0286**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction.....Error!

Bookmark not defined.

II. Capital Investment Program3

III. Description of Plant Additions.....5

IV. Risks of Furnishing Public Water and Sewer Services11

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

IN THE MATTER OF MISSOURI-AMERICAN) WATER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO) FILE TARIFFS REFLECTING INCREASED) RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER) SERVICE)	CASE NO. WR-2017-0285 CASE NO. SR-2017-0286
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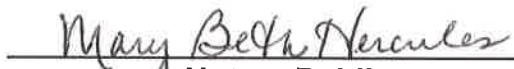
AFFIDAVIT OF BRUCE W. AITON

Bruce W. Aiton, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the witness who sponsors the accompanying testimony entitled "Direct Testimony of Bruce W. Aiton"; that said testimony and schedules were prepared by him and/or under his direction and supervision; that if inquiries were made as to the facts in said testimony and schedules, he would respond as therein set forth; and that the aforesaid testimony and schedules are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.



Bruce W. Aiton

State of Missouri
County of St. Louis
SUBSCRIBED and sworn to
Before me this 6th day of June 2017.



Notary Public

My commission expires:



DIRECT TESTIMONY

BRUCE W. AITON

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Bruce Aiton, and my business address is 727 Craig Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141.

Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I am employed by Missouri-American Water Company (“MAWC”, “Missouri-American” or the “Company”) as Director of Engineering.

Q. Please describe your educational background and work experience.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from California State University Sacramento. I am a registered professional engineer in the state of California. I have over 29 years of experience in the water and sewer design and construction industry. In these roles, I was involved in, or oversaw the completion of, numerous planning, design, and construction projects, ranging in size and scope from small sewer and water main extension projects to water and sewer system planning studies and the design and construction administration of treatment plant improvement projects of up to \$90 million. I began working for American Water in August of 2009 and became the Director of Engineering for MAWC, in February 2017, the position I currently hold.

1 **Q. Are you a member of any industry or professional organizations?**

2 A. Yes. I am a member of the American Water Works Association and the Water
3 Environment Federation.

4 **Q. What are your current employment responsibilities?**

5 A. I am responsible for managing the planning, design and construction of water and sewer
6 capital investment projects for all of MAWC's systems and facilities, including the
7 development and updating of the statewide Geographic Information System ("GIS")
8 and developer related services. My responsibilities include ensuring MAWC's
9 compliance with state and federal requirements related to the planning for and delivery
10 of the capital investment program; coordinating the procurement of all project design
11 and construction services; providing comprehensive system planning for use in
12 developing system needs and projecting capital spending; and supporting MAWC
13 operations staff in performing plant/system troubleshooting.

14 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony in this proceeding?**

15 A. The purpose of my testimony is three-fold. First, I discuss generally MAWC's capital
16 investment planning process and describe MAWC's need for significant capital
17 investment. Second, I describe and support the water and sewer utility plant and
18 equipment that the Company has placed in service or will place in service from
19 February 2016 through May 2019, highlighting significant capital projects for each
20 period. Third, I describe some of the risks associated with: (1) maintaining safe and
21 adequate water quantity and water quality and complying with applicable drinking
22 water and environmental regulations associated with owning and operating facilities
23 for supplying water to the public; (2) complying with all of the environmental

1 regulations that apply to owning and operating facilities for furnishing sewer service to
2 the public; and (3) the challenges increased climate variability creates for water and
3 sewer utilities. Ms. Buckley’s direct testimony discusses why investors’ perceptions of
4 such risks should be considered in establishing a reasonable rate of return on equity for
5 the Company in this case.

6 **Q. Are you sponsoring any schedules as part of your direct testimony in this**
7 **proceeding?**

8 A. Yes. I am sponsoring the following: Strategic Capital Expenditure Plan (“SCEP”) for
9 2018 through 2022. The SCEP also includes 2017 data for recurring projects and larger
10 investment projects where a portion of the project may carry over into 2018.

11 **II. MAWC’S CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

12 **Q. Please explain the Company’s capital investment planning and governance**
13 **process.**

14 A. The Company uses a standardized Capital Investment Management (“CIM”) process
15 to manage all of its capital investments. MAWC conducts planning studies that forecast
16 necessary improvement projects and prioritize those projects within the study area. All
17 capital investment programs and projects are then prioritized within an overall strategic
18 planning process, utilizing drivers associated with various asset investment strategies
19 (such as safety, regulatory compliance, capacity, customer satisfaction, etc.), to
20 formulate a five-year Strategic Capital Expenditure Plan (“SCEP”). More detailed
21 design engineering is conducted, and implementation plans are developed for those
22 projects that are contained in the SCEP. The Company’s annual capital construction
23 plan is based upon projects and programs contained in the SCEP. On an annual basis,

1 main replacement projects are prioritized on a state-wide basis. Numerous factors are
2 considered when determining funding allocations for infrastructure investment, such as
3 current and future service needs, assessments of the physical condition of existing
4 plant, economic and risk factors, performance characteristics, regulatory compliance,
5 and the potential to coordinate with municipalities and other utilities in joint
6 improvement projects. The CIM governance process provides for formal approvals and
7 consistent controls that optimize the effectiveness of asset investment. By having a
8 good project planning, budget and ongoing review process, MAWC is able to manage
9 a wide variety of projects within the overall cost of its plant construction budget.

10 **Q. How much capital investment is the Company seeking to recover in this case?**

11 A. The Company has invested or plans to invest \$492.6 million in its water and sewer
12 facilities since its last rate case. The level of investment sought in this case is
13 significantly higher than in past cases. We are seeking a future test year that reaches
14 out to mid-2019, which is approximately 18 months beyond the traditional Missouri-
15 American historical test year/true up period. Of the total \$492.6 million investment,
16 over half, approximately \$250 million, would not be part of this rate case under
17 Missouri-American's historical test year and true up period.

18 **Q. Does this mean that customers are disadvantaged by the use of the future test**
19 **year?**

20 A. No, not at all. The future test year investment will actually be used, useful and serving
21 customers during the first year that the rates become effective. Furthermore, as I
22 discuss later in my testimony, rate recovery on a significant part the investment that
23 would have been collected through the ISRS process, will, instead be collected in base

1 rates under the future test year and will not be collected through the ISRS. With the
2 approval of a future test year, the ISRS will not resume until the conclusion of the first
3 year of new rates.

4 **III. DESCRIPTION OF PLANT ADDITIONS**

5 **Q. Please describe MAWC's plant additions.**

6 A. The projects that comprise the Company's plant additions in this case vary from what
7 may be characterized as small, routine, recurring, projects, such as the installation of
8 individual distribution mains and services and hydrants, to substantially larger discrete
9 projects, such as the Platte County (Parkville) water treatment plant ("WTP"); safety
10 and reliability upgrades at water production facilities; emergency power generation
11 equipment; water storage tank projects; and system acquisition improvements, which I
12 discuss, along with other projects, below.

13 **Q. What is amount of MAWC's planned investment in this case is for the**
14 **replacement of water and sewer distribution and collection mains and services?**

15 A. MAWC plant additions in this case include approximately \$247 million for water and
16 sewer infrastructure replacement for pipes that are near the end of their useful lives.
17 From the perspective of long-term sustainable customer service and water rates,
18 replacing pipes that are near the end of their useful life in a systematic responsible
19 manner will result in lower costs to customers over time as compared with deferring
20 needed replacements and addressing problems, such as leaks and main breaks, as they
21 arise. Planned pipe replacements are much less costly on a unit cost basis than the costs
22 of increasing pipe breaks, service disruptions, property damages, health risks from

1 potential drinking water contamination exposure during pipe breaks, related
2 community opportunity costs related to community health and economic development,
3 and the steep increase in future pipe replacements resulting from prior deferrals of the
4 replacements.

5 **Q. Will the main replacement projects have any impact on operation and**
6 **maintenance costs?**

7 A.. In the absence of main replacement, the number of main breaks and associated repair
8 costs will increase and operation and maintenance O&M costs will increase
9 accordingly. As MAWC has increased spending on main replacements, the trend in
10 annual number of main breaks has decreased. While weather, system demands and
11 pumping pressure, and other factors can contribute to main breaks, the age of the mains
12 is typically a common factor. The main replacement program will help to mitigate the
13 increase in breaks the Company would otherwise expect as the mains continue to age
14 and deteriorate.

15 **Q. What amount of MAWC's plant additions in this case would be eligible for**
16 **recovery through the ISRS outside of this rate case?**

17 A. Over \$100 million of water and sewer infrastructure replacement investment between
18 January 2018 and May 2019 would be eligible for recovery through the Infrastructure
19 System Replacement Surcharge ("ISRS") outside of this rate case. The future test year
20 simply takes into account investment that will be made, and avoids recovering the
21 associated cost through ISRS. As I noted, with the approval of a future test year in this
22 case, the Company will not seek ISRS eligible plant recovery until after the future test
23 year.

1 **Q. How are you presenting MAWC’s plant additions in your testimony?**

2 A. Plant additions included in this case are separated into two groups for discussion
3 purposes. The first includes plant investment from February 2016 through the current
4 test year (12 months ending May 31, 2018). The second includes investment during
5 the future test year (12 months ending May 31, 2019).

6 **A. MAWC Plant Additions through Current Test Year**

7 **Q. Please summarize total plant additions for MAWC through the current test year.**

8 A. MAWC invested approximately \$68 million in its water and sewer facilities during the
9 balance of calendar year 2016. MAWC is planning to invest an additional \$230.2
10 million in plant beginning in 2017 through the period ending May 2018. This includes
11 approximately \$96 million of ISRS eligible investment, \$47 million from January 2016
12 through June 2017 and another \$49 million from July 2017 through May 2018.

13 The balance of the investment as further described below is the completion of several
14 large projects to ensure adequacy and resiliency of the water and or sewer treatment
15 facilities and additional investment to further enhance its hardware, software platforms
16 and applications, and related systems.

17 Below is a description of significant projects.

18 **2016**

19 St. Louis Central WTP NPDES (I17-020034) \$1,566,647

20 The St. Louis Central WTP needed to modify their filter and waste discharge handling
21 in order to comply with new regulations related to lime discharge into the Missouri

1 River. A dilution method and pH adjustment capacity were added to the treatment
2 process prior to discharge into the Missouri River.

3 St. Louis Central WTP Electric Station Replacement (I17-020072) \$1,354,950

4 The St. Louis Central WTP Electric Station was the primary pumping station to provide
5 water and pressure into a large portion of the St. Louis County distribution systems.
6 The pumps and electrical components were beyond their useful life. A new structure
7 was constructed, along with a new discharge and intake pipe. New electrical control
8 and supply panels were also installed along with new pumps and a variable frequency
9 drive (“VFD”). This project ensures continued reliability of our pumping capacity and
10 capability and improves energy efficiency.

11 **2017 through May 2018**

12 St Louis Central WTP Generators Phase 1 (I17-020110) \$13,800,000

13 The St. Louis Central WTP is the largest plant in the state. The loss of power in the
14 fall of 2016 that resulted in a “boil water” advisory for approximately 90,000 customers
15 demonstrates the need for emergency generators to ensure power is available to treat
16 water and supply system pressure, thereby providing reliable service to our customers.
17 It is bad enough when customers are without electricity, but the loss of potable water
18 at the same time is an added burden. We are working hard to ensure and improve our
19 reliability. MAWC is installing a quantity of four, 3 megawatt generators and
20 accompanying electrical controls and switch gear, which will allow it to supply average
21 day demand in the event of a power outage.

1 Meramec River Crossing (I17-020116) \$3,700,000

2 Flooding of the Meramec River during December of 2015 eroded the embankment,
3 exposing a previously buried 16-inch pipe that crossed the river. The exposure of the
4 pipe poses a risk to the reliability of the system. MAWC is undertaking a project to
5 relocate the pipe to a deeper location by drilling through the bedrock below the river
6 bottom to prevent damage to the pipe and to protect this area of the system in the future.
7 The project will be complete in the fall of 2017 and, therefore, is not reflected in the
8 attached 2018-2022 SCEP.

9 Replace Platte County (Parkville) WTP (I17-040003) \$30,300,000

10 The Platte County WTP was established in the late 1800's and is well past its useful
11 life. The Company discussed the need to replace the treatment plant in the last rate
12 filing and has now begun the construction of a new plant to serve the community. The
13 new plant is slightly larger (5MGD v the existing 3.5MGD) to accommodate
14 anticipated growth in the community. The Company is aware of a 700 residential home
15 development currently being constructed in the area served by this plant.

16 Jefferson City-WTP Improvement Project (I17-120002) \$9,700,000

17 The Jefferson City WTP has needed a significant upgrade for many years. The project
18 replaces a lime system originally installed in 1963 that is beyond its useful life and in
19 poor condition. The upgrade will enhance the plant's ability to treat the variability of
20 the influent from the river, resulting in improved and more consistent water quality.
21 The project also adds a pre-sedimentation basin that adds a level of redundancy and
22 improves the reliability of the plant.

1 St. Louis Advanced Metering Infrastructure (“AMI”) (RP-17-J) \$13,700,000
2 MAWC has begun to add AMI to the system in St. Louis County. The AMI radio
3 antennae are added to existing meters or incorporated into new meters replaced due to
4 length of service timing. The primary drivers for deploying AMI in St. Louis County
5 are to increase meter reading efficiencies and effectiveness and to transition our
6 customers from quarterly to monthly billing. The operational and customer benefits of
7 AMI are further described in the direct testimony by Company Witness Clarkson.

8 Technology and Innovation (“T&I”) Investments (RP-17-K) \$16,400,000
9 The T&I investments include upgrades and enhancements to our foundational
10 technology, as well as new technology that integrates with existing systems that the
11 Company can leverage to enhance its service to customers. Some examples include
12 upgrading customer service infrastructure to make customer information more easily
13 accessible in the field to better serve our customers and enhancing our GIS platform.

14 **B. MAWC Future Test Year Plant Additions**

15 **Q. Please describe the significant capital projects planned for completion during the**
16 **future test year.**

17 A. MAWC is planning to invest an additional \$194 million in plant during the twelve
18 months ending May 31, 2019. This investment includes buried infrastructure
19 replacement, several large projects to ensure adequacy and resiliency of the water
20 and/or sewer treatment facilities, and additional investment to further enhance its
21 hardware, software platforms and applications, and related systems.

22 The significant capital projects planned for completion during the future test year are

1 as follows:

2 St. Louis Central WTP Settling Basin Concrete Replacement (I17-020136) \$1,000,000

3 The St. Louis Central WTP has large settling basins where the solids from the lime
4 softening process are allowed to settle. The concrete liner of these basins has large
5 holes and breaks in the concrete. The liner has developed large voids behind the liner
6 and results in loss of water through absorption into the soil. Replacement of the liner
7 will support more effective operation of the plant and avoid potential contamination of
8 the water.

9 St. Louis Central WTP Electric Feed “A” Switchgear (I17-020134) \$2,000,000

10 The plant has two parallel feeds that allows the Company to switch feeds in the event
11 of a disruption in service with one of the feeds. While the switchgear for Feed “B” was
12 recently replaced, the electrical switchgear for Feed “A” was installed over fifty years
13 ago. We plan to replace it to maintain a safe work place and to help ensure uninterrupted
14 power supply to the plant.

15 St Louis North WTP West Basin Secondary Flocculation (I17-020143) \$3,500,000

16 The North WTP West Basin was installed in 1955. While the equipment has been
17 maintained, the flocculation equipment is beyond its’ useful life and in need of
18 replacement. Replacing the electrical, mechanical and controls equipment will
19 improve the reliability and effectiveness of the flocculation process, and the resulting
20 water quality.

21 St Louis North WTP East Intake Switchgear (I17-020097) \$2,500,000

22 The switchgear at the North WTP East Intake is being replaced to ensure safe and

1 reliable service. The switchgear is aged causing parts to no longer be available and puts
2 employees at risk in the event that panels need to be opened. If the switchgear fails the
3 plant may be without water which could result in limited service for customers.

4 St Louis Distribution - Stratman #2 Tank Roof Replacement (I17-020149) \$2,550,000

5 Stratman #2 is one of two eleven million gallon tanks within our distribution system in
6 St. Louis county. The structural members supporting the roof have become corroded
7 over the years and the roof structure needs to be replaced to ensure the tank continues
8 to be available to serve customers within that area.

9 St. Joseph - River Crossing to Elwood (I17-030013) \$6,800,000

10 There is only one pipe line crossing the Missouri River to feed the small community of
11 Elwood, MO. In recent years the pipe feeding this area of the state has become exposed
12 by the waters of the Missouri River. The existing pipe is intended to remain in service
13 with the new pipe providing redundancy and mitigating the risk of service interruption
14 if the existing exposed pipe were to fail.

15 Warrensburg - Cayhill Loop Main Enterprise to Hwy 13 (I17-060002) \$1,200,000

16 The project is to install pipe to improve hydraulic performance to a western part of the
17 system. The project will improve pressure and capacity within the system.

18 Warrensburg - Ozone Generator Replacement (I17-060002) \$1,800,000

19 The well water supplying Warrensburg has taste and odor issues requiring ozonation
20 of the water as part of the treatment process. Without ozone generators, customers in
21 Warrensburg would experience taste and odor issues, diminishing the aesthetic quality

1 of the water service they currently receive from the Company.

2 Jefferson City WTP Improvements (I17-120002) \$2,150,000

3 Several key components of the Jefferson City WTP are beyond their useful lives and
4 need to be replaced. This project will replace the clarifier in Basin 2, replace the
5 flocculation drive equipment and several valves in the pipe gallery. The project will
6 improve the reliability and efficiency of the plant.

7 Hickory Hills Sewer Treatment Plant (I17-440001) \$1,500,000

8 Hickory Hills is a small community near California, MO that MAWC acquired at the
9 request of the State. The lagoon waste treatment facility is located in a flood area and
10 has had spills into the creek during high rain events. This project will replace the
11 existing lagoon with a facility no longer susceptible to high rain events and thereby
12 protect the environment and public.

13 Maplewood Lagoon - Ammonia Limits (I17-260002) \$2,150,000

14 As discussed below the change in effluent limits has resulted in many of the small
15 lagoon systems owned by MAWC to be challenged to meet the new lower discharge
16 limits. This project is the replacement of an existing lagoon system with a small
17 packaged sewer treatment plant to enable the plant to consistently meet the discharge
18 limits requirements.

19 T&I Investments (RP-17-K) \$8,600,000

20 The T&I investments include upgrades and enhancements to our foundational
21 technology, as well as new technology that integrates with existing systems that the

1 Company can leverage to enhance its service to customers. Some examples include
2 enhancing customer service applications and systems, leveraging technology for field
3 operations, and implementing meter data management.

4 St. Louis AMI (RP-17-J) \$9,500,000

5 MAWC is continuing AMI implementation in St. Louis County through the future test
6 year.

7 Joplin-Raise Fourth Street Tank (I17-110016) \$1,000,000

8 This project will raise the base elevation level of the Fourth Street tank located in our
9 Joplin system. The area around the Fourth Street Tank has experienced some pressure
10 issues and raising the existing tank is the most efficient way to add pressure to that
11 portion of the system.

12 Emerald Point Well and Tank Project (I17-340001) \$1,500,000

13 This project is the installation of a new well and storage tank in the Emerald Point area
14 of Table Rock Lake. The existing well is undersized and as a single well does not
15 provide the community with adequate redundancy for a reliable supply.

16 Little Muddy Interceptor (I17-400003) \$2,305,200

17 Portions of the Arnold sewer collection system are at or near capacity and experience
18 high infiltration and inflow (I&I). This project upsizes and replaces approximately
19 4500 ft of the existing interceptor pipe in the collection system, mitigating the potential
20 for overflow or back up events.

1 **IV. RISKS OF FURNISHING**
2 **PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER SERVICE**

3 **A. Public Water Service**

4 **Q. Please provide an overview of the risks associated with furnishing safe and**
5 **adequate water quantity and water quality and complying with drinking water**
6 **and environmental regulations that apply to MAWC's water supply facilities and**
7 **operations.**

8 A. Water supply utilities are subject to a complex array of regulations at the federal, state
9 and local levels with respect to water quantity, water quality and other environmental
10 aspects of their facilities and operations. MAWC's surface water and groundwater
11 sources are subject to run off from upstream sources that can lead to possible
12 contamination and resulting treatment challenges like cryptosporidium or an
13 unexpected chemical release upstream. All while needing to meet the requirements
14 imposed by programs administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources
15 ("DNR").

16 Drinking water quality is addressed by a combination of federal regulation established
17 under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1973 coupled with state regulation under the
18 Missouri Safe Drinking Water Act codified at Chapter 640 of the Missouri Revised
19 Statutes. The federal act established the EPA as the federal regulatory authority on
20 drinking water. Under that authority, EPA has created standards for contaminant levels
21 in drinking water and a series of mandatory treatment method standards, coupled with
22 monitoring and reporting requirements, and public notification mandates in the event
23 of contaminant level or treatment method noncompliance. The EPA has granted

1 primacy to the Missouri DNR Division of Environmental Quality, which administers
2 the federal regulatory standards, as found in Title 10, Division 60 of the Code of State
3 Regulations. In recent years there has been an increase in public concern over water
4 quality standards and regulation. This increase has led to growth and increased
5 stringency in EPA and state drinking water research and regulation.

6 The following is a brief summary of some of the key risk issues associated with current
7 and prospective regulation of water quantity, quality and other environmental aspects
8 of water supply system operations:

9 As the result of conditions that arose in Flint, Michigan and other jurisdictions across
10 the country, increased scrutiny is being placed at all levels concerning lead
11 concentrations in water systems and potential adoption of more stringent requirements
12 under the federal “Lead and Copper Rule.” The lead issue typically arises not from
13 constituents in source water, but rather from the leaching of lead from older pipes and
14 joints into the water as it passes through household service lines and plumbing. While
15 providing centralized treatment that adjusts the pH can, in many cases, help minimize
16 lead corrosion, the fact is that the plumbing in many older communities (such as those
17 throughout much of MAWC’s service territory) are older lead pipes or contain the type
18 of copper and galvanized pipes with solder joints where lead contamination is an
19 increased risk.

20 In anticipation of Long Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule, the EPA released
21 in October 2016, a whitepaper that provides examples of regulatory options to improve
22 the existing rule. The EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions White Paper contains a

1 series of alternatives, including mandates that water systems establish lead service line
2 replacement programs (i.e., programs to replace customer lines from the utility’s mains
3 into the house), requiring efforts to proactively work with customers to “encourage
4 them to share appropriately in fully removing [lead service lines]” EPA
5 acknowledges the “substantial economic, legal, technical, and environmental justice
6 challenges” presented by this proposal. The white paper also examines options for more
7 stringent corrosion control treatment requirements. Many of the options in the white
8 paper, if adopted, could impose significant additional capital investment requirements
9 and increased operating expenses on all water systems.

10 EPA has continued to make its regulations concerning disinfection byproducts more
11 stringent. Disinfection byproducts are produced by the interaction of disinfection
12 agents (such as chlorine) with constituents (such as organic compounds) that naturally
13 occur in source water. The Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule
14 (“Stage 2 DBPR”) adopted in 2006, coupled with increasingly stringent disinfection
15 regulations, requires a very careful balancing of treatment processes and source water
16 monitoring to meet the twin goals of killing microbes (such as giardia and E. coli) while
17 avoiding unacceptable concentrations of disinfection byproducts such as Chlorite,
18 Bromate, Trihalomethanes, and Halogenic acetic acids.

19

20 **B. Public Sewer Service**

21 **Q. Please provide an overview of the risks that environmental regulation pose for**
22 **MAWC as the owner and operator of public sewer systems.**

23 **A.** Like the provision of public water supply service, the operation of sewer collection and

1 treatment systems entails a range of environmental regulatory risks. Sewer operations
2 are also regulated at both the federal and state levels pursuant to a number of statutes
3 and voluminous regulations. At the federal level, sewer systems are regulated pursuant
4 to the Clean Water Act and numerous regulations adopted by the EPA under that law,
5 which programs are administered by various divisions of the Missouri DNR pursuant
6 to regulations adopted in furtherance of setting standards for the construction and
7 operation of sewer treatment systems. In recent years, the Missouri DNR has
8 reclassified 90,000 miles of previously unclassified streams to the existing 25,000
9 miles for a total of 115,000 miles and added 2,120 lakes and reservoirs to the list of
10 covered waterways. These classification changes significantly broaden the areas that
11 sewer treatment facilities must now consider for purposes of complying with the
12 Missouri DNR's discharge regulations, thereby, requiring significant changes in the
13 treatment process which requires additional investment.

14 The significant risks associated with operating sewer systems include the following:
15 Effluent limitations imposed on sewer treatment plant ("STP") discharges are stringent
16 and can become more stringent over time. The Clean Water Act requires sewer systems
17 to obtain and comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
18 ("NPDES") permits, which, in Missouri, are issued by the Water Pollution Control
19 Branch of the Missouri Clean Water Commission. NPDES permits establish stringent
20 effluent limits based upon the stricter of: (1) technology-based effluent limits; and (2)
21 water quality based effluent limits.

22 As just one example, the NPDES permit issued for Cedar Hills STP system sets more
23 stringent effluent limits for a series of parameters, particularly lowering ammonia limits

1 due to changes in classification of the receiving stream.

2 Thus, more stringent effluent limits may be imposed when technology evolves or
3 stream conditions and discharge requirements change, engendering requirements for
4 significant capital improvements and/or increased operating costs for enhanced
5 treatment performance. Every 3-5 years, NPDES permits are up for renewal, and in any
6 such renewal, more stringent limits may be triggered.

7 Other potential liability risks from sewer system operations arise from backups,
8 overflows or releases that may occur from the collection system onto private property
9 or into the environment. As an example, some sewer system operators have been
10 confronted with claims under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response,
11 Compensation and Liability Act (“CERCLA”) for cleanup of contamination that
12 occurred when sewer containing “hazardous substances” leaked from sewer lines into
13 soils or groundwater. While not as extreme, liabilities resulting from sewer backups
14 into buildings or other unplanned discharges are an inherent part of sewer system risks.

15

16 **C. Challenges of Climate Variability**

17 **Q. Does climate variability pose additional risks for water supply and sewer system**
18 **utilities such as MAWC?**

19 A. Yes. Whatever the debate may be concerning the causes of climate variability, water
20 supply and sewer utilities face the reality of climatic variability and attendant stresses
21 on water resources. Although climate models for the Midwestern U.S. generally predict
22 overall annual precipitation amounts to remain similar to average historical experience,
23 increasingly intense storms and repeated, extended dry periods are anticipated. That

1 means we can expect more droughts of varying degrees of severity and more frequent
2 and intense high-flow events and floods – which impact water and sewer utilities.

3 Water supply systems are fundamentally resource-dependent and, therefore, the effects
4 of climate variability pose a significant on-going risk and create challenges with regard
5 to maintaining a reliable water supply during the full range of potential future
6 conditions, including even what might be assumed to be “normal” periods. The safe
7 yields of water supply sources have historically been evaluated based on historical
8 climatic patterns, data from so called “droughts of record” or dry period frequency
9 analysis. However, changing climatic conditions suggest that historical hydrologic data
10 (which in many cases only reflect 50-100 years of rainfall and stream flow
11 measurement collection – a quite short period in geologic or climatic time) may not
12 accurately predict future conditions. Thus, the calculated safe yield of streams,
13 reservoirs and groundwater wells are put in question as the effects of climate variability
14 are experienced across northeastern United States. Thus, in response to climate
15 variability, water supply systems must address the risks posed to the reliability and
16 resilience of their sources. While droughts are the major challenge for water supply
17 systems, heavy precipitation and high-flow events are the concern of both water and
18 sewer systems. As mentioned previously, sewer systems of all types are impacted by
19 storm water – directly in the case of combined sewer systems and indirectly (but
20 nevertheless significantly) by I&I in “sanitary only” systems. The prediction of
21 increased intensity of strong storms and high rainfall events in the Midwestern United
22 States portends challenges to sewer systems which must in turn cope with and treat
23 higher peak flows while avoiding exceedance of effluent limitations and reducing the

1 potential for untreated overflows.

2 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

3 **A. Yes, it does.**