

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

In the Matter of a Working Case
To Explore Emerging Issues in
Utility Regulation

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Case No. EW-2017-0245

STAFF’S RESPONSE TO THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF ENERGY

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and for its *Response to the Missouri Division of Energy* in this matter hereby states:

1. Staff filed its *Agenda and Request for Workshop Docket* March 24, 2017, citing its statutory authority to update the Commission and Regulatory Law Judges periodically on developments and trends in public utility regulation under Section 386.135(5). The Missouri Division of Energy (DE) filed a *Response* to Staff’s *Request* on March 31. Staff now responds to those recommendations included in DE’s *Response*.

2. Staff has already provided service to those parties appearing in recent proceedings before the Commission. DE suggests the use of a facilitator, which Staff acknowledges has been beneficial in some of its past workshops. However, Staff views this workshop as an informal gathering of ideas and believes inviting a facilitator to this particular workshop would be premature. DE’s examples of past workshops benefitting from a facilitator include the Comprehensive State Energy Plan, which was a state-wide endeavor assembled to provide a permanent plan having long-term effect, and the final workshop in Staff’s Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act rulemaking docket, which

was the last in a series of workshops created to produce recommendations for modifications to existing law. Staff's vision for this workshop is to provide a narrow focus of certain timely subjects for the benefit of any interested parties.

3. Staff in its *Request* outlined five major topics of discussion, which it would like to address in the one-day workshop. DE's filing acknowledges the topics Staff has set forth and proposes: modifications expanding two topics, 16 additional sub-topics and three additional major topics with 14 of their own sub-topics. It would be impossible to cover this breadth of information in a single workshop. Should the Commission choose to address some of DE's suggested emerging topics in utility regulation; Staff would recommend the Commission create additional workshops in the future.

4. DE proposes that the Commission require parties to file their responses to the workshop by May 30, 2017, which is just 12 days after Staff's intended workshop date. This date seems to put an unnecessarily strict timeframe on interested parties. Assuming the Commission does not expand the scope of the docket and request additional workshops, Staff would propose allowing parties four weeks' time to respond to the workshop, which would set a date of June 15. In line with this proposal, Staff would suggest its initial report be filed by July 31, stakeholders' comments be accepted until August 31 and a final Staff report be due September 30. Staff is not opposed to DE's suggested date of April 28 or May 1 for interested parties to submit responses to Staff's initial questions filed with its *Request*.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully asks the Commission to not require a facilitator for this workshop; limit the topics of discussion to those outlined in Staff's proposed Agenda; order a timeline consistent with the suggested dates outlined above; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 5th day of April, 2017, to all counsel of record.

/s/Whitney Payne