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Evidentiary	/ Hearing

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1		Page 61
2		
3	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
4	STATE OF MISSOURI	
5		
6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
7	Evidentiary Hearing	
8	In the Matter of the Petition)	
9	for an Interim Receiver and for) an Order Directing the General) Counsel to Petition the Circuit)	
10	Court for the Appointment of a) Receiver for Misty Water Works)	
11	Receiver for Misty Water Works)	
12	Monday, June 24, 2024	
13	9:00 a.m 4:38 p.m.	
14	Governor Office Building 200 Madison Street	
15	Jefferson City, MO 65101 and WebEx	
16		
17	VOLUME II Pages 61 - 337	
18		
19	JOHN CLARK, Presiding SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
20		
21	KAYLA HAHN, Chair MAIDA J. COLEMAN. Commissioner	
22	JASON R. HOLSMAN, Commissioner GLEN KOLKMEYER, Commissioner	
23	JOHN MITCHELL, Commissioner	
24		
25	Stenographically Reported By: Colin Wallis	5

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1	APPEARANCES:	Page 62
2	On behalf of Staff of the	
3	Public Service Commission:	
4	Public Service Commission	
5	200 Madison Street, Suite 800 P.O. Box 360 Jofforger Gity MO 65102	
б	Jefferson City, MO 65102	
7	BY: CAROLYN KERR, ESQ. CASI ASLIN, ESQ.	
8	Carolyn.Kerr@psc.mo.gov Casi.Aslin@psc.mo.gov	
9		
10	Present Pro Se:• Leon Travis Blevins	
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	888-893-3767 Lexitas operates in all 50 states and is licensed where required Nevada Registration #116F	



Evidentiary Hearing	
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	Evidentially heating 50th 24, 202
1	Page 63 The following proceedings began at 9:00 a.m.:
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: All right, let's go on
3	the record. Good morning, today is June 24th
4	of 2024, and the current time is 9:01 a.m. The
5	Commission has set aside this time today for an
6	evidentiary hearing in the matter of the State
7	or Staff of the Missouri Public Service
8	Commission, Complainant, versus Leon Travis
9	Blevins, also known as Travis Blevins and
10	Patricia Blevins doing business as Misty
11	Mountain Public Water Supply, also known as
12	Misty Water Works, Charity Public Water Supply
13	and Rolling Hills Public Water Supply,
14	respondent.
15	My name is John Clark. I'm the regulatory
16	law judge presiding over this hearing today.
17	We have a fair number of people in attendance.
18	If you have a cell phone, I'm going to ask that
19	you put that cell phone on silent or vibrate so
20	it doesn't disturb proceedings today. If
21	you're participating in today's hearing and
22	you're at one of the counsel's tables, you'll
23	notice there's a microphone there. When you're
24	speaking, please be sure that the green button
25	is lit, so that we can hear you and, likewise,



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1	please be sure that the button is not lit when	Page 64
2	you don't want to be heard.	
3	Now, the Missouri Public Service	
4	Commission is composed of five commissioners.	
5	There is Chair Kayla Hahn, Commissioners Maida	
6	Coleman, Jason Holsman, Glen Kolkmeyer and John	
7	Mitchell, and several of them are present via	
8	Webex right now, and I expect some of them to	
9	appear in person today and others will continue	
10	to listen via Webex, but they will be listening	
11	and asking questions whenever they would like	
12	to. And, Commissioners, good morning. If you	
13	have questions during the course of the	
14	hearing, please feel free to interrupt me and	
15	ask them at any time.	
16	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thanks, Judge.	
17	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner	
18	Holsman. At this time, I'm going to ask	
19	counsel for the parties to introduce	
20	themselves, starting with Mr. Blevins.	
21	Mr. Blevins, you are representing yourself,	
22	correct?	
23	MR. BLEVINS: That's correct.	
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And you don't have an	
25	attorney and none will be appearing on your	



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1	behalf, correct?
2	MR. BLEVINS: That is correct.
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: On behalf of the Staff
4	and the Commission?
5	MS. KERR: Carolyn Kerr.
6	MS. ASLIN: And Casi Aslin.
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, and good
8	morning. Anyone here from the Office of the
9	Public Counsel? I don't see anyone at this
10	point, but they can always make an appearance
11	in this case if they so choose. Are there any
12	preliminary matters that Commission needs to
13	take up at this time before we start?
14	MS. KERR: I don't think so. I'm just
15	going to number the Exhibits as I go.
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: That would be fine.
17	MS. KERR: Okay. I don't think I have
18	anything.
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, and just to go
20	over the order of witnesses real quick today:
21	from staff, we have Jeff Grube, Lori Jean,
22	Jackie Johnson, Dalten Young, Adam Stamp and
23	Curt Gateley; is that correct?
24	MS. KERR: Yes.
25	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have



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1	any witnesses that you're going to be	P
2	introducing today?	
3	MR. BLEVINS: No, sir.	
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: All right, I'm going to	
5	go by the list in order of witnesses and	
6	statements for this hearing, so I'm going to go	
7	ahead at this point and start with opening	
8	statements, starting with Commission Staff.	
9	I'm going to remind everyone that an opening	
10	statement is not evidence, but it merely frames	
11	the coming proceeding before the Commission, so	
12	it's kind of an introduction to things that you	
13	would like the Commission to pay attention to.	
14	So, Mr. Blevins, I'm going to swear you in	
15	before your opening statement, should you	
16	choose to make one, just because you're acting	
17	as your own witness today. You may say things	
18	throughout the course of the hearing. Can you	
19	hear me okay?	
20	MR. BLEVINS: I have a little bit of	
21	difficulty.	
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, I can see you're	
23	giving me a quizzical look. If you can't hear	
24	me, would you let me know?	
25	MR. BLEVINS: Yes, I will.	



	Evidentially ficaling	
1	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. As I was saying	Page 67
2	before your opening statement, I'm going to go	
3	ahead and swear you in, and the reason why is	
4	because you're acting as both your own attorney	
5	and as your own witness today; and you're going	
б	to be questioning witnesses, you may say things	
7	that have evidentiary value; and, because of	
8	that, it's almost like you're on the witness	
9	stand all the time in some respect; because you	
10	may say things that may, in fact, be	
11	statements, so I will be placing you under oath	
12	at the beginning of the hearing for the	
13	duration of the hearing, okay?	
14	MR. BLEVINS: I understand.	
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you.	
16	Commission Staff, do you have an opening	
17	statement you would like to make.	
18	MS. KERR: Yes, thank you.	
19	OPENING STATEMENT BY MS. KERR	
20	MS. KERR: Good morning, Judge,	
21	Commissioners. May it please the Commission.	
22	My name is Carolyn Kerr, and I am the attorney	
23	representing the Staff of the Public Service	
24	Commission (PSC) this morning in this case.	
25	The Staff has filed a Complaint against Mr.	



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1	Leon Travis Blevins pursuant to its authority	Page 68
2	under Section 386.390.1, RSMo, and 20 CSR	
3	4240-2.070 alleging violations of Chapters 386	
4	and 393, RSMo and asking for specific relief to	
5	be granted, including monetary penalties. I'll	
6	get into those statutes and regulations in	
7	further detail in a moment, but let me first	
8	tell you about the facts of the case and what	
9	led us to this hearing.	
10	This case is about protecting the	
11	residents who use and consume the water	
12	provided by the wells owned and operated by Mr.	
13	Leon Travis Blevins, an individual who took it	
14	upon himself to charge those people for the	
15	water that flowed from those wells. Mr. Blevins	
16	does not have any license or other	
17	authorization from the PSC to charge those	
18	residents for the use of the water that comes	
19	from his wells. He did not bother to apply for	
20	a certificate of convenience and necessity	
21	(CCN) from the PSC to be designated as a water	
22	utility and have the authority to charge fees	
23	and rates for the use and consumption of water	
24	from those homeowners until after the PSC began	
25	investigating his business practices, notified	



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1	him of the need to be regulated to charge	Page 69
2	residents like he was and brought this action.	
3	Instead, he just decided on his own that	
4	he would charge residents that obtained water	
5	from the wells he ostensibly owned a certain	
6	level monthly charge. He even drafted contracts	
7	and demand letters and provided them to the	
8	homeowners and either had them sign them,	
9	agreeing to pay Mr. Blevins a fixed monthly	
10	payment for water or just demanded payment	
11	without an underlying contract. Mr. Blevins'	
12	method of calculating the rate, we learned, was	
13	that he just figured out what a good price	
14	would be to "cover his expenses" and charged	
15	the homeowners for that amount. And not all	
16	residents paid the same price nor had to make	
17	payments in the same manner. Some paid in cash;	
18	some monthly; some "as they could." And he	
19	even bartered goods and services for payment of	
20	some of the water bills. And no one complained.	
21	For awhile.	
22	That is, until problems with the wells and	
23	the water quality started to happen more	
24	frequently, and the monthly rates went up for	
25	no apparent reason. Then in January 2023, the	
	888-803-3767 Levitas operates in all 50 states and is licensed where required Nevada Peristration #116F	ΝΙΕΥΙΤΛΟ



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1	PSC Consumer Services Department received	Page 70
2	several complaints from homeowners stating that	
3	Mr. Blevins raised their monthly water bills,	
4	and they didn't know why. They had received new	
5	or updated letters - some got contracts, but	
6	they all had questions and concerns. About the	
7	same time as the complaints regarding the water	
8	bills came into the Consumer Services	
9	Department of the PSC, the Missouri Department	
10	of Natural Resources or DNR had also been	
11	contacting the Water, Sewer & Stream Department	
12	of the PSC with their concerns about Mr.	
13	Blevins' well systems. They had been receiving	
14	calls from some of the same residents	
15	complaining about their drinking water and	
16	asking what DNR could do about regulating Mr.	
17	Blevins' services.	
18	Now, DNR doesn't regulate water utilities	
19	or rates, so they contacted the PSC asking us	
20	for advice. All DNR could do is test and	
21	regulate the water coming out of DNR certified	
22	wells and issue violations for poor water	
23	quality. DNR could not do anything about the	
24	wells or well systems that did not meet DNR	
25	standards and were, therefore, not regulated by	



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1	any agency but were still being used to supply
2	water to residents. Jackie Johnson and Dalten
3	Young from the DNR will testify as to their
4	roles with DNR and how they've been involved
5	with Mr. Blevins' case over the course of at
6	least the last couple of years, as well as
7	their connection with the PSC and its
8	investigation and case.
9	Those homeowners calling DNR wanted
10	someone to do something about Mr. Blevins
11	charging them for potentially unsafe water. It

was at this point that Adam Stamp, a PSC Staff

Research Data Analyst, and Curt Gateley, the

investigating. Both of these individuals will

testify and tell the Commission what they did

as part of their investigation, as well as what

the Staff's role is when it comes to unlicensed

Ms. Kerr, can you move

Certain people online

Manager of the PSC's Water, Sewer & Stream

Department became involved and began

or unregulated water utilities.

LAW JUDGE CLARK:

LAW JUDGE CLARK:

MS. KERR:

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the microphone just a little bit closer?

Sure.

are having a hard time hearing you.



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1	MS. KERR: Sure, I'm sorry. Mr. Stamp,	Page 72
2	Staff's main investigator for this case, will	
3	testify about the many times he went to Pulaski	
4	County and saw the sites for himself and spoke	
5	with the residents who were getting their water	
6	from Mr. Blevins' well systems, as well as the	
7	problems they had with the water, the wells,	
8	and the troubles they had getting Mr. Blevins	
9	to fix problems with the wells. Jeff Grube, a	
10	homeowner and former customer of Mr. Blevins,	
11	is here to testify about his experiences	
12	dealing with Mr. Blevins and his system. His	
13	house is no longer connected to Mr. Blevins'	
14	system, and he will testify about how that came	
15	about and the reasons for that. Ms. Lori Jean	
16	will also testify as to her experience dealing	
17	with Mr. Blevins and his well systems. She was	
18	Mr. Blevins' former Certified Operator for his	
19	DNR regulated well systems until March of this	
20	year. Mr. Blevins has been without a Certified	
21	Operator since then and has not replaced Ms.	
22	Jean. DNR regulations require him to have one	
23	for each system he operates.	
24	What Staff found was an unregulated water	
25	utility owned and operated by Mr. Blevins, who	

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1	was and continues to charge multiple homeowners	Page 73
2	monthly charges for water use based on no	
3	discernable rate formula or other mathematical	
4	calculations from wells Mr. Blevins may or may	
5	not even actually own, according to Pulaski	
6	County Recorder's or Mr. Blevins' own records.	
7	Furthermore, the water coming from those	
8	wells has and continues to pose health and	
9	safety concerns for the residents who use and	
10	consume the water that Mr. Blevins is "selling"	
11	them. In fact, Mr. Blevins has failed to submit	
12	required bacteriological water testing samples	
13	to DNR since February of this year. So, no one	
14	knows what kind of water quality any of those	
15	residents are using and drinking - and that's	
16	just the ones DNR regulates. DNR records show a	
17	pattern of violations dating back for years and	
18	a pattern of Mr. Blevins' failure and inability	
19	to fix, maintain and upgrade the wells, water	
20	lines, well houses and appurtenances to keep	
21	the wells and water lines in working order, so	
22	that the families that live there can have	
23	consistently safe and potable water.	
24	In other words, Staff's witnesses will	
25	explain how Mr. Blevins and his business	



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1	enterprise is operating as a public water	Page 74
2	utility subject to the Commission's	
3	jurisdiction, control and regulation pursuant	
4	to Section 386.020(43), RSMo and how he is	
5	operating that water utility for gain without a	
6	certification or other authority from the	
7	Commission, in violation of Section 393.1 70.2,	
8	RSMo and in a manner that endangers and is a	
9	threat to the public health and safety, in	
10	violation of Section 393.130.1, RSMo.	
11	As a result of its investigation, the	
12	Staff filed this Complaint to bring to the	
13	Commission's attention the violations being	
14	committed by Mr. Blevins and his business	
15	enterprise and the health and safety concerns	
16	of both Staff and the Missouri DNR, so that	
17	corrective or preventative actions can be taken	
18	to make sure the wells and the water coming	
19	from them are safe, as well as to safeguard the	
20	health and safety of those that obtain their	
21	water from Mr. Blevins' wells. Staff asks the	
22	Commission to hold Mr. Blevins accountable for	
23	those violations and exact penalties against	
24	him for the harm that his actions and inactions	
25	have caused and continue to cause the families	



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1	living there that rely on water from Mr.	Page 75
2	Blevins' currently unregulated and	
3	uncertificated water "utility."	
4	Thank you. If you have any questions	
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any	
б	questions from the Commission?	
7	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: No questions,	
8	Judge.	
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner	
10	Holsman. I've got just a couple.	
11	QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:	
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: You indicated you had	
13	discussed the ownership of the wells?	
14	MS. KERR: Yes.	
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And that it was unclear	
16	as to what wells Mr. Blevins owned. Now, in	
17	the Commission's May 20th order resetting this	
18	hearing	
19	(Off the record discussion.)	
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: In the Commission's	
21	May 20th order, I indicated that one of the	
22	issues the Commission wanted to hear about was	
23	the ownership of the wells, so are is the	
24	ownership of the wells something that's going	
25	to be sorted out during the course of this	



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1	complaint?	Page 76
2	MS. KERR: We're going to try.	
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Going to try, okay. So	
4	the second thing, you indicated that some	
5	people that were formerly customers would be	
6	testifying today; is that correct?	
7	MS. KERR: Yes.	
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And, obviously, if we're	
9	going to get I'm not aware what all the	
10	confidential information in this hearing is	
11	going to be, if we start to cross into	
12	confidential information, I'm going to rely on	
13	the parties and, in particular, Commission	
14	Staff to let me know, so that we can go in	
15	camera if necessary?	
16	MS. KERR: Okay.	
17	LAW JUDGE CLARK: All right. I have no	
18	other questions, thank you.	
19	MS. KERR: Thank you.	
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, did you	
21	want to make an opening statement?	
22	MR. BLEVINS: I would, I think	
23	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'm going to	
24	place you under oath then.	
25	MR. BLEVINS: Okay.	



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1	(Travis Blevins sworn.)	Page 77
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Blevins.	
3	And do you want to make your opening statement	
4	from where you're seated.	
5	MR. BLEVINS: Yes, I'd like to remain	
6	sitting here.	
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go right ahead.	
8	MR. BLEVINS: Thank you.	
9	OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. BLEVINS:	
10	MR. BLEVINS: Well, good morning,	
11	everybody. The best I could do here is	
12	absolutely give you the truth, where it began	
13	and I guess where it's going, maybe, in	
14	reference to these water wells.	
15	I acquired these water wells from	
16	individuals that were operating these wells for	
17	the last fifteen, twenty years possibly. I	
18	don't know really how long. I won't mention	
19	the particular names at this present time, but	
20	listening to the opening that Ms. Kerr just did	
21	these when she mentioned about what I do on	
22	myself or for myself, this is when I	
23	acquired these wells, that was the way that	
24	everybody was paying for that water. They had	
25	been doing that through some sort of an	



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1	agreement between the person operating it and	Page 78
2	the users for fifteen or twenty years or so.	
3	That was just the normal thing to do.	
4	There was no water available by any other	
5	utilities anywhere around the area. These were	
6	builders that had subdivisions and primarily	
7	these wells were built for that subdivision,	
8	not for the general public. If you didn't own	
9	a piece of the ground there, you didn't you	
10	weren't allowed to get water by any means.	
11	You indicated there was no license. I	
12	still don't have a particular license for these	
13	wells. The wells are non-compliant, and I	
14	guess they have been since the first time that	
15	they were ever built by these builders. I	
16	don't suppose at that particular time, there	
17	was any licenses being issued. I suppose if	
18	there was, they would have already had it, but	
19	that was the common place in the use of those	
20	wells.	
21	They they mentioned of a CCM. I did	
22	apply for a CCM, but quickly found out that	
23	really could not be applicable, in my opinion,	
24	to what we were doing with these wells. These	
25	wells were not constructed, built or used for	



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1	any type of profit. They were for built for	Page 79
2	the use of the homeowners that would buy these	
3	homes from the builders.	
4	So I requested, I thought, during the	
5	first two proceedings, I believe, of this	
6	particular commission meetings that my	
7	application for that CCM be withdrawn. And,	
8	again, I say it right now, I would withdraw any	
9	application for a CCM as non applicable.	
10	The well problems, one of the reasons why	
11	I acquired these wells, is because, from the	
12	builders that I know, knew and had a done a lot	
13	of business in the past, these wells were	
14	coming up for their life span for fifteen,	
15	twenty-five so, we already knew that; I knew	
16	that when I acquired them, so I took on that	
17	responsibility to repair these wells. I	
18	upgraded most every one of those wells in the	
19	past throughout the process of me when I	
20	acquired these wells, after I acquired them.	
21	So, well problems were evident, and it was	
22	also my responsibility to go in and repair	
23	these wells, which I did, on every occasion	
24	that I can remember, recall or whatever; I	
25	immediately went into the process of upgrading	



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1	particular wells. And almost every one of them	Page 80
2	I had, has been upgraded or improved. I don't	
3	know really what it means by "trouble fixing"	
4	as Ms. Kerr alluded to, that trouble fixing. I	
5	did fix these wells. They're operating today	
6	and they have been.	
7	They've never been down for any particular	
8	reason. There's been certain things done to	
9	these wells on some occasions that's the	
10	maintenance or the fixing of these wells is	
11	kind of minor. On other occasions, it's not	
12	minor. It begins with a thousand dollar	
13	bracket. It takes money to do that. Where	
14	that money comes from was generated from the	
15	people that used the water by their monthly	
16	payment.	
17	They nobody ever likes to see things or	
18	prices increasing, but I guess today in our	
19	economy, it increases almost every day or every	
20	month or every year. These wells had been	
21	built fifteen, twenty years ago. It's obvious	
22	that these wells are going to cost more now	
23	than they did back then. Just as an example,	
24	some of these wells may have been built for	
25	eight, nine or \$10,000, now cost 30, 40 and	



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1	\$50,000.
2	These are, some of them, 5-horse pump;
3	some of 3-horse. These are the systems, the
4	distribution systems, that were put in that
5	cost money, in order for these people to have
6	water available to them in that subdivision;
7	that's what it took at that time.
8	So an operator, when you talk about an
9	operator, I don't suppose fifteen years ago
10	they required any operators that I'm aware of
11	unless you were a particular type of utility
12	company providing water. I don't know. But
13	the ownership of these wells is also was a
14	beginning problem. Fifteen, twenty years ago,
15	they did easements, they did all kinds of other
16	things, that sometimes did not really get done
17	properly maybe, and I can it's, obviously,
18	some of the problems that has arisen has
19	stemmed from not being properly done in the
20	beginning.
21	That was one of my jobs was to, at any
22	particular time in the future, from the time
23	that I acquired these wells was to make those
24	corrections, which I have in most instances.
25	There are still some instances that still have



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1	to be done, still have to be corrected, even	Page 82
2	even by the legal part of it.	
3	If we have a well sitting on somebody's	
4	property, and it has not been properly, let's	
5	say, surveyed and that well is scribed on its	
6	own, then that is a problem that had to be	
7	corrected; I corrected a couple of those	
8	already. There's a couple that still probably	
9	have to be done, but it only needs to be done	
10	at some particular time that maybe disposition	
11	of that property would take place. Not just go	
12	in there and start making things all the way it	
13	should have been fifteen years ago in the	
14	present world that we live in, with the present	
15	guidelines and rules that have been changed	
16	from fifteen years ago. That's ownership.	
17	Ownership was given to me by certain	
18	individuals, very few. Either by some sort of	
19	contractual agreement or by a deed. Some of	
20	them I do have deeds to, but I'm not concerned	
21	about whether or not, personally, I have a deed	
22	for a particular piece of property because of	
23	the people that I deal with that operated these	
24	wells previous to me; I was just carrying on	
25	what has been there for fifteen, twenty years	



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1	to make sure people did still have the water.	Page 83
2	And even today, they do have water.	
3	And that was one of the reasons why I took	
4	these wells. Not took them but acquired them,	
5	was to make those corrections as requested and	
б	I knew all of these problems were there. And,	
7	again, I corrected, as it became necessary, I	
8	corrected those particular problems that should	
9	be corrected for the current rules,	
10	regulations. I've been working with the	
11	Department of Natural Resources for since	
12	19 I'm sorry, 2023, with the three public	
13	water systems that they activated. They	
14	activated the Misty Mountain Public Water	
15	System, the Charity Public Water System and the	
16	Rolling Hills Public Water System.	
17	Again, I'd like to indicate that that	
18	Misty Mountain Public Water System activated by	
19	DNR, individually the wells would not qualify	
20	under the DNR guidelines as something that they	
21	could take control of or have control over.	
22	They had to combine a number of wells in order	
23	to make that particular rule effective to	
24	activate that Misty Mountain Public Water	
25	System; they had to combine those. I guess	

1



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1	just because I either owned or I have control	Page 84
2	of those particular wells.	
3	Also, the Charity Public Water System was	
4	the same condition. It had more more than	
5	one well. They were separate wells for	
б	separate parts of the division, but they put	
7	together to create and activate that public	
8	water system for Charity.	
9	The only one, which is Rolling Hills, that	
10	qualifies to have 15 connections or a number of	
11	25 years or switch the rule, I guess, from my	
12	learning from the DNR providing a lot of	
13	information in reference to these public water	
14	systems, that the users are multiplied at 2.5	
15	or two and half times however many connections	
16	there are. So that particular mathematical	
17	equation creates maybe less or more than 25	
18	users. Or the other guideline that we have to	
19	deal with, is the fifteen connections. So the	
20	fifteen, twenty-five mathematical equations	
21	qualify as a particular public water system, I	
22	assume, from all the guidelines.	
23	They, the most part, the most part of	
24	the trying to give you an overview of where	
25	I began, I think maybe that the Rolling Hills	

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1	is the only one that really qualifies. My	Page 85
2	process, at the present time, is to continue to	
3	follow the Department of Natural Resources	
4	guidelines and the agreements, so to speak,	
5	between the public water system and DNR. My	
6	wife and I already signed over the Rolling	
7	Hills agreement to the DNR. We're working on	
8	the Charity Public Water System with some	
9	changes. I would expect it would be rewritten	
10	a little bit and provided back to me to sign.	
11	At the present time, the Misty Mountain Public	
12	Water System was activated by DNR; that was	
13	there was no agreement there. That was a	
14	that was just simply directed to be what it is	
15	today.	
16	But my process for the Misty Mountain	
17	Public Water System is to eliminate the wells	
18	so that they do not meet with the continued	
19	fifteen to fifteen connections to	
20	twenty-five users. DNR is aware of that. I	
21	have made that known to them. In particular,	
22	in particular, the Taylor well, for example,	
23	that Taylor well was sold by me to a party that	
24	was on on that particular well using water.	
25	I spent \$12,000 just upgrading it so it would	



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1	be available to all of the users there. I sold	Page 86
2	it for \$12,000, just to tell you what I	
3	received there. It all went back to the	
4	improvements of that particular well.	
5	But the well itself still had a little	
6	problem even after that, and with the new	
7	owner excuse me. The new owner of that	
8	particular well at that time was supposed to	
9	improve it or be a part of improving it. It	
10	was operational after I finished that, but	
11	there was an improvement that could have been	
12	done. It never was done by the new owner.	
13	So	
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, you're	
15	veering a little off of an overview you're	
16	veering a little away of an opening	
17	statement	
18	MR. BLEVINS: Okay.	
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: An opening statement is	
20	an overview of what testimony is going to be,	
21	and you're starting to bleed into what	
22	testimony is.	
23	MR. BLEVINS: Okay, all right. I can kind	
24	of tie this up, I think, is it that a lot of	
25	these verbiages that are being used here appear	



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1	Page 87 to be something that I've done wrong. Maybe I
2	have, I don't know, but that was not any
3	intentions of why I acquired these wells. It
4	was acquired in order to improve those wells,
5	which I did. So, as we get on, I guess, into
6	more of the testimony or whatever, I can
7	expound more at that time; is that correct?
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: That is correct.
9	MR. BLEVINS: Okay, thank you. I'll go
10	ahead and just close my opening statement at
11	this time.
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you,
13	Mr. Blevins. Are there any questions from the
14	Commission?
15	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes, Judge. This
16	is Commissioner Holsman I have a couple.
17	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, go ahead,
18	Commissioner.
19	QUESTIONS
20	BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:
21	Q Thank you, Mr. Blevins. How many current
22	customers would you say you are servicing today?
23	A I would have to check my records, but that
24	would be probably, let's see, give me just a moment.
25	Less than 60.



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1	Page 88 Q Less than 60?
2	A That's correct. That's within three
3	from three public water systems.
4	Q And of those 60, how many do you have
5	written contracts or agreements with?
6	A Well, I should have one for all for them,
7	every one of them, but a lot of times when we sent
8	them out in the past, we never got them back on some
9	occasions, but I would say I've got probably,
10	maybe, 60 percent, 70 percent, maybe, written
11	written agreements to furnish water.
12	Q And what is the methodology you use to
13	determine your rates?
14	A Well, the actual expenses per month or per
15	year. For example, one of the reasons for raising a
16	rate that when DNR activated the wells into three
17	public water systems, that created extra expenses.
18	My calculation was approximately an increase of
19	\$1,000 per month. So we increased, I think, five or
20	\$10 on the particular monthly rate that was being
21	charged. Also, in the beginning, when I first
22	acquired these, the charges that were being
23	currently done at that time might have been 35 or
24	\$40. We have since then evolved to \$55 per month.
25	Q And you said in your opening statement

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1	Page 89 that there's no profit. You're not doing this for
2	profit. Is that an accurate statement that, to you,
3	there's no additional revenue that would be
4	considered net profit for your 60 customers?
5	A That's correct. There is no profit. The
6	improvement or the upgrades of those wells far
7	exceed, the cost far exceeds, what's being brought
8	in today. Most of the improvements paid for have
9	been paid out of my pocket. Obviously, from some
10	of the resources of the income that comes in is from
11	the users, but that has never been enough to cover
12	all of the expenses. I would have hoped that it
13	would have been eventually evened out or panned out.
14	Q So I'm curious, why do you operate them?
15	What is the inherent benefit to you to go through,
16	you know, the daily routine of operating these wells
17	if there's no benefit to you financially?
18	A Well, I can explain it this way. The
19	people from whom I acquired these wells from, were
20	good friends of mine. They still are. And I have
21	done business with them for years, and I still do.
22	I'm 80 years old. I wanted to quit doing what I
23	normally do, which is construction or any other type
24	of physical labor. My medical conditions also
25	required me to stop doing strenuous-type work, so I

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1	Page 90 wanted something that would be less stressful on me
2	personally. I chose these water wells from these
3	individuals because I knew that I could upgrade them
4	and eventually have a cash flow, maybe, from that,
5	but not particularly as a profitable situation, but
6	a cash flow situation. That would work and
7	Q All right, thank you.
8	A And I still believe that's possible but
9	maybe not so much. I'm 80 years old and not time
10	left to consider that, maybe.
11	COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you for
12	answering my questions. Judge, that's all I
13	have, thank you.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner.
15	Are there any other Commission questions at
16	this time? I hear
17	CHAIRPERSON HAHN: Yes, I do
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.
19	CHAIRPERSON HAHN: have some questions
20	at this time.
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Chair.
22	BY CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
23	Q Thank you. Mr. Blevins, in back when
24	we had your receivership hearing, the criteria for
25	receivership had something to do with you if you



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1	Page91 were able unable or unwilling to maintain the
2	systems and the service, and at the time of the
3	hearing, you did not seem unable or unwilling;
4	however, since that time reading staff reports, it
5	seems as though, for example, in Ms. Kerr's opening
6	statement that you had not provided DNR water
7	testing information since February. Also, you had,
8	even today, you said you are withdrawing your
9	application for a CCN, and you are not you are in
10	adversarial action with DNR on other compliance
11	issues. So that brings me some pause. You were
12	initially given some time to work with DNR because
13	you did not appear unwilling, although I know this
14	is the complaint case, kind of, getting to the
15	receivership, but I'm hoping you can explain all of
16	these actions and how they that you are still
17	willing and trying to get these wells into
18	compliance and operating under the law?
19	A I I have never been or had the attitude
20	of not not complying. I've been complying to the
21	best of my ability and knowledge diligently. The
22	I caught most of what you were explaining but not
23	all of it. The reason for not doing a testing of
24	the waters since, I guess, February or March, I
25	don't remember which, is that I was under a



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1	Page 92 different understanding.
2	Lori Jean was previously our operator
3	and the one that took all these samples and reported
4	them into the DNR laboratories. When she resigned,
5	which is I did not realize or was not
6	knowledgable, I guess, in the fact I could have done
7	that myself or had maybe one of my employees or
8	somebody that I work with actually go out and do
9	these do this water testing and turn it in, even
10	through the public service there in Wentzille.
11	I recently learned that I can do that
12	from Ms. Johnson, Jackie Johnson, at DNR. I did not
13	understand that in the previous, so I was trying to
14	find new operators, which was almost impossible for
15	the Pulaski County area. But I have learned
16	something since then also, which I have already
17	done. I have already applied for or put my,
18	basically, application in with the DNR Springfield
19	department or branch, a Mr. McDaniel, where I can
20	attend the classes to acquire a DS-I permit or a
21	DS-I certification from the DNR, and that would
22	would suffice or replace the lack of an operator and
23	also give me authority to do the testing.
24	Because even though I can do the
25	testing now, from my new understanding, which I

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1	Page 93 intend to implement that on in the first month of
2	July, which is the only a few days from now to get
3	the testing back in place. The excuse me. I
4	have applied for that particular position; even
5	though I can do the testing, I would still have to
6	satisfy the operator requirement for the public
7	water systems like Rolling Hills and the other two.
8	So with the DS-I, myself as the owner, I guess,
9	would satisfy that requirement by for the DNR.
10	Q Mr. Blevins, you haven't addressed
11	the CCM issue yet. You said you were withdrawing
12	your application, but from my view, you still fall
13	under PSC jurisdiction for regulation until you
14	reach an agreement with staff, regardless of whether
15	or not you think you do, the statute in the case law
16	says that if you're operating a system for gain,
17	whether or not that gain is actually profit or not,
18	it is just compensation. So, can you say why now
19	you are withdrawing your application for a CCM?
20	A Well, the reason, in my opinion, when I
21	received those 42 requests for information, I found
22	that it was just not really possible for me to
23	provide that to the staff. It was built more on the
24	line of a utility company. I don't believe that
25	these are actually utility companies that would fall



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1	Page 94 under the for profit, and, in fact, the three public
2	water systems that I now have been registered with
3	the State of Missouri as a not-for-profit
4	organization.
5	Q Okay. That's helpful that it is now
6	registered as a not-for-profit. I was unaware of
7	that. That's helpful. Hopefully, I can look into
8	that and verify that. Appreciate it very much.
9	Thanks, Mr. Blevins.
10	A Okay, thank you.
11	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Are there any further
12	Commission questions at this time? I got a
13	couple questions for you, Mr. Blevins.
14	QUESTIONS
15	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:
16	Q I'm going to save a lot for your testimony
17	because I kind of want to go into more detail there.
18	I'm going to follow up a little bit on what Chair
19	Hahn said about CCNs. Why do you believe a CCN is
20	not applicable to your systems?
21	A We we don't have a staff to go along
22	with all the requirements of of a utility
23	company. And it is and it's still, in my
24	opinion, that it's not big enough. There's no
25	there's each one of these water wells by

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1	Page 95 themselves will not qualify under the DNR as 15
2	connections or 25 users except one, which is the
3	Rolling Hills, which is only well out there that's
4	serving 18 connections at the present time. Well,
5	there was two wells out there previously, but one of
6	those wells was previously sold some time back.
7	That was probably a mistake.
8	Q Well, and I'm summarizing here, is your
9	argument that it would be too onerous for you to
10	be or too much of a burden to be regulated?
11	A No, no. Too onerous would not be the
12	burden. The burden is that all the requirements
13	that go with such a small amount of income.
14	Q Now, you understand that the requirements
15	to be regulated by the Public Service Commission are
16	different than the requirements that the DNR may
17	have in terms of number of connections for them to
18	oversee it, correct?
19	A No, sir, not to my knowledge. What is the
20	requirement then if the Commission has different
21	requirements? I assume I'm not familiar with it
22	then.
23	Q Well, I understand you may have that
24	question. I'm not here to answer questions today.
25	Staff would be putting witnesses on, and you're



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1	Page96 certainly welcome to ask those questions of Staff's
2	witnesses.
3	A Yeah, I understand.
4	Q Now, you mentioned employees in your
5	opening. Does do you have any employees?
б	A No, I do not have employees.
7	Q Then why did you mention employees?
8	A Well, I think I said employees or people
9	that work for me. They're either contract or maybe
10	a different situation, not particularly an employee.
11	I don't regulate their time; it would be
12	subcontracted, maybe.
13	Q Are these individuals you hire to do
14	particular jobs on a well?
15	A No, not any particular one. I may have
16	hired them to I had one individual, which I don't
17	know, but I have one individual that lives on the
18	property and he goes with me to service whatever I'm
19	servicing, either construction or wells or whatever.
20	He's not an employee.
21	Q Now, at one point you used the system,
22	"turn the system over to DNR", and I didn't
23	understand what that meant. What do you mean by
24	turn a system over to DNR?
25	A Turn a system over to I don't I

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1	Page 97 don't know I don't recall that, turn a system
2	Q It was just a phrase you used in your
3	opening. At some point you said, "I turned the
4	system over to DNR." I didn't understood
5	understand what that meant?
б	A Well, I also don't know what that meant in
7	reference to turning it over to DNR. I don't know
8	what I was referring to at that time but I guess
9	or recall.
10	Q Are you aware what wells you currently
11	own?
12	A Yes, sir.
13	Q And do you know how you own them?
14	A Yes, sir, I do.
15	Q So when you take the stand later, I'll be
16	able to ask you about that?
17	A Absolutely.
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you. I have
19	no further questions. Are we ready for our
20	first witness?
21	MS. KERR: Yes.
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Staff, you may
23	call your first witness.
24	MS. KERR: I call Jeff Grube.
25	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Grube, you may

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1	Page 98 have a seat right there. Before you sit down,
2	I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand
3	and be sworn.
4	(Jeff Grube sworn.)
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION
7	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Good morning. Could you
8	please state your name and spell it for the record.
9	A Jeff Grube, J-e-f-f, G-r-u-b-e.
10	Q And are you employed by anyone?
11	A Yes, I work with Humana.
12	Q And where do you live?
13	A St. Robert, Missouri, down in Pulaski
14	County, 24461 Tigger.
15	Q Excuse me, and how long have you lived
16	there?
17	A We lived since July 2004 July 2014.
18	Q So about ten years?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay.
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to interrupt
22	for just a second. Mr. Grube, you were a
23	former customer, correct?
24	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

Yes, sir. THE WITNESS:

And under PSC's rules, LAW JUDGE CLARK:



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1	Page 99 customer specific is confidential, so you
2	understand by testifying here today that you're
3	waiving that and you're providing information?
4	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, go ahead.
6	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Thank you. Are you familiar
7	with Mr. Travis Blevins?
8	A Yes, ma'am.
9	Q How do you know him?
10	A He lives approximately 300 yards down the
11	road. He also provided water for us since 2016, up
12	until February of this year.
13	Q And when you moved into the area, is
14	that is that a particular subdivision you live
15	in?
16	A It's a Misty Mountain subdivision
17	Q Okay.
18	A is what it is.
19	Q And you said which road do you live on?
20	A Tigger.
21	Q Okay. And you said when you first moved
22	into your house, I guess, first of all, who was the
23	company or entity that was providing your water
24	supply?
25	A So originally it was Jim Parsons who owned



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1	Page 100 the well that provided the water. Don Baker ran it
2	along with Baker Construction, who we paid our \$30 a
3	month to them at their business location. We paid
4	them up until 2016, and it was a known agreement
5	that we had.
6	Q And then you said it changed to in
7	2016. What happened in 2016?
8	A In 2016, we were served with a letter in
9	September from Mr. Travis Blevins that he was now
10	going to be our utility provider for water, and we
11	were to pay him directly.
12	Q And did you sign a contract with
13	Mr. Blevins?
14	A We have never signed a contract, a service
15	agreement, nothing with Mr. Blevins. The only thing
16	we have received is, I'm your water provider; you
17	pay me or get shut off.
18	Q Do you get water bills, monthly water
19	bills from Mr. Blevins
20	A No.
21	Q Or did you?
22	A Never received a water bill, unless you
23	were past due, then you got a notice it was going to
24	shut be off if you did not pay it.
25	Q Okay. So did you ever find did you

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1	Page 101 ever did you ever know what the rate was? Like,
2	how that was calculated? Was it on usage, amount of
3	usage, or do you know?
4	A No, when we first purchased the home, we
5	knew it was a flat \$30 monthly fee that we pay.
6	They, like I said, Jim Parsons, Don Baker, they're
7	the ones who managed it for the most part. Parsons
8	is the one who did all the maintenance. We knew it
9	was a \$30 monthly fee that we paid. We understood
10	that without any problems.
11	Q Okay. What happened when Mr. Blevins
12	became your provider?
13	A Well, the whenever we had an issue
14	before that, we would call Mr. Parsons or we called
15	Baker Construction, and they would respond really
16	quick. They were very cooperative; they worked with
17	us; they let us know what was going on. We didn't
18	have issues. The well house was maintained and
19	things like that. What we started to notice,
20	really, was that stuff was kind of shady, because we
21	had to make our checks out we seen different
22	business names in the notices that we received.
23	So when we received these, then we'd
24	make the check out to that and Travis would tell us,
25	no, you have to make the check out to me. As well,

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1	Page 102 we just seen a lack of maintenance. I mean, you
2	just see a pile of trash sitting outside of the well
3	house. If he went into the well house ever. So it
4	just became just an eyesore for our community, and
5	it just kept rolling down that same hill. We had
6	service interruptions that really started to upset
7	us and have no response to those, as well as the
8	increased rate hikes with no maintenance. I mean,
9	that's kind of an open question with what the issues
10	are.
11	Q Okay. You said you got you were told,
12	I guess, make your checks or payments payable to
13	different business names. Can you explain what you
14	mean by that?
15	A No, whenever he would serve us his
16	notices. One time it would say Misty Mountain Water
17	Works; then it would say Travis Blevins; then it
18	would say I don't even remember all the names
19	Q Okay.
20	A on the forms, but, basically, he would
21	give us all these forms with the business names on
22	them, and then you would try to write a check out to
23	him, to that business name, and he would say, no,
24	you got to make it out to my name. So you couldn't
25	write a check in his name. You couldn't put it in



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1	Page 103 his mailbox because someone would steal it, so you
2	had to hand deliver it to him, but you never could
3	receive a receipt.
4	Q Okay. Did you were you able to mail in
5	your payments before, before Mr. Blevins?
6	A Before Mr. Blevins, we would take them
7	down to Baker Construction, which is the building in
8	St. Robert, I do not remember the address that
9	Mr. Blevins owns now, we would go in and pay Baker
10	Construction. He would give us a receipt right
11	there.
12	Q Okay.
13	A Without a doubt.
14	Q Ms. Aslin is going to hand you what's been
15	marked Exhibit 1.
16	(Staff Exhibit 1 marked.)
17	A Okay, thank you.
18	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Those are three separate
19	letters in that exhibit. Can you do you
20	recognize those?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Can you tell the Commission what those
23	letters are?
24	A Well, first, the letter was basically
25	it was originally in 2018, then it was duplicated

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1	Page 104 again as you can see with the 1/9/20 date on there,
2	but that basically listed that, hey, our fees were
3	increasing to \$45 a month along with the late fees
4	and things like that. But as you can see, there's
5	no agreement in any of this. You will pay this or
б	your water is shut off. And it's not a bill. This
7	isn't something we received monthly. This was once
8	in a while we would receive notices like this, and
9	this is how we would be informed that our fees were
10	increasing
11	Q That's
12	A or changing.
13	Q You're referring to the first page now?
14	A Correct.
15	Q And what about the other two letters that
16	are attached there?
17	A The second one here is let's see, let
18	me read it quick. Oh, this is the one where Travis
19	chose to inform me that we had not paid our water
20	bill. So, previously, we had paid six months or 12
21	months in advance always. And I have to get the
22	canceled check for this one here, but we were paid
23	for one year in advance, and he tried to tell me we
24	were not. Then he wanted me to go back and get all
25	my canceled checks. I said one, well, there's one



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1	Page 105 canceled check; I refuse to do that, because we paid
2	every year July to July.
3	Q Uh-huh.
4	A This is the timeframe after this letter
5	when we quit paying six months in a year at a block
6	because this was a common occurrence in our
7	community.
8	Q Okay. So what did you you said you
9	quit paying six months in advance. What did you
10	start doing something different?
11	A Yes, we started paying two to three months
12	at most until 2023 when we paid no more than 60
13	days.
14	Q Okay. And you remember
15	A That's what that note is on the back as
16	well.
17	Q Okay. You received these from
18	Mr. Blevins?
19	A Yes, ma'am.
20	Q Did you ever sign a contract accepting the
21	terms of these the payment?
22	A That was never an option. Like I said,
23	you were given this by him or these people that work
24	for him or his grandkids, his granddaughter.
25	They're the ones that worked for him. So either



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 202
1	Page 106 Mr. Blevins would bring it to us or his grandson
2	would bring it us.
3	Q Okay.
4	A And that's all there was no discussion.
5	This is what you're going to do or it was dropped in
6	our mailbox until there were complaints filed with
7	the United States Postal Service.
8	Q Okay. Did he ever explain to or give you
9	an explanation of how he came up with the amounts or
10	the rates, the monthly rate?
11	A No, when he was questioned about it about
12	anywhere between here and now, when he was our water
13	provider, he was just, like, that's just the rate.
14	He would say once the DNR got involved and the PSC,
15	oh, well, they're charging me over \$1,000 a month so
16	I have to increase your rates.
17	Q Okay.
18	A That's the only thing. There was
19	no actual calculation or anything that he would ever
20	explain.
21	Q Okay. I asked that move that Exhibit 1
22	be entered into evidence?
23	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any objections to
24	admitting Exhibit 1, the Misty Water Works
25	correspondence with Mr. Grube onto the hearing



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 20	
1	Page 10 record.)7
2	MR. BLEVINS: No no objection.	
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 1 will be	
4	admitted onto the hearing record.	
5	(Staff Exhibit 1 admitted onto the hearing record.)	
6	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Ms. Kerr.	
7	Q (By Ms. Kerr) And what was your did you	
8	contact Mr. Blevins when you got these letters?	
9	A Well, I generally I would call him or I	
10	would go and meet him on the road when he goes by	
11	the house. Frequently outdoors, I would see him	
12	drive by because he drove multiple times every day	
13	to and from town, so I would go out and say, hey,	
14	Travis, what's up with this? Or I would stop in	
15	town at I don't know what to call the place.	
16	Where he has an establishment in town with quite	
17	a bit of stuff around it.	
18	Q Okay.	
19	A I think he's referred to it as an antique	
20	store, I believe. That's where I would stop	
21	otherwise and have a conversation with him	
22	Q Okay.	
23	A or at his house.	
24	Q And what was the response you get from	
25	Mr. Blevins?	



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 108 A In regards to the rate?
2	Q In regards to these letters and the rate,
3	yes?
4	A That's just what it is. He wouldn't flat
5	out that's what it is. There's no discussion of
6	it.
7	Q I'm going Ms. Aslin is going to hand
8	you what's been marked as Exhibit 2.
9	(Staff Exhibit 2 marked.)
10	Q (By Ms. Kerr) That's got a front and back
11	page. Do you recognize what that is?
12	A Once again, this was just another one of
13	his changes in names because now we're Misty
14	Mountain Misty Water Works, and basically saying
15	that our fees were increasing.
16	Q Okay. When did you get those letters?
17	A The somewhere right around the date
18	that's on the top.
19	Q Okay.
20	A That's generally pretty close to it. So I
21	can't remember the exact date, though.
22	Q That's okay. And, so, the letter that has
23	the Outlaw's Corral, that's the first page, first of
24	all, is that the business that you were just
25	referring to?



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 109 A So I think you have it backwards. The			
2	Misty Water Works, that's dated June of '21			
3	Q Uh-huh.			
4	A would be the first one. Then he			
5	changed the name to the Outlaw Corral, which is then			
6	dated December '21. So we've already made			
7	Q Sorry, you're right.			
8	A from Misty Mountain Water Works to			
9	yeah, so, yes.			
10	Q Okay, sorry.			
11	A It's tough to keep them straight so			
12	Q So, I asked you if that Outlaw's Corral,			
13	is that the business that you were just referring to			
14	that you stop at?			
15	A Yeah, that's the address of it, yep.			
16	Q Okay. And the customer letter with the			
17	Water Works letterhead, I guess what should have			
18	been the first page going by the date anyway, what			
19	would be the circumstances behind getting those			
20	letters?			
21	A Same thing. You'd either get them thrown			
22	in your mailbox or they'd hand them to you at the			
23	door.			
24	Q Okay.			
25	A And that would be it. There's one key			

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 110 thing out of that letter that we really started
2	raising alarm bells for all of us.
3	Q What is that?
4	A The third block on that page. "It's our
5	intention to provide improved water service,
6	maintenance, upkeep and operating equipment overall
7	policy management." There was no maintenance ever
8	done.
9	Q Okay.
10	A If the system went out, we didn't have
11	water, yes, then something would be done.
12	Maintenance? Never.
13	Q Okay. And just a note for the record,
14	this letter was attached to the complaint that was
15	filed in this case as Attachment A. Now, on that
16	Misty Water Works letter, it says there on the
17	second paragraph, that last sentence, "Your request
18	to look over the provider agreement attached." Did
19	you ever get such an agreement?
20	A No. We have never nope. That is the
21	most this is the type of documents we would get
22	from Mr. Blevins.
23	Q Okay.
24	A There was no agreements ever attached for
25	nothing.
	LEVITA 6"

1	Page 111 Q Okay.
2	A I would say one exception to that in
3	regards to him forming his utility HOA.
4	Q Okay. But other than that, with regards
5	to the rates and when you were receiving water
6	service from him
7	A There was never an agreement.
8	MS. KERR: I ask that Exhibit 2 be entered
9	into evidence.
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any objection to
11	admitting Exhibit 2, the Outlaw's Corral,
12	letter into the hearing record?
13	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 2 will be
15	admitted into the hearing record.
16	(Staff Exhibit 2 admitted into the hearing record.)
17	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Had you received other
18	letters like those regarding your water bill?
19	A Yes. Frequently, I know I submitted
20	several of them to the PSC in the complaint.
21	Q All right. Ms. Aslin's going to hand you
22	what's been marked as Exhibit 3.
23	(Staff Exhibit 3 marked.)
24	Q (By Ms. Kerr) I believe there are five
25	letters or notices included in that exhibit. Do you

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 112 recognize that, what those are?
2	A Yes.
3	Q Can you tell the Commission what they are?
4	A Well, the first one, again, was where the
5	title is changed again for the water provider with
6	Mr. Blevins. It's changed again. The second letter
7	that's on there is another one of the rate
8	adjustment letters. The third one is when the DNR
9	became involved in it. And he states in here that
10	because he has an operator and things like that,
11	that fees are going to go up on us again. So
12	Q That's basically what the other two
13	letters are as well?
14	A Yep. He says, you know, on the bottom of
15	that, you owe Outlaw's Corral \$1,000 per month for
16	the public system to operate under. Well, he had
17	four wells in Misty Mountain. I'm on one. You're
18	telling me it's 1,000 a month. An operator does not
19	cost 1,000 a month I know with our HOA.
20	Q Okay.
21	A So, yes, that's what all of those are.
22	Q Was there anything that stood out to you
23	or concerned you about these letters?
24	A It was the constant name change. Was he
25	trying to hide something, what's going on? Why



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1	Page if you have something going on, you don't expect a
2	business to continually change names nonstop. With
3	the continual increase in rate, with the lack of
4	maintenance. I mean, I submitted photos as well to
5	the PSC in regards to the debris in the well house,
б	constantly having to go over to the well house to
7	put the heater over there so things didn't freeze in
8	the winter. At least two or three times every year
9	in the winter when it got cold, I have to go over
10	and make sure things were good, put my tube heater
11	in there. So there was no maintenance.

12 Q Okay. And you said you paid -- you were 13 paying a year to six months in advance. Do you know 14 if he offered that to other people that were on the 15 system?

Yeah, he'd offer the same thing, I'd give 16 Α 17 you a discount rate if you pay me a year in advance. That's what he would do. 18 The biggest thing for me was the convenience because you couldn't put it in 19 20 his mailbox, and until that letter, now he gives you 21 a PO box that you could mail it to, but we had 2.2 problems because if you put something in his mailbox 23 or you mail him something, he may not get it because 24 somebody stole it.

25 Q Okay.



,	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 114 A I mean, it's just like getting texts and
2	phone calls, hey, pay me on this app, a
3	granddaughter, pay me on this app for your water
4	bill instead of taking a check to Travis. No, I'm
5	not paying you on an app. Come to find out, Travis
6	and I had a conversation about that, and she was
7	stealing money from him, he told me.
8	Q Okay. So when did that happen?
9	A That happened in November of 2023.
10	Q Okay. And, so, how did you find I
11	mean, can you explain that?
12	A Well, I can explain that, yeah. So my
13	neighbor was complaining that Travis kept saying
14	things got taken out of his mailbox, and she had to
15	keep making out checks. She was asking me how I
16	deal with things like that, and I said, I just take
17	it to him so I don't have that problem anymore.
18	Well, in November, I got a phone call
19	and a voicemail from his granddaughter requesting
20	that I pay through Cash App or PayPal or something
21	like that instead of paying by check and wanted me
22	to send it electronically to her, and I had a
23	conversation with Travis right at his front porch.
24	Q Okay.
25	A And I said, Travis, what's going on with



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	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 115 this? I said, I'm not doing this; I do not trust
2	her, no. I'm not. He said, don't do it. She's
3	already got into my bank account and stole money
4	from me; that's what she's trying to do.
5	Q Okay. Do you know if other homeowners
6	received similar letters to these that are in
7	Exhibit 3?
8	A Oh, absolutely.
9	Q How do you know that?
10	A Without a doubt. Because I've seen how
11	many of them the neighbors have reached out to
12	me. We've had discussion about the letters. They
13	have been sent to the PSC. I mean, we had numerous
14	conversations as a community, all of us as users,
15	especially with forming our HOA, that these are the
16	types of letters that all of us received.
17	MS. KERR: Okay. I'll ask that Exhibit 3
18	be entered into evidence.
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any objections to
20	admitting Exhibit 3, the Misty Water Works to
21	Mr. Grube onto the hearing record?
22	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
23	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 3 is admitted
24	onto the hearing record.
25	(Staff Exhibit 3 admitted into the hearing record.)



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 116 Q (By Ms. Kerr) Do you know who owned the
2	well that your water was coming from? Did you ever
3	find out?
4	A Yeah, we found out in January of this
5	year, because we always assumed that it was
6	originally, we thought it was Jim Parsons owned it,
7	well, and then we were told that Travis owned it.
8	That's what we assumed until January of this year
9	when we started discussing in regards to this HOA
10	that Travis was forming that we wanted to buy into
11	if we wanted water supply.
12	Q Okay. I'll get into that and I'll ask you
13	some questions about that later.
14	A Yeah.
15	Q So did you ever find out who owned your
16	well? Or the well you were getting water from?
17	A Yes, our neighbor across the street is the
18	owner of that well, (name stricken). Sorry, Judge.
19	That's a provider, I'm sorry.
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Is that a customer?
21	THE WITNESS: Yes.
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Can we strike that name?
23	MR. BLEVINS: I have no objection
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Wallis, would you
25	strike that name from the record?



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	Evidentiary rearing Julie 24, 202
1	Page 117 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir.
2	MR. BLEVINS: I'm sorry
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And, Bryan, would you
4	make a note?
5	THE WITNESS: I'll stop.
6	MS. KERR: Please don't name names of
7	other customers.
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Be careful not to do
9	that, thank you. And I understand it's easy to
10	accidently slip into
11	Q (By Ms. Kerr) What did you find what
12	did you out about the ownership of that well?
13	A That well has always been owned by that
14	property owner of that home. That homeowner has
15	always been paying the taxes on that well. There
16	was a service agreement that was signed with Don
17	Baker and the previous owner of that property to
18	provide water which expired in 2014. So Travis had
19	never any home had any ownership of that well.
20	Q I think you said the problems with the
21	water service started about the time that
22	Mr. Blevins took over the water supply. Do you know
23	when that was?
24	A I don't think it started right away in
25	2016. I think it really we started seeing things

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 118 later in '17 and '18. Especially in '19 is when we
2	had the significant struggles. Do you want me to
3	elaborate on those?
4	Q Sure, go ahead. It will save me some
5	questions.
6	A So, in July 2019, the Taylor Well that
7	Travis Blevins was operating, failed. At that time,
8	the reason that I knew that occurred, is because we
9	lost water in July and I'm, like, what's going on?
10	I couldn't get ahold of Travis on the phone, and
11	it's the middle of July. So I went over to the well
12	house, and I'm, like, why is the water shut off?
13	Well, I turned the water on. Then Mr. Blevins
14	called me and told me, you got to turn it back off
15	because I'm trying to fix the Taylor Well. I'm
16	tying the two together.
17	Q Okay.
18	A So the Taylor Well went down and failed,
19	the pump did, in July of 2019 when Mr. Blevins was
20	operating it. He tied it into the Tigger Well,
21	which is our Tigger-1, the large Tigger Well, our
22	Tigger Well failed then in August of 2019. Flynn
23	came out, the well provider, came out, the company
24	did, pulled our pump, placed another pump back down
25	in. We were still connected to Taylor. Then they

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 119 cut a hole in the roof again, pulled that pump about
2	a week later because we were without water for about
3	three or four days, dropped a new pump down in.
4	It was good from then. We had water
5	supply. We were providing Taylor Water Well since
б	July 2019 all the way up until two weeks ago, our
7	well was. The problems were, the trash that was
8	left; the hole in the roof that was never fixed. I
9	gave Travis the metal to replace the roof on the
10	Tigger Well twice.
11	Q And what happened?
12	A Green metal, never fixed it. My neighbor
13	also gave him metal to repair the roof. It was
14	never fixed. It finally got repaired September 14th
15	of '23. A piece of metal was put over the top, as
16	well as cleaning out the well house.
17	Q Do you know who did that?
18	A Travis's grandson.
19	Q And, at some point, you contacted the
20	Public Service Commission, right?
21	A Yes, absolutely, I did that in 2020. That
22	was my initial contact.
23	Q Okay.
24	A With the fall of 2020.
25	Q Okay. Did you file a complaint then also

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 120 in May or sometime in 2022?
2	A Yes, in 2022, is when I went to a training
3	and I found out the phone number and name of the
4	director for the PSC at this training. So that was
5	my next call. And then I filed another complaint.
6	Q Okay.
7	A Because something had to change.
8	Q Okay. So what happened in 2020 when you
9	contacted the PSC? Do you remember when that was
10	going on?
11	A I received I think I did that online,
12	if I remember right, when I filed the that I sent
13	the e-mail in. I know that Curt talked about it at
14	that Town Hall when we had that then they had
15	kind of a changing of the guard of director and
16	stuff, and it kind of got missed a little bit.
17	Q Okay. That was you're referring to
18	Curt Gateley?
19	A Yeah, yep.
20	Q And
21	A He can speak to that more what happened
22	between that time frame so
23	Q Right. And so in so it's really in
24	2022, you started dealing with the PSC?
25	A Yes, ma'am.

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ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 121 Q And who did you primarily deal with at the
2	PSC?
3	A Adam was the main one that I went to.
4	Curt I talked to a couple of times.
5	Q Okay. That is I'm sorry is that Adam
6	Stamp?
7	A Yes, yes.
8	MR. BLEVINS: May I interrupt, please?
9	I'm sorry.
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Yes, Mr. Blevins.
11	MR. BLEVINS: I've got an urgent
12	requirement with the restroom.
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Why don't we take about
14	a ten-minute recess? It's a good time to take
15	one anyway. So why don't we come back at
16	10:35.
17	(Wherein, a short recess was taken.)
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, let's go back on
19	the record. It's now 10:35. We're back from
20	recess. Ms. Kerr, you can continue your
21	questioning.
22	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Thank you. So I think we
23	were starting to talk about when you contacted the
24	PSC, okay. And I think you had said you primarily
25	dealt with primarily dealt with Adam Stamp and

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	Evidentiary Hearing Suffer 24, 2024
1	Page 122 Curt Gateley?
2	A Yes. Adam was the primary. Like I said,
3	Curt I just talked to just a couple times.
4	Q And what kind of what kind of contact
5	did you have with Adam and the PSC since then?
б	A Quite a bit of routine contact with
7	Mr. Adam Stamp with regards to updates, making him
8	aware of different situations that have occurred.
9	Do we want to get into what we've done over the last
10	four months yet or
11	Q I'll get into that.
12	A Okay.
13	Q And you say routine contact. What do you
14	mean by that?
15	A Through phone calls, e-mails, those were
16	the main. Just about things that were going on,
17	what's going on with the case. We're really getting
18	frustrated as users, as receivers of the water.
19	Q Okay.
20	A That's kind of the update, and then we
21	would send updates to Mr. Stamp and to the PSC from
22	our experience and our side.
23	Q About how often would that happen?
24	A I'd say before the first of this year,
25	probably what? Every other month. Every month.



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 123 Something like that. I have to go back to be sure,
2	but I would say about every 45 days.
3	Q Okay. And since January, I guess?
4	A Since January, it's been almost weekly.
5	Q Okay. And what changed in January?
6	A Once we found out that Mr. Blevins had no
7	ownership of our Tigger Well and the nine
8	households, there were ten because Mr. Blevins was
9	attached to it, when the nine households that were
10	serviced by that well agreed to form our own mutual
11	HOA, not an utility HOA, a mutual HOA, then there
12	were issues identified, so there was closer
13	communication with both Jackie Johnson with the DNR
14	and with Adam Stamp with the PSC related to what
15	we're doing with the HOA being formed.
16	Q Okay. And then the PSC held a public
17	information meeting in June '23 of Waynesville
18	A Yes, ma'am.
19	Q Did you go to that? Did you attend that?
20	A Yes.
21	Q How did you find out about it?
22	A We received a letter in the mail and
23	notification of it.
24	Q From
25	A Uh



	Page 124
1	Q Was it from the PSC?
2	A It was from the State of Missouri. I
3	believe it was the PSC that it came from. I'd have
4	to reference it for sure, but I'm pretty sure that
5	came from the PSC.
б	Q Okay. What was your did you have a
7	reaction when you received that notice, was it?
8	A We're, like, finally somebody is going to
9	do something. Somebody is looking into something.
10	Somebody wants to find the information out to
11	resolve the issues, because really, we felt like
12	nothing was being done.
13	Q Okay. You had attended the meeting?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Do you know about how many other
16	homeowners attended?
17	A It was approximately, what, 100 people?
18	It filled out the auditorium. There were standing
19	room only. So there was at least 100, I'd say.
20	Q Okay. Do you remember was it the where
21	was it?
22	A It was at the Waynesville what do they
23	call it? I think it's the Waynesville Municipal
24	Q Was it their government building?
25	A Yes, yeah, it's one of them. They have

	Evidentiary Hearing Suffer 24, 2024
1	Page 125 two separate ones.
2	Q Okay.
3	A So that was really the kind of public
4	works building and that's the one it was in.
5	Q Okay. Was Mr. Blevins there?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Did you talk to him at all when you were
8	there?
9	A No. The intention and the purpose of the
10	meeting was to give the DNR the PSC information.
11	Q Okay.
12	A I didn't have any conversation with
13	Mr. Blevins that day.
14	Q Okay. And do you remember how what his
15	demeanor was during the meeting?
16	A Uh
17	Q Or did you pay attention?
18	A Yeah, I paid attention. Probably a good
19	word for it would be it was tense that night at
20	that meeting for sure. I took it as it was
21	almost standing on your back heels, Mr. Blevins was,
22	that he's done everything he could; he's doing
23	everything he can; he doesn't even know why this
24	meeting is occurring.
25	Q And can you just tell me about that



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1	Page 126 meeting or tell the commissioners about that
2	meeting?
3	A It was pretty, like I said, tense that
4	night. There were some heated conversations that
5	went on. A lot of conversations went on because of
6	the inconsistencies in his billing practices and
7	communication. We were sitting next to other
8	providers of Mr. Blevins' utility, water utility,
9	that were paying \$20, \$25 a month, and here we're
10	paying 45, \$50 a month for water. So there was a
11	lot of heated conversations that went on that night,
12	a lot of frustration. That's why I said it was
13	quite tense in the room that night.
14	Q Do you think the PSC got what kind of
15	information would you say the PSC got from the
16	homeowners?
17	A I think there was a lot of individuals
18	there, homeowners, that were finally able to voice
19	their frustrations to somebody. So I think that
20	they got good information, but I think they kind of
21	got more than what they anticipated for information.
22	Q What do you mean by that?
23	A There was a lot thrown out. A lot of
24	information thrown out. Like the name change
25	information was thrown out, and I don't think they
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1	Page 12 were even aware of that. I mean, that's my opinion
2	on it, so you would have to ask them. But I think
3	there was a lot more information that they gathered
4	that night than what they even expected to gather.
5	Q And what do you mean by that? What kind
б	of information?
7	A His billing practices, his threats to shut
8	off water, lack of maintenance, the constant name
9	changes, the people that he has work for him are
10	family. Well, there was a lot of topics that night.
11	Yeah, there was a lot. So I think the PSC got more
12	than what they expected when they came down. That
13	it was a bigger problem than what they ever
14	realized.
15	Q Okay. Was DNR there as well?
16	A I believe Jackie was there that night.
17	Q That's Jackie Johnson?
18	A Yes, I believe I believe so.
19	Q Did you have any conversations with her?
20	A No, not that night, no.
21	Q Did you talk to Adam, Mr. Stamp, while you
22	were there that night?
23	A Yeah, I talked to Adam and I talked to
24	one other from the PSC, I can't remember his
25	name. One of the representatives from the PSC that



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1	Page 128 had came out to our house before.
2	Q Okay.
3	A You have to ask Adam who he brought with
4	that day. I don't remember who that was.
5	Q Okay. Now, do you think anything was
б	done strike that. So turning to January and
7	February of this year of 2024, you referred to an
8	HOA that you and your neighbors formed for the
9	purpose of serving your homes with the water service
10	rather than Mr. Blevins; is that right?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Okay. And before you formed your HOA or
13	homeowner's association, first of all does that
14	have a name?
15	A Our homeowner's associations
16	Q Yes.
17	A that we that all of us formed on the
18	Tigger Well?
19	Q Yes.
20	A We call it Tigger Water Well HOA.
21	Q Okay. Now, before you did before you
22	formed your homeowner's association, did you know
23	that Mr. Blevins tried to form his own HOA?
24	A Yes, absolutely.
25	Q And how how did you find out about



1	Page 129 that? How did you know that?
2	A We received a letter that was once again,
3	stuck on the front door. Actually, it was on the
4	step of the front door. It wasn't even a knock. It
5	was just come up and toss it on our front step by
6	our door. That's how we were informed of it.
7	Q Ms. Aslin is going to hand you what's been
8	marked, I believe, 4? Exhibit Number 4.
9	(Staff Exhibit 4 marked.)
10	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Do you recognize what that
11	is?
12	A Yes.
13	Q And what is that?
14	A Once again, this was just communication to
15	the PSC about what we were receiving from Mr. Travis
16	Blevins.
17	Q That
18	A This
19	Q I'm sorry.
20	A This was the first notification was
21	that October 23rd, which is the third page of the
22	HOA requirements for us to join.
23	Q Okay. And the last two pages, the last
24	two or three pages of that exhibit, are those the
25	letters that you included in the e-mail you sent to



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Mr. Stamp? Page 130
2	A Yes, ma'am.
3	Q Okay, it's just easier to read.
4	A Yeah.
5	Q Okay.
6	A I didn't mean to send them in picture form
7	instead of attaching them.
8	Q That's okay. So why did I guess, what
9	was the reason for sending it to Mr. Stamp?
10	A Because there were conversations going on
11	already amongst myself and my neighbors that our
12	serviced off the Tigger Well in regards to
13	ownership. In Pulaski County, we have a GIF system,
14	a GIS mapping system. We could not identify that
15	Travis owned that well. We had already
16	conversations prior to the receivership case that
17	occurred, does Travis really own this well? So
18	that's why I sent these to Adam so that he was aware
19	that this is what's going on.
20	To me, you can't form an HOA and tell
21	someone you must give me this money and then you
22	must still pay me this every month. That's not the
23	way a HOA works, in my opinion. So that's why I
24	kind of sent these to Adam, so the PSC was just kind
25	of aware. And then that's when I had a conversation



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 131 with Travis, the last weekend in November, related
2	to these, and this is when I started to get on the
3	phone with the Attorney General's Office in
4	Missouri.
5	Q Okay. I want to focus on the attached
6	letters. It's probably easier to just go to the
7	last couple of pages than try to
8	A Yeah.
9	Q than try to read what was pictured.
10	These came from Mr. Blevins?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Both of them came from Mr. Blevins?
13	A Yes.
14	Q And do you know who all who all got the
15	letter these letters?
16	A Almost every one of my neighbors I know
17	got it, because right away we were texting back and
18	forth, calls, what's going on? What is this? And
19	then in November after the hearing, then, you know,
20	even around that timeframe, I had a few neighbors
21	calling me, what are you doing? Are you going to
22	join, or what are your plans, they would ask.
23	Q And did it cause you to do anything, take
24	any action?
25	A So the first thing I'm one of them

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1	Page 132 outright, straight, honest. I went right to
2	Mr. Blevins, the last weekend in November, and I'm
3	like, what is the deal with this? Because by this,
4	you want me to pay you \$3,000; you're going to form
5	a HOA, but, yet, I still have to pay you? So who's
6	all over this; what's going on? And he's like,
7	yeah, that's just the way it's going to work. So I
8	said you want us to pay you \$3,000 per household,
9	\$27,000 for a well and you're going to leave us with
10	\$0. What happens if the pump goes down? Oh, it
11	won't; it won't.
12	Well, I said the well has been there
13	for four years servicing 15 connections with Taylor
14	Well still being down, so you're going to leave us
15	with nothing. He says, yeah, that's just the way
16	it's going to be. You have to either join it or you
17	won't have water. That is when I chose to take the
18	action to call the Attorney General's Office.
19	Q Okay. What happened there?
20	A They told me, and this was not legal
21	advice, but they told me that the homeowner's
22	association that Mr. Blevins registered with the
23	State was a utility, single owner HOA, which meant
24	he was still the controlling he the Attorney
25	General's Office stated it needed to be a mutual HOA



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024				
1	Page 133 because it's a mutual benefit to all the users. The				
2	Attorney General's Office said you do not have to				
3	join that HOA. He cannot turn your water off				
4	because you do not join the HOA. Right away, we				
5	shared that information out with everyone else on				
6	Misty Mountain, that he cannot force us to do this.				
7	Q Okay. That was in your subdivision?				
8	A Yes.				
9	Q Okay. Do you know if anyone accepted the				
10	offer Mr. Blevins set forth in these two letters?				
11	A No one that I'm aware of on the Taylor				
12	Well or the Tigger Well, no one joined the HOA. I				
13	know there was some discussion on some of the other				
14	systems, but, I mean, that's just conversations that				
15	they were.				
16	Q Okay.				
17	A But they were being told the same thing, I				
18	know, on Charity and Rolling Hills because they were				
19	even reaching out to us for help on what we were				
20	doing because they heard what we were doing for				
21	Tigger.				
22	MS. KERR: So you said first I'll ask				
23	to admit Exhibit 4 into evidence?				
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like				
25	to call this exhibit.				



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 134 MS. KERR: Uh			
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: How about HOA letter?			
3	MS. KERR: HOA letter, sure, or letters.			
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Is there any objection			
5	to admitting Exhibit 4, the HOA letters, on to			
б	the hearing record?			
7	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.			
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, I have one			
9	question for you, Mr. Grube, on the last page			
10	at the letter on the top, it looks like there's			
11	some notes that are taken in handwriting. Are			
12	those yours?			
13	THE WITNESS: Those are my notes from my			
14	phone calls			
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: It didn't come like			
16	that?			
17	THE WITNESS: No, those are my notes on			
18	that letter from phone calls and dates that I			
19	had.			
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Exhibit 4 is			
21	admitted onto the hearing record.			
22	(Staff Exhibit 4 admitted into the hearing record.)			
23	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Thank you. And you said you			
24	discussed those letters with Mr. Blevins?			
25	A Yes, ma'am.			



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 135 Q Where where were where did you			
2	discuss them with him?			
3	A That was the last weekend of November when			
4	I was making our December water payment to him on			
5	his front porch of his house. During that			
6	conversation, I made my payment to him like I always			
7	do, handed him the check and then I asked him about			
8	the HOA, and he verbalized to me that, yes, you have			
9	to join the HOA; this is what we're going to do.			
10	Yes, I'm taking the \$3,000 that everyone gives me			
11	and that's you purchasing the well, but I'm still			
12	going to manage the HOA and you're still going to			
13	pay me.			
14	At that time, because of the other			
15	discussions that we had going on and some other			
16	neighbors asked me, will you see if he really owns			
17	it? I told Travis, flatout, we said we don't think			
18	you own it, so you're trying to sell us something			
19	you don't even own. So I said I need proof before I			
20	will even consider this or talk to anyone else that			
21	you own it. So I said I'll give you two weeks to			
22	give me some kind of ownership documents.			
23	Q Okay. That was			
24	A That was the last weekend in November of			
25	'23.			



Evidentiary Hearing Page 136 1 And you're talking about the well that you Q 2 serviced you, the --Correct. The big Tigger. 3 Α 4 0 Okay. 5 Tigger-1, I think the DNR called it if I Α 6 remember right. 7 Okay. Did you ever -- did Mr. Blevins 0 8 give you that documentation that you asked for? 9 Α I asked for it again around the 21st No. 10 of December, and to this day, never seen nothing. 11 Okay. Did you ever find out --0 12 Yes, we did. Α 13 -- who owned that well? 0 14 Α Yep. 15 What did you find out? 0 16 That's where we found that the neighbor, Α 17 the one that the well was sitting on, is the actual owner of that well. 18 19 Does Mr. Blevins have any ownership 0 20 interest in that --21 А No --2.2 0 -- that you could find? 23 Α No, the last service agreement that was 24 done was with the previous owner of that property, and with Mr. Jim Parsons who owned that well 25



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 137 originally. There was a service agreement attached			
2	to the deed, investigation and audit. But once the			
3	current owner bought that property, that was null			
4	and void. So, no, there was no ownership of			
5	Mr. Travis Blevins to the well, no service agreement			
6	for that well, from the owner of that well or			
7	anything.			
8	Q Okay. You said you just mentioned			
9	something about a title audit?			
10	A Yes.			
11	Q What what do you can you explain			
12	that?			
13	A So in order for us to make sure we were in			
14	the free and the clear after the conversation with			
15	the Attorney General, he said I really would just go			
16	ask for that first, start there. If he doesn't have			
17	any ownership, then he doesn't have any rights to			
18	it. So that is where we went to that. Asked our			
19	neighbor, since he's the one who owns the property,			
20	to go down to the county assessor's visitor and			
21	request a deed investigation audit back to figure			
22	out whether Mr. Blevins had any ownership rights to			
23	that well at all. So that was requested then.			
24	Q Okay.			
25	A And we received that back and that's where			

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 138 that stated in there that, yes, there was a part of			
2	an easement that was started, never finished,			
3	though.			
4	Q Okay.			
5	A And that home owner is the one that has			
6	paid property taxes on that well ever since 2014			
7	when he moved in.			
8	Q Did you did Mr. Blevins ever give you a			
9	reason why he didn't have those documents?			
10	A No, he just said he couldn't find them.			
11	Q Okay.			
12	A He said he had he owned it. He also			
13	made a couple of statements that, well, it was an			
14	agreement. Well, I said an agreement does not work			
15	when it comes to real estate.			
16	Q Okay.			
17	A He told me that he used to do real estate,			
18	and he said he's not dumb; he knows what he knows			
19	that it does. So he knows he owns it. I said, no,			
20	you don't, not unless you can produce a document			
21	that shows that you have.			
22	Q Okay, and he never produced that document?			
23	A Never produced any document.			
24	Q So you never you did not join the HOA?			
25	A No.			

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 139 Q Pay the \$3,000?			
2	A Negative. None of us did that are on the			
3	Tigger Well currently. Not one of us.			
4	Q Okay.			
5	A Nor did any of the Taylor residents.			
6	Q The Taylor residents, those are the ones			
7	on the Taylor Well?			
8	A They were the ones that had been serviced			
9	by the Tigger Well. Our HOA's well since July of			
10	2019, up until June 6th of this year.			
11	Q Okay.			
12	A That's how I know about them, because they			
13	were very cooperative, that were understanding with			
14	us forming the HOA and everything. So they know as			
15	much as anyone in our HOA does.			
16	Q Okay. So there's your HOA that has the			
17	Tigger Well, and then you said there's the Taylor			
18	residents are they they're the ones that were			
19	connected to your well, the Tigger Well?			
20	A Correct, because we were providing them			
21	water. They were not part of our HOA. The Tigger			
22	Water Well HOA is just the Tigger Water Well			
23	recipients, the connections, the nine connections,			
24	that's it.			
25	Q Okay. The people that lived on Taylor,			

	Evidentiary Hearing Julie 24, 2024			
1	Page 140 are they were they customers of Mr. Blevins?			
2	A They were yes, they've been customers			
3	of Mr. Blevins.			
4	Q Okay. Do you know how long?			
5	A I'm going to assume since 2016. I know			
6	it's since, at least, 2019.			
7	Q Okay. So what steps did you take to form			
8	your homeowner's association?			
9	A So, really, to form it, we got that audit			
10	back. We met prior to that, just with discussions.			
11	The nine homes there were originally 10 homes			
12	that are the primary connection to the Tigger Well.			
13	Mr. Blevins was one of those. The other nine			
14	there were some pain points. Multiple homes did not			
15	want to meet because Mr. Blevins only wanted his			
16	HOA; he wanted to run the HOA; he wanted us to buy			
17	it from him. So many of them would not even meet if			
18	he was at the meetings. So out of the ten			
19	connections, the other nine of us all met, had			
20	conversations and discussions about forming a mutual			
21	HOA.			
22	All nine other homes agreed and			
23	signed into an agreement with the HOA, to form the			
24	HOA is what they did. We elected our board, which			
25	has a president and vice president and			



I	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 141 secretary-treasurer. We formed that. We wrote up			
2	service agreements. We took a notified			
3	Mr. Blevins of this, gave him the opportunity to			
4	complete a service agreement within ten days or have			
5	an alternative source of water. Mr. Blevins made			
6	the decision to disconnect from the big Tigger,			
7	Tigger-1, which is our well, and connect to the			
8	Tigger-2 Well across the road from him. So now			
9	there are nine members of that HOA that have active			
10	connections			
11	Q Okay.			
12	A and are members of our HOA.			
13	Q Okay. Ms. Aslin is going to hand you			
14	what's been marked as Exhibit 5.			
15	(Staff Exhibit 5 marked.)			
16	Q (By Ms. Kerr) You said you'd had let			
17	Mr. Blevins know about forming the HOA and all that.			
18	Is that letter those letters that I've provided			
19	you, is that that notice you were talking about?			
20	A Correct.			
21	Q And who were they addressed to?			
22	A This was this was provided to this			
23	was a letter here that went to all the Tigger			
24	residents that have direct connections to Tigger 1.			
25	Q Okay. That's that first one			



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024			
1	Page 142 A This yes. This also went to			
2	Mr. Blevins, as well as that back page, the second			
3	page of it, as well.			
4	Q The one that is dated March 4, 2024?			
5	A Yes, yep. This is where we gave him			
6	notice 90 days also, up until the 2nd of June of			
7	this year to have that Taylor Well up and running			
8	that he that went out of service in July of 2019.			
9	Q Okay.			
10	A We gave him that notice. Also, we			
11	informed him that those Taylor residents were no			
12	longer going to be paying him their water service			
13	when we're providing the water service to them.			
14	Q Okay.			
15	A This also informed him that there was			
16	prepayments that are documented from Tigger Well			
17	connections, two addresses, I won't include names,			
18	two addresses there. And that's also where it says			
19	he owes us \$1,155 in prepayments that he had			
20	received, because we were not going to charge the			
21	residents on top of what they had already gave him			
22	for prepayments.			
23	Q I suppose, before I forget, I should			
24	probably mark this one as confidential since it has			
25	those other addresses on it, or does it just have			



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1	Page 143 yeah, it does.			
2	A The back page.			
3	Q Yeah, it does have those addresses.			
4	A Yep.			
5	Q And you, obviously, sent to Mr. Blevins?			
6	A This was hand delivered to Mr. Blevins			
7	because I had to read it.			
8	Q What do you mean you had to read it?			
9	A He said when we were standing on his			
10	front porch, my neighbor and I, so we had two of our			
11	board members that went to Mr. Blevins to read to			
12	deliver these letters to him. He snatched all of			
13	them out of my hand, I took them back, and I said			
14	here's your copy; here's our copy. And he said he			
15	couldn't read it. I said would you like me to read			
16	it to you, sir? He said, yeah. So, I read the			
17	whole thing to him. He refused to sign it and got			
18	very irate.			
19	Q Okay, did he tell you why he refused to			
20	sign it?			
21	A Because he says, I own that well.			
22	Q That he owns the well?			
23	A Yep, he said he was going to call the			
24	sheriff. I said, okay, call the sheriff. We have			
25	all the deed paperwork. His wife came out and got			



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1	Page 144 mad yelling at us. I said, we're done. We walked				
2	back to the vehicle and left.				
3	Q Okay.				
4	A They were going to call the sheriff. The				
5	sheriff never showed up at my house.				
6	Q Okay. I'd like to offer Exhibit 5 into				
7	evidence and ask that Exhibit 5 be entered into				
8	evidence, I'm sorry.				
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have				
10	any objection to admitting Exhibit 5, the				
11	Tigger HOA letter, onto the record?				
12	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.				
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Exhibit 5, the				
14	Tigger Water Well HOA letter is admitted onto				
15	the hearing record, and that is a confidential				
16	exhibit. You may continue, Ms. Kerr.				
17	(Staff Exhibit 5 admitted into the record.)				
18	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Thank you. I'm just trying				
19	to figure out where I am in my own head, my				
20	questions. So is the Tigger Well, which is part of				
21	your HOA, which is the HOA you have, is that				
22	certified or regulated by DNR?				
23	A It was, and we went into it knowing that				
24	was going to, because part of the process of that,				
25	and we were well aware of it with talking with				

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1	Page 145 Jackie and mapping out the service connections
2	between Tigger and providing water to Taylor, the
3	five houses, that it was going to be regulated
4	because it had 15 connections which didn't matter
5	but we were over 25.
б	Q Okay.
7	A So we knew it was going to be regulated
8	without a doubt, so we were working with the DNR to
9	make sure we were in compliance with that, and
10	that's why we were also, in March, working to find
11	an operator, and that's why we contacted Lori Jean.
12	So we knew it was going to be regulated and we
13	wanted to work with the DNR to ensure we were in
14	compliance.
15	Q Okay.
16	A We knew it was going to be a non-compliant
17	well just because of the stipulations and things
18	like that. So we were very aware.
19	Q Okay. And, so, it was considered then to
20	be a public water system by DNR? Do you know?
21	A I don't know if it was considered a public
22	water system. I know it was a regulated.
23	Q Okay. That's fine.
0.4	

24 You have to ask DNR on that exact Α

25 language.



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 146 Q Okay. That's fine. Did you have a
2	certified operator once it became designated or
3	regulated by DNR?
4	A Yes, in was it March or April? I don't
5	know it to make sure
6	Q Sometime in the spring?
7	A Yeah, it was March or April. I know we
8	had conversations with Ms. Lori Jean in March. I
9	don't remember what the exact day was.
10	Q Okay.
11	A Then we went into the agreement with her.
12	She was willing to work with us. She knew the
13	situation. She gave us recommendations right that
14	day, and we started doing those.
15	Q Okay. What kind of recommendations?
16	A Well, the biggest thing was make sure to
17	get the sign hung on the door. She stated to me on
18	the phone, I asked Travis to hang on the door how
19	many times that no one else can be in the well
20	house, and it hasn't been done. I said, well, what
21	kind of sign do we need to meet law? And she said,
22	well, just this one. I said, okay, no problem; I'll
23	order it. So we did it.
24	Q What kind of sign was it?
25	A It's a sign that's it's basically

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 147 against no trespassing. It's federal regulation
2	or federal law that prohibits anyone from entering
3	the property because it's a well house.
4	Q Okay.
5	A So we did that right away. We did
6	everything with Jackie that we could in order to
7	make sure that we were in compliance there. We
8	started having discussions about the DNR and Dalten
9	coming down and doing the survey or the inspection,
10	as well as water testing and things like that. So
11	we started doing the paperwork like we were supposed
12	to.
13	Q That's Dalten Young from DNR?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Okay. Now, Lori Jean, she's the same
16	certified operator that Mr. Blevins had?
17	A She was, yes.
18	Q Okay. And she seems to be responsive and
19	know what she was doing?
20	A Yeah, yep. I got more information out of
21	her whenever she came to do water testing when she
22	was an operator for more than Mr. Blevins that
23	whatever I got out of Mr. Blevins. I never received
24	a water test out of Mr. Blevins ever when I
25	inquired. And Ms. Lori Jean was just, like, well,

Page 148 1 here go right to this website; you can see exactly 2 every water test. 3 Q Okay. 4 Α So she was very responsive, especially 5 with us setting up the HOA and making sure we were 6 in compliance and things like that. 7 Is she still the certified 0 Okay. 8 operator? 9 Α We do not have to have a certified 10 operator now since Taylor was disconnected, and 11 Travis got Taylor Well up and running on the 6th of 12 June, because we had a shut-off notice for that for 13 the 3rd of June, which he did not meet. And we can 14 go into that, probably go further into that later. 15 But, yeah, no -- now, just to summarize it, no, we 16 are not a regulated water system -- a regulated well 17 now, although we are still doing water testing. 18 Okay. So you're not regulated by DNR? 0 19 Α Correct. 20 So you don't have to have a certified 0 21 operator? 2.2 Α Yes, ma'am. 23 Okay. So you might have testified to this 0 24 before, but why was your HOA serving houses that 25 were not part of the HOA?



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 149 A All we know is in July of 2019,
2	that Taylor pump broke. The pump was bad.
3	Q Okay.
4	A That's all we could find out. The well
5	house over there on Taylor was absolutely horrible.
6	I mean, I can't believe it was still halfway
7	standing at least. So you knew there was issues
8	there. But the pump failed in July of '19. It was
9	pulled out. The pipe sat on the ground, covered
10	with a tarp for years.
11	Q Okay. So was it and that's the Taylor?
12	A Yes.
13	Q Okay. Now, it is your HOA's
14	responsibility to keep to take care that the
15	Taylor Lane residents had water service?
16	A The only thing that we are responsible for
17	with the Tigger HOA was to insure that they had
18	water provided to their lines. The maintenance of
19	their lines was still up to Mr. Blevins.
20	Q Okay. And, so, since they aren't part of
21	your HOA, did you have did you feel like you had
22	any responsibility to service or to provide water to
23	them?
24	A Yeah, because even after having
25	conversations with with multiple state

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1	Page 150 representatives, whether it be the Attorney
2	General's Office, they were, like, well, just cut
3	them off; it's Travis' fault. It's his problem.
4	You don't have to provide them water. Yeah, we
5	could have done that. But if I was on the receiving
6	end of that, I would be hot. I would be absolutely
7	livid. So that's why we decided, let's give them 90
8	days. 90 days is more than enough to drop a pump
9	down a well.
10	Q Okay.
11	A So that's why we were fully transparent
12	with them what was going on. We're going to provide
13	your water up until this day. We let them know what
14	was occurring, kept them in the loop. So they were
15	all in agreement and supportive of it as well.
16	Q You said you gave them a deadline of 90
17	days?
18	A Correct. It was June 2nd.
19	Q Okay.
20	A 90 days exactly from the day Travis
21	received the letter on March 4th.
22	Q Okay. Is that the notice is that the
23	notice you gave Mr. Blevins?
24	A Yes.
25	Q Okay. Do you know what his reaction was



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1	Page 151 or what his to that letter?
2	A He didn't care. He just said okay.
3	Q Okay. Did he make any promises to fix it
4	or to take care of Taylor?
5	A No. No, there was multiple times, because
6	I wanted to I'm not going to be selfish. I
7	wanted to make sure they had water over there.
8	Q Okay.
9	A There's families. There's kids. So there
10	was multiple times I would stop and talk to him or
11	be, like, Travis, what's the deal? Is it going to
12	be fixed? Are they going to have water? We can't
13	keep doing this. And every time he just got irate
14	mad. That Tigger was his well, and he's going to
15	take care of the problem. I said, well, it would
16	help if you would communicate with us somewhat. And
17	there was no communication between Mr. Blevins and
18	the HOA at all in regards to it.
19	I mean, we served him that letter
20	on I went around and did all the mapping of all
21	the water lines, all the services and things like
22	that, on March 19th. 18th and 19th, I ran every
23	single line, so that I knew exactly where all the
24	shutoffs were, all the connections, all the lines
25	ran and everything. I identified a leak. We made



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1	Page 152 Mr. Blevins aware. To this day, until it was
2	disconnected at least from Tigger, that water leak
3	has not been fixed. So he didn't want to
4	communicate with us with anything.
5	Q And that water leak was on the Taylor
6	A Yes, ma'am.
7	Q Taylor, okay.
8	A Ultimately we can go into that later.
9	Q Go ahead.
10	A We served them that letter after we found
11	that on March 20th, and let him know that needed to
12	be fixed within three days. It sat for weeks. Then
13	we had the storm on the 1st of April, still wasn't
14	fixed. Then he dug a hole down there about I
15	have to look at the what day was that? It was
16	the middle of April that he dug a hole down there.
17	No, it wouldn't have been the middle of April,
18	because Mr. Stamp came out on April 25th to take
19	pictures to file a report about how bad the Taylor
20	Well and that leak was.
21	So May 5th, we served him a letter on
22	March 20th. May 5th, he chose to finally go down
23	there with a backhoe and dig a hole in that
24	resident's yard, then filled that hole back in and
25	then dug a hole about eight to ten feet around,



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1	Page 153 where that leak was, that's about four feet deep,
2	and let it sit there. Then he come back a week
3	later and dig a trench, so the water would drain.
4	Ultimately, he never fixed the leak. That resident,
5	that property owner, ultimately gave him a deadline
б	of May 31st to have that hole that repair
7	completed and that hole filled in, or they were
8	going to fill that hole in themselves with their
9	tractor. He never fixed it. They ultimately filled
10	the hole in with the dirt.
11	Q Okay. And, finally, this last exhibit.
12	Ms. Aslin is going to hand you what's been marked as
13	Exhibit 6.
14	(Staff Exhibit 6 marked.)
15	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Do you recognize those
16	documents?
17	A Yes. This is this is everything that
18	we served to Travis and his wife in regards to this
19	about the water being shut off. This one was both
20	served we gave it to him and it was sent to him
21	by certified mail that he had to sign into the
22	agreement or in ten days the water would be turned
23	off. And that's where our agreement was signed by
24	both the HOA and the resident, and it was very
25	clearly outlined in our service agreement whose



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1	Page 154 responsibility is what, when things are due, what
2	occurs.
3	Then the second one is the leak.
4	Like I said, March 20th, that it needed to be
5	repaired within three days. The second one there
6	well, it would be the third one then. That is the
7	one we delivered to the Taylor residents, letting
8	them know, hey, we identified this leak. Jackie was
9	also informed at the DNR, probably didn't need to,
10	but, hey, new to this, we're going to make sure to
11	communicate. So called and talked to Jackie and let
12	her know. She said we had to do pressure testing.
13	I went and got a pressure gauge, went over and
14	tested it and all of them were greater than 55 PSI,
15	so we let the residents know that as well.
16	Q Okay.
17	A What's the next one? May 21st, this is
18	one where we said that Taylor Well must be
19	operational by June 2nd. He still had started no
20	work on it at all. He did not answer the door this
21	day, so this one here was delivered by two of the
22	Tigger Well HOA board members, and it was stuck in
23	his door.
24	Q Okay. That note says left on Travis'
25	door?



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1	Page 155 A Yep.
2	Q Okay.
3	A Because he would not answer the door. He
4	would not talk to us. So that was served to him, as
5	well as the Taylor residents also received
6	notification that the Taylor Well would be shut off
7	on June 5th, so that they were aware as well. Now,
8	that wasn't the end because we didn't want to just
9	shut something off. I knew that Rick's pump service
10	was doing the work, although Travis owes him over
11	\$20,000 in unpaid debt, that I knew Rick was going
12	to be the one that was going to do the work on that
13	well.
14	Q On the Taylor Well?
15	A Correct.
16	Q Okay.
17	A Because Rick had been the one that had
18	been working on the Topo Well. So, I called Rick,
19	I'm, like, Rick, here's the situation, since Travis
20	didn't want to talk to us, I called Rick and I let
21	Rick know what was going on. He's, like, yes,
22	Travis told me this. He's, like, I'm planning on
23	getting out there on Monday, on the 3rd.
24	Q June 3rd?
25	A Yes. And he told me, we're going to do it



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1	Page 156 on the 2nd. We're going to pull the pump out of
2	Topo. So I said, okay, you're going to pull the
3	pump out of Topo? He says, yes, so that we put that
4	pump in Taylor. I said okay. So you're going to
5	have this up and running for these residents before
6	the 5th of June? He said, I'm going to try my best;
7	I'm doing this for nothing, because I'm not going to
8	get paid for this.
9	Q Okay. Was he doing that at the
10	request at your request or Mr. Blevins?
11	A No. He was doing this at Mr. Blevins'
12	request. That's what Rick told me, though, because
13	I wanted to make sure the Taylor residents had
14	water. There's kids. There's families. I didn't
15	want them to have to go down to the Big Piney to go
16	take a bath. That's just wrong. So I was trying to
17	make sure since Mr. Blevins didn't want to talk with
18	us as a HOA or keep us informed, at least I had
19	something, because the Taylor residents wanted to
20	know if it was going to be fixed. The Taylor
21	residents were provided Mr. Blevins' contact,
22	Mr. Adam Stamp's contact, as well as Ms. Jackie
23	Johnson's contact and the Attorney General's contact
24	information, when they received that shut-off
25	notice, that it was going to be shut off, and I said



r	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 157 I can't do anything else. You guys have got to put
2	pressure on him
3	Q Okay.
4	A get it done. So, ultimately, they did.
5	They pulled the pump on the 2nd of June. Rick
6	called and informed me of that. June 3rd, Rick
7	called and informed the other board member that the
8	pump had been placed. They had chlorinated the
9	system, dumped bleach into it, and they were going
10	to come back the next morning and take a water
11	sample, but they didn't know when it was going to be
12	turned on.
13	Q Okay. Was that up to Mr. Blevins to do
14	that?
15	A Yeah.
16	Q Okay.
17	A He knew the shut-off date was supposed to
18	be the June 3rd. We were being nice. We went to
19	the 5th. And, ultimately, at the request of Rick
20	when he called the other board member and said, hey,
21	can you give us some time? We're waiting on a water
22	test to get back. We said we'll give you until the
23	6th. On the 6th, the water was shut off. The
24	residents on Taylor then contacted Mr. Blevins, and
25	Mr. Blevins says, well, I didn't even know the water

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 158 was turned off. They were without water for about
2	three and a half, four hours over on Taylor until
3	Mr. Blevins went and turned that water on. As of
4	last week, they still have no clue what the water
5	tests showed.
6	Q And, so, now so, now, since June 6th,
7	the Tigger Well and the Tigger HOA, you guys are
8	just servicing your HOA?
9	A Correct, yes.
10	Q And the folks on Taylor, they're being
11	serviced by this Taylor Well?
12	A Yes, they are serviced by the Taylor Well,
13	and according to the pressure gauge the neighbor has
14	right there, they're running it up on a 44 to 46
15	PSI. So they're being serviced off their Taylor
16	Well. All the Tigger residents, in the Tigger HOA,
17	all nine homes are being serviced by the Tigger
18	Well.
19	Q I ask that Exhibit 6 be entered into
20	evidence?
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
22	any objection to admitting Exhibit 6, the
23	Tigger HOA Shut Off and Notice of Leaks?
24	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
25	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 6 is admitted on

1	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 159 the hearing record.
2	(Staff Exhibit 6 admitted into the record.)
3	Q (By Ms. Kerr) So then, as of now, your
4	well, your HOA, is not serviced by Mr. Blevins?
5	A That's correct.
6	Q And the Taylor Well, are they serviced by
7	Mr. Blevins?
8	A Yes, they are serviced by Mr. Blevins.
9	Q Okay.
10	A He is the owner of that well, based on the
11	Pulaski County records.
12	Q Okay.
13	A And he received that well back from Mr
14	when he sold that well for 30 days, it was supposed
15	to be up and running. It never got up and running.
16	So that's why he got the well deed back. He owned
17	that well well, he operated that well prior to
18	that, I know for a fact.
19	Q Okay.
20	A Because of the incidents in July of 2019.
21	Q And what incident was that?
22	A That was the one earlier I was talking
23	about when we didn't have water in 2019 when
24	the Taylor Well went down
25	Q Okay.



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1	Page 160 A he was over there fixing it, and I went
2	over and turned the water on, and he called me and
3	told me to turn the water back off because he had to
4	connect the two.
5	MS. KERR: Okay. I don't think I have any
6	other questions at this point.
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Mr. Blevins,
8	do you have any cross-examination questions you
9	wanted to ask this witness.
10	MR. BLEVINS: I do have, but at the
11	present time, can I reserve to recall Mr. Grube
12	back for that particular
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Why would we need to do
14	that?
15	MR. BLEVINS: My medical condition, sir.
16	I need to take another rest I'm sorry.
17	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No, that's okay. How
18	long of a break do you need?
19	MR. BLEVINS: Just a few minutes.
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Why don't we take
21	about another a ten-minute break and come back
22	at 11:35. We will recess until 11:35.
23	(Wherein, a short recess was taken.)
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, let's go back on
25	the record. When we left off, it was



1	Page 161
1	Mr. Blevins' opportunity to do any
2	cross-examination. Mr. Blevins, did you have
3	questions you wanted to ask this witness?
4	MR. BLEVINS: I do have, yes, sir.
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.
6	CROSS-EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. BLEVINS:
8	Q Okay. Mr. Grube, you indicated in all of
9	your testimony there different things
10	argumentatively, I assume, but do you have evidence?
11	When you talked about when you were given a
12	notice of the possibility of forming a HOA from me,
13	was there any evidence that you had that said if you
14	didn't join this HOA, then your water would be cut
15	off? Did you have that or did you
16	A Your conversation with me
17	Q I don't recall
18	A is the only evidence because I did not
19	record anything, Mr. Blevins.
20	Q Well, that you don't have any evidence
21	of that. Does that say in the letter?
22	A Let me refer back to the letter to see if
23	it does.
24	Q Okay.
25	A No, it does not. It just said at the end



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1	Page 162 feel free to call you or discuss with you any
2	questions or concerns. So that's why I brought my
3	questions and concerns to you, and that's why we had
4	that conversation on your porch that that was going
5	to occur.
6	Q Okay.
7	A But that is the only evidence that I have
8	from our conversation related to it.
9	Q Yeah, there's no indication that if you
10	did not join the HOA the water would be cut off?
11	A Well, that's what you told me
12	Q I don't
13	A sitting on your front porch
14	Q I don't
15	A so that's what I'm going off of is
16	Q Yeah, I don't want to argue with you,
17	Mr. Grube.
18	A No.
19	Q I don't particularly recall that, so we'll
20	go with with what you said there, okay? You also
21	indicated that other users of the water were paying
22	different prices. Where did you get that
23	information from, or where did that come from?
24	A Well, first of all, we heard that in
25	the whatever the PSC wanted to call that June 1st
	, I EVITA 6"

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1	Page 163 evidentiary hearing or meeting with the community.
2	That was brought up multiple times during that
3	meeting
4	Q Okay.
5	A There were varying
6	Q What are the figures that you used then?
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, try not to
8	interrupt your witness when they're answering.
9	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Okay, sorry about that,
10	Mr. Grube. Go ahead.
11	A So during that meeting, there were
12	multiple occasions where it was brought up about the
13	different prices that everyone was paying. And then
14	also with conversations as we were forming the HOA,
15	the Tigger Water Well HOA, there were multiple
16	conversations that we had, and there were multiple
17	statements made by other users on the Tigger Water
18	Well HOA that some were paying \$35 still; some were
19	paying 40; some were at 55. So that's where I'm
20	taking all of those statements from.
21	Q Could
22	A From the
23	Q Maybe, could that have been a
24	misunderstanding on some parts there of these people
25	you talked to from different areas? Is that

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1	Page 164 possible?
2	A During the June meeting with the PSC in
3	Waynesville? Yes, that could be probable. In
4	regards to the conversations as we were forming the
5	Tigger Water Well HOA? No, that can't be because
6	they're on the same water system, and they're not at
7	discounted rates.
8	Q What are the figures what are the
9	figures that were used then at the Tigger Well?
10	A One resident was only paying \$35 a month.
11	One resident that was paying \$45 a month. And then
12	there were the others that were paying \$55 a month.
13	One was paying \$60 a month. Out of nine
14	connections, there was that many variances already.
15	Q Did you did you have evidence did
16	you have evidence of that, or is that just a rumor?
17	A I have my conversations that I was forming
18	as a board member for the Tigger Water Well HOA, but
19	as for June, those are on record with the PSC, those
20	variances. But as you stated, those may be because
21	they're different water systems. But with the
22	Tigger Water Well HOA, that's what I had as a board
23	member, those conversations about the different
24	variances and prices. Do I have it in paper and in
25	writing? No, I do not.



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1	Q Okay, all right. You mentioned about name
2	changes, company name changes. Where did that come
3	from? How did you determine that?
4	A Mr. Blevins, if you look at all these
5	evidence pieces. We have Misty Water Works on one.
6	We have DBA Misty Water Works. I'm going off of
7	your letters, your notices. You have delivered us
8	letters, Outlaw's Corral, that you call it, and my
9	wife and I have tried to write out checks out to
10	those different business names.
11	Q Why would you want to do that?
12	A Because generally when you do business
13	with someone, like when we formed Tigger Water Well
14	HOA, no one makes their check out to Jeff Grube.
15	They make their check their payment out to Tigger
16	Water Well HOA. If they make it out to my name as
17	being the secretary and treasurer, I cannot deposit
18	that because I have an account that is set up for
19	Tigger Water Well HOA. I have other businesses in
20	the past, and I always kept business separate from
21	professional when it comes to regulations, tax laws
22	and everything. So that's why if you give me
23	something that has a business name on it, I expect
24	that I can write a check out to that business name
25	and not to a person.

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1	Page 166 Q If you were told different, wouldn't
2	that wouldn't that clarify that?
3	A After the fact if I write a check out then
4	you tell me I have to write you a check out to your
5	name because you can't take it in the business name,
6	that raises a couple of yellow flags and red flags
7	of what's going on.
8	Q Wouldn't you think maybe that there is no
9	accounts set up with Misty Water Works, basically,
10	or Outlaw's Corral?
11	A In my professional opinion, I would think
12	that you would have it set up that way. It's just
13	like if you go to Lowe's, you don't make a check out
14	to the store manager. You make it out to Lowe's.
15	Q Well, you're argumentive about a lot of
16	different things in my opinion. Do you like to do
17	that or correct?
18	A No, no. I'd like to make the check out,
19	though, to whoever it's going to; that's what I'm
20	stating, sir.
21	Q Let's go back to one of these statements
22	or notices that I sent to you probably. Let's look
23	at let me find it. Just a minute, yeah. I don't
24	know. You make comments about this not receiving
25	water bills. We don't we never did provide a

1	Page 167 water bill.
2	MS. KERR: I'm going to ask what exhibit
3	he's referring to? I think it's Exhibit 1, but
4	I'm not sure. Which exhibit are you referring
5	to?
6	MR. BLEVINS: I'm looking at I don't
7	know what the exhibit I guess, it's not
8	marked as an exhibit. It has to do with the
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: What's the top of the
10	first page say?
11	MR. BLEVINS: This first page says Misty
12	Water Works 1920 okay, it's also
13	December 10, 2018.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, that's Exhibit 1.
15	MR. BLEVINS: Exhibit, 1 okay.
16	MS. KERR: Thank you.
17	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Back here on that notice,
18	the notice simply said that it received and posted
19	your payment of \$210 at a six-month prepaid
20	prepaid premium. However, the discount payment is
21	\$40 per month times six months is \$240. That was
22	just a notice to you, not a billing. It didn't say
23	anything about cutting your water off. Has your
24	water ever been cut off for nonpayment?
25	A You have never cut my water off,



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1	Page 168 Mr. Blevins, for nonpayment, because you came to me
2	and asked me where my shut-off valve for my house
3	was.
4	Q You don't have one?
5	A I do in my basement, and I said that day
6	that you don't have to worry about me ever not
7	paying my bill. Have I ever not paid my bill?
8	Q No, no
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay.
10	MR. BLEVINS: I would say that you didn't
11	pay
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Grube, everybody
13	stop talking while I am, please. Mr. Grube, I
14	appreciate you testifying, but you're not here
15	to ask questions today, so. I know you want to
16	question Mr. Blevins, but let's refrain from
17	doing that. It makes the whole process a
18	little confusing.
19	THE WITNESS: My apologies. I didn't mean
20	to.
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Blevins, don't
22	argue with your witness. Let your witness
23	finish answering before you go on to your next
24	question.
25	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Thank you. So what is

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 169 your opinion of that particular notice to you then?
2	A That was a notice that oh. When I made
3	that payment of \$210 for the prepayment for six
4	months, but then you informed me that it was \$40 a
5	month, so I was \$30 short.
6	Q Did you turn around and pay that?
7	A I have to go back and look at my canceled
8	checks, and I'm absolutely sure without a doubt
9	because I've never not paid you, sir.
10	Q Then
11	A Do you
12	Q Notices that you had, what is your real
13	opinion, though, of this notice? You had made
14	comments about it in your testimony.
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Can you clarify your
16	question? What do you mean what's your real
17	opinion on it?
18	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Well, you disagreed
19	you disagreed apparently with the notice. It's
20	saying that different people pay different prices in
21	some of your comments, different users were paying
22	different prices
23	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I'm not sure how that
24	relates to that particular notice, Mr.
25	Blevins.



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1	MR. BLEVINS: Okay. It was entered as an	Page 170
2	exhibit to his comments where I'm not sure.	
3	I'm really not sure.	
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Now, when you say you're	
5	not sure, you're not sure what you mean when	
6	you're asking him what his real opinion is, or	
7	you're not sure what this piece of evidence was	
8	entered in relation to?	
9	MR. BLEVINS: Well, I was asking,	
10	basically, what his comments were and how he	
11	interpreted this notice.	
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, well, I think	
13	that's a fair question. How did you interpret	
14	this notice, Mr. Grube?	
15	THE WITNESS: Yes, these notices, we	
16	interpreted, basically, here right as they were	
17	wrote; that our fees were going up, if you're	
18	referring to the first page of that exhibit.	
19	The other like the second page you're	
20	referring to, those, if anything, were just for	
21	information or if we were past due, those were	
22	when we got those notices.	
23	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Okay.	
24	A But that's it in regards to them.	
25	Q Okay. Did you agree with them or	

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1	Page 171 disagree? Did you disagree?
2	A There were some of them that I disagreed,
3	as I stated. Like that one on the backside of that,
4	on 7/5/20, when you said that I was past due, and
5	that was not the fact, because I had the canceled
6	check of when that was paid.
7	Q Okay. Did you provide that?
8	A I did not provide you the canceled check,
9	sir. I said that I had paid and I let you know what
10	the check number was, but I didn't go to the bank
11	Q Okay.
12	A to get a copy of the canceled check.
13	You said okay, because I remember the conversation
14	in front of my driveway, you said, okay, probably
15	it's probably somewhere, so okay.
16	Q Okay, all right. So, apparently, I agreed
17	with you then maybe; is that the way you interpreted
18	that?
19	A Yeah, yeah. I mean, your question asked
20	me if I disagreed with the letter that you gave me.
21	Yes, I did.
22	Q Okay.
23	A Did we ultimately have a conversation in
24	front of my driveway to resolve it? Yes, and we
25	agreed.



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1	Q And we resolved it? Page 172
2	A Yes.
3	Q It was resolved?
4	A We were good then.
5	Q All right. You indicated about taxes,
6	where your neighbor paid the taxes on the well. Are
7	you aware the well has never been taxed?
8	A The well is part of the personal property
9	tax. So it's part of the tax assessment.
10	Q No, there's two different types of taxes
11	there, Mr. Grube. One would be personal, the other
12	would be real estate?
13	A So as part of the deed audit, and my
14	apologies, I did, I used the wrong term. For
15	personal, it's the real estate tax in the county of
16	Pulaski. The deed, it actually shows the well as
17	being on that resident's property, so that's why I
18	say, per the auditor and the county assessor, that
19	that homeowner is the one that has been paying the
20	property tax on that well, and that's per the
21	Pulaski County
22	Q The property tax would be for the property
23	he owns, yes, that's correct. But it would not
24	particularly be with the well. In would you
25	agree that maybe that's part of the problem with



1	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 173 Pulaski County is the assessments?
2	A From my experience, no. Their system that
3	they have is pretty well in line. I can look up any
4	piece of property wherever it is and see exactly who
5	the owner is. I never had any problem with
6	Q Well, I was talking about separate
7	taxation. When you describe a piece of property,
8	they will assess it and assign a tax to it, a value
9	and a tax to it. The well has never been taxed, but
10	it has taxed on the property that your neighbor
11	owns. The well happens to be on there, but it is
12	not separately taxed. That's been probably some of
13	the major problems that Pulaski County has.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Again, Mr. Blevins, at
15	this point you're testifying, and you're not
16	asking questions
17	MR. BLEVINS: Okay.
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: If you want to testify
19	about it, you'll have plenty of an opportunity
20	to do so.
21	MR. BLEVINS: Okay, I'm sorry.
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: But you need to keep the
23	questions short enough that they are
24	understandable.
25	MR. BLEVINS: Yeah.



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1	Page 174 MS. KERR: Also, I Mr. Grube isn't an
2	employee of the Assessor's Office. He wouldn't
3	know how they're taxing companies.
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No, he wouldn't, but he
5	wasn't asked that question yet. He was asked
6	what his what his opinion was of the taxing
7	authority in the county.
8	MS. KERR: Okay, I thought there was a
9	question in there. I'm sorry.
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No, you may if you're
11	right, I missed that. I did not I did not
12	catch that.
13	MR. BLEVINS: Let's see here. Well, I
14	don't think I would have any further questions
15	for Mr. Grube. The no further questions.
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions
17	for this witness? I hear none. I've got a few
18	questions for you, Mr. Grube.
19	QUESTIONS
20	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:
21	Q And I'm gonna bounce around a lot of
22	different directions. If my questions don't make
23	sense for any reason or at any time, please let me
24	know. Now, you indicated that Mr. Blevins was also
25	like located on the Tigger-1 system; is that



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1	correct?	Page 175
2	A Correct.	
3	Q Has his residence always b	peen located on
4	the Tigger 1 to the best of your know	owledge?
5	A To the best to the best	c of my knowledge
б	since I know, yes, he was connected	to the Tigger 1.
7	Q Okay. I have no understar	nding of the
8	geographic layout of this system, so	how far would
9	say you live from Mr. Blevins?	
10	A I'd say from Mr. Blevins,	I probably live
11	400 yards.	
12	Q Okay, so you can see his h	nouse from your
13	property?	
14	A If I walk up to the road,	yes. Because I
15	live down there's a knoll right t	there that it
16	goes over the top of, so.	
17	Q Okay. Are the residents t	there in that
18	area pretty spaced out?	
19	A Yes. Most of them are the	ree, four, five
20	acres.	
21	Q Okay. Would your answer b	be similar for
22	your other neighbors that you live f	Four or 500 yards
23	from them?	
24	A No. Like the neighbor act	ross the street
25	from me, I mean, we're a hundred yar	rds apart. I've



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1	Page 176 got a neighbor next door, her property line is
2	probably 50 yards. I can see their houses no
3	problem. I can't see his house because of the
4	knoll, the ridge, that's between basically,
5	Tigger 1 and Tigger 2 Well, there's a little bit of
6	a hump in the road just because of the contour of
7	the ground.
8	Q Okay. How close are the Tigger 1 and the
9	Tigger-2 wells to each other?
10	A They're probably about 200 yards.
11	Q Do you know if they're on different plats
12	of property?
13	A Yes, they are.
14	Q And you indicated that the Tigger 1 is on
15	the property of someone you know?
16	A Yes.
17	Q And you said there was an easement that
18	had been started but not completed; is that correct?
19	A That is correct, sir.
20	Q What can you tell me about that?
21	A I know that the lines have been drawn out
22	for it, but nothing was ever put forward to separate
23	it from that homeowner's property, and it's
24	basically been identified with corner points but
25	that's it. And that was back in I have to look

1	Page 177 at the deed again. I don't remember what year that
2	was done.
3	Q Well, you said that that there was a
4	servicing agreement, and that servicing agent ceased
5	to be when the property was sold in 2014; is that
б	correct?
7	A Correct.
8	Q What makes you think that that servicing
9	agreement ended with the sale of the property?
10	A Because that was from the homeowner to
11	that former well owner, and that came from that
12	audit.
13	Q Okay.
14	A From the county assessor's office.
15	Q And that service agreement was for
16	Mr. Parson's or Baker Construction; is that correct?
17	A Yes, it was for Mr. Parsons and Mr. Baker
18	to provide water from that well from that property.
19	Q And to the best of your knowledge, they
20	continued to do so through 2016, correct?
21	A Correct they yes, to the best of my
22	knowledge, from the point when I have received that
23	notice, Mr. Blevins had taken over that well, yes.
24	Q Did you have, and you may have covered
25	this already, so excuse me if I'm asking questions



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ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 178 you already answered, you had a did you have an
2	agreement with Parsons and Baker?
3	A For our water, an agreement, a signed
4	agreement?
5	Q Yes, a contract.
6	A No. We knew that just as homeowners that
7	was part of our deed, that we paid them for the
8	water service.
9	Q Did you receive a monthly bill?
10	A We received notices of our bills. We
11	received receipts for our payments.
12	Q What do you mean a notice of bill?
13	A Like, if we were behind at all, they would
14	send a notice. They sent you a notice that when we
15	first purchased the home, they sent us the notice
16	that, hey, this is the monthly bill fee; this is
17	where you pay it.
18	Q So you didn't receive monthly bills, but
19	as long as you were timely, you wouldn't receive a
20	notice either?
21	A Correct, yes, sir. I should have worded
22	it that way, I guess.
23	Q You're doing just fine. My questions are
24	kind of stream of consciousness. After Blevins
25	acquired the well, did you talk to Parsons or Baker

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1	Page 179 at all about it?
2	A That's how I initially found out because
3	there was a problem with the well. And that's when
4	Mr. Parsons said that Travis had taken it over, and
5	then it was shortly after that, that I had received
6	the notice.
7	Q Now, did you say at some point that your
8	residence was receiving water from the Taylor Well;
9	is that correct?
10	A No, no. Our well was providing Taylor
11	residents water.
12	Q Okay. I think I knew that.
13	A Yeah.
14	Q You had said at one point that there was a
15	pump dropped down in and that you let me
16	formulate this question better. If I remember
17	correctly, you said 2019 that a pump was placed in
18	one of the wells and it ran fine after that. Was
19	that the Tigger Well?
20	A That was the Tigger Well. That would have
21	been August 2019. They cut the hole in the roof,
22	dropped a pump down into the Tigger Well; then a
23	week later, they had to pull that pump and put
24	another new pump down. That is correct. That was
25	in August of 2019.



1	Page 180 Q And you said that that pump came from
2	the Topo Well?
3	A No, that that was a brand new pump. It
4	was a five-horse variable speed from I don't know
5	if I can say the company, that did the work, but
6	they put a brand new pump down that well. My
7	statement about
8	Q And it's worked since then?
9	A Yes.
10	Q The nine houses or the nine connections
11	that are served by the Tigger-1 Well, is there some
12	sort of geographic similarity that makes all nine of
13	those appropriate for a homeowner's association, but
14	not further owners that would be fed by
15	the Taylor Well, I mean. Where did the why is
16	the delineation drawn where it is?
17	A Because through conversation, those nine
18	were the original that were connected to the Tigger
19	Well. Those are the nine original service well,
20	Mr. Blevins would have been the tenth. There was
21	originally ten homes on that Tigger Well. And then
22	when the Taylor Well went down in July of 2019,
23	Taylor residents were connected to that Tigger Well.
24	So at some point because of the length, we couldn't
25	leave Taylor on ours, because you're talking pumping



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1	Page 181 water almost a mile.
2	Q And that's what I needed to know, thank
3	you.
4	A So that's why we couldn't yeah, okay.
5	Q And you said the Taylor Well was up and
6	running on June 6th; is that correct?
7	A Correct.
8	Q How far away is the Taylor Well located
9	from the Tigger-1 Well?
10	A I'd say probably as a crow flies,
11	probably a quarter mile. Somewhere between a
12	quarter and a half, a quarter and a half mile.
13	Q Do you know how many residents or how many
14	connections are served by the Taylor Well?
15	A I know there are five houses connected.
16	Originally, we thought there was four, but then I
17	was notified by another resident that they were
18	connected to that well approximately three four
19	weeks ago.
20	Q And do you know do you know how many
21	connections are to the Tigger-2 Well?
22	A There are six with Mr. Blevins connected
23	to it now.
24	Q Now, you seemed to earlier indicate that
25	you understood that he owned the Taylor Well; is

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1	Page 182 that correct?
2	A Correct.
3	Q And how do you know he owns the Taylor
4	Well?
5	A Through talking with the residents and
6	through back in July and through multiple
7	conversations that him and I have had, he offered
8	for me to buy that well, but he wanted \$9,000 for it
9	when it was nonoperational, and that would have been
10	last summer when we had a conversation. He also
11	offered for me to buy the Tigger Well last summer,
12	but he wanted 18,000 for that well. So that's how I
13	know that he owned it, plus when I turned the water
14	on for it, for our well on that July that July of
15	2019 when it that Taylor Well went down and I
16	went and turned it on, that's when Mr. Blevins
17	called me to turn it back off.
18	Q But you never seen any documentation that
19	he owns it, correct?
20	A No.
21	Q You didn't you didn't engage in any
22	kind of title search or anything like that with
23	Pulaski County in regards to the Taylor Well? Just
24	the Tigger Well, correct?
25	A Correct, yep, that's correct.



1	Page 1 Q How often were outages? How often did
2	your did you experience water outages while
3	Blevins was in charge of your system?
4	A Oh, at least, three, four times a year.
5	The worst was in the winter, I tried to remediate
6	some of that by, like I said, I'd go over there and
7	I put the heater in there, make sure that the door
8	was sealed. I put spray foam under the door to try
9	to close some of the gaps. So I would say three or
10	four times a year, it would go out.
11	Q And for what length of time would an
12	outage be?
13	A For the most part, it wasn't for the
14	most part, it wasn't more than a day.
15	Q How about water quality?
16	A Water pressure, you never knew. There was
17	one instance last fall where all of a sudden, the
18	water pressure got up to 110 or 115 PSI, Mr. Blevins
19	stated, when it was spraying like crazy, that we had
20	complications and problems. There were other days
21	when the water was a really slow rate. It kind of
22	was up and down. It depended on how many people
23	that were on the system that were using their
24	showers, washing dishes and things like that at the
25	same time.

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1	Page 184 Q Did you notice anything in particular
2	about the water? Was the water under chlorinated,
3	over chlorinated, full of debris, just fine?
4	A The only thing not really full of
5	debris. I know we put a filter in our basement to
6	make sure and clean out any of the debris and things
7	like that and to kind of purify the water a little
8	bit. Probably the you could always tell whenever
9	DNR was going to come out and inspect, because it
10	would be chlorined. You would definitely smell the
11	bleach. So we would just have to run the outside
12	garden hose for a while; let it just drain out; and
13	then that would go away. But other than that, no,
14	we've had really clear water.
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I don't have any further
16	questions. Mr. Blevins, do you have any
17	recross-examination based upon my questions?
18	MR. BLEVINS: Let me think a minute,
19	please. In reference to the Taylor Well, do
20	you know when no, I have no further
21	questions, Your Honor.
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect?
23	MS. KERR: No. I'm sorry, no.
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: All right, okay,
25	Mr. Grube, thank you for testifying today. You

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1	Page 185 may step down.
2	THE WITNESS: All right, thank you.
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: It is 12:07 it is
4	12:07 right now. I'd like to break for lunch
5	for about an hour, so 1:07. So why we don't go
6	off the record, and everybody be back here at
7	1:07.
8	(Wherein, a lunch recess was taken.)
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: We're back on the
10	record. When we left off, we just released
11	Witness Jeff Grube. Staff, you may call your
12	next witness.
13	MS. KERR: Thank you. I call Lori Jean.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And, Ms. Jean, if you'll
15	come down to the witness stand and raise your
16	right hand to be sworn.
17	(Lori Jean sworn.)
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Staff, go ahead.
19	DIRECT EXAMINATION
20	BY MS. KERR:
21	Q Good afternoon.
22	A Hello.
23	Q Could could you please state your name
24	and spell it for the record?
25	A Lori, L-o-r-i, last name is Jean, J-e-a-n.



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1	Q	And are you currently employed with	Page 186
2	anyone?		
3	А	I have I'm self-employed with two	
4	different	jobs.	
5	Q	Okay. And do you act as a certified	
6	operator	for any public water systems here in	
7	Missouri.		
8	А	I have approximately 17 right now.	
9	Q	And where are they located?	
10	А	Mostly in the southwest and southeaste	rn
11	regions.	I don't have any more in the central	
12	region in	Missouri.	
13	Q	Okay. And were any of these excuse	me.
14	Are or	were any of these owned or run by Trav	is
15	Blevins?		
16	А	I did have three systems that were own	ed
17	by Mr. Bl	evins.	
18	Q	Okay, do you have those	
19	А	They were	
20	Q	systems anymore?	
21	А	No, I do not. I resigned on the 3rd or	£
22	February,	and my last day officially with him was	5
23	March 3rd		
24	Q	Okay. And which systems were you	
25	А	Rolling Hills, Charity and Misty Mounta	ain.



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1	Page 187 Q And what about Jeff Grube? Are you
2	certified or were you the certified operator for
3	him?
4	A For less than a month. They didn't have
5	to be stay with the DNR as a certified system, so
6	I only tested one time.
7	Q Okay. And that was the Tigger HOA?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay. Are there any homeowner's
10	associations that you know of
11	A I have other homeowner associations, but
12	not in Pulaski County.
13	Q Okay. And how long have you been working
14	as a certified operator for water systems?
15	A For 21 years.
16	Q And does that do you have special
17	training or education, licensure?
18	A I know now that they make people go to
19	classes and different things, but when I became
20	certified, I didn't I was working for a mobile
21	home park that I didn't know needed an operator, so
22	I worked full time then at a hospital. So I just
23	went and got the testing materials from the
24	southwest regional office, bought books, home
25	studied and then went and took the test.

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1	Page 188 Q Okay. And is there any continuing
2	education kind of education or continuing
3	training that you do?
4	A Yeah, we have to renew every three years.
5	I don't remember exactly how many units you have to
6	have, how many hours, but I have to take I want
7	to say it's 30 that I have to take for distribution
8	and the 30 for treatment.
9	Q Can you explain what kind of training that
10	is?
11	A Well, there's different levels of a
12	certified operator. There's a DS-I, a DS-II and a
13	DS-III. And I am a DS-II. Then I also carry a
14	certification for treatment, a class C.
15	Q Okay. And can you just explain just
16	generally what kind of training that is, what kind
17	of education you had?
18	A The continuing education is a lot of math.
19	They have us keep retesting on our ability to do the
20	math, because the math can be quite complicated,
21	especially working with treatment. You have to be
22	able to measure how much in tanks and different
23	things like that, then there's constant updates as
24	to policy, DNR policy, and keeping up on what's
25	coming down the pike and what's been handed down



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Page 189 from the EPA.
Q And does that include, like, how to test
systems?
A How to collect the samples? Yes. That
hasn't changed much in 20 years. I mean, the
collection of the samples is pretty much the same.
Some of them have become a little more aggressive.
We have the routine bacterial samples that have to
be taken each month, but there are other samples
that have to be collected. Right now, we're doing a
lot of training and learning about the lead surface
lines issue that's all over the country.
Q Okay. And, so, being a certified
operator, what is that what does that entail for
a public water system like the ones Mr. Blevins had?
A The water system owner or operator, they
hire us to advise them and keep and help them
stay in compliance with the DNR. That's my best
description of it, is to keep them in line with the
rules and regulations of the DNR. We work basically
as advisers and testers. Some people test their own
wells and have a certified operator just on paper,
but I if I'm on there as their operator then I
test their system.
Q Were you doing that for Mr. Blevins?

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1	Page 190 A Yes.
2	Q How long were you doing that from?
3	A From August of '22. I first talked to him
4	in August 2022. I think my first sampling was
5	September of '22 until March of this year.
6	Q Do you know if there was a certified
7	operator before you started?
8	A There wasn't, to my knowledge. He had
9	just been activated as a system recently to that.
10	Q Oh, okay. And by activated, you mean by
11	DNR?
12	A DNR activated his systems some of his
13	water systems as public water systems.
14	Q Okay. You say some. What do you mean
15	by are there others that were not certified by
16	DNR?
17	A Yes, he had another well. The only one
18	that I know by name is called Rowden (sic), that
19	they call Rowden. And the only reason I found out
20	about them is because one of those customers called
21	me and wanted to know why I raised their water
22	rates.
23	Q Did you raise their water rates?
24	A No, I have nothing to do with water rates.
25	Q And as a certificated operator, do you get



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1	Page 191 paid to do that?
2	A Yes. We have the right to set our own
3	fee, and I base mine, you know, as to the frequency
4	that I have to go out there to a well and how far it
5	is from how far my travel time is.
6	Q Did you get paid by Mr. Blevins while you
7	were his certified operator?
8	A All but one month.
9	Q Okay. What month was that?
10	A The last month.
11	Q And in comparison to other I guess, is
12	there a comparison between the other water systems
13	you were or are a certified operator and Mr. Blevins
14	as to how much you got paid?
15	A Yes, I actually kind of discounted it,
16	even though I consider my general working area to be
17	the three counties near where I live, which would be
18	Christian, Greene and Webster County, Missouri.
19	Usually, if I go outside that area, it's a little
20	higher. I didn't charge him the higher rate that I
21	charged, for instance, I'm almost the contractor
22	operator for Royal Oak Charcoal in Salem; that's
23	quite a travel so they pay a higher rate. His rate
24	was per system, was \$75 cheaper per system.
25	Q Okay. Is there any reason for that?

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1	Page 192 A I live near I-44 at Marshfield. It's a
2	very easy drive.
3	Q Okay. And there is, like, an average
4	compensation that certified operators receive?
5	A If there is, I don't know. I always set
6	my own rates.
7	Q Okay. And what are your obligations to
8	the well or the system owner?
9	A Well, to make him aware of, you know,
10	changes. You know, bringing the wells up to par and
11	letting him know how his testing is going, when it's
12	due. I always let him know when I was coming out.
13	In hindsight, I don't know that that was a really
14	good idea, but I always try to communicate well and
15	let him know what the DNR expected and when there
16	was paperwork due and try to handle it the best I
17	could for him.
18	Q You just said you don't know if that was
19	the best thing to notify him ahead of time. What do
20	you mean by that?
21	A On two occasions, it was the same water
22	system, Charity, that I had let him know I was
23	coming and I passed him and his son leaving there as
24	I was going into the so I questioned whether they
25	were out there doing something to the system prior



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1	Page 193 to me getting in there.
2	Q Did you know? Did you find out if they
3	were?
4	A Later I had a complaint, had two
5	complaints from two people on Charity that their
6	water was heavily chlorinated. While I was there,
7	it didn't show any chlorine. I carry a chlorine
8	meter and checked that myself, and there wasn't any
9	chlorine. So if they had put some in there
10	Q But you didn't
11	A It hadn't reached the, fully reached, the
12	distribution lines whenever I tested, right. I
13	mean, I literally passed them within a mile of the
14	housing development.
15	Q And what are your obligations to the DNR?
16	A To keep my license up and to make sure
17	that I do everything I can to help them keep these
18	water well owners up to standards.
19	Q When you say standards, do you mean
20	like what do you mean? Health and safety or
21	A Health and safety, documentation,
22	recordkeeping, all about everything. Trying
23	if there's a breach in the system or a loss of
24	pressure, I'm to notify the DNR. I have to be
25	pretty on top of it to get all that information

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1	Page 194 relayed. I have to, a lot of times, rely on the
2	well owner to let me know what's happening,
3	especially when there's a distance. Because some
4	customers will call me, but not most of my
5	communication was with the well owner.
6	Q And what about what about Mr. Blevins?
7	Would he have what kind of communication did you
8	have with him?
9	A I always got along very well with
10	Mr. Blevins. If I called him and didn't get him
11	right off, he usually would call me back and in a
12	relatively short amount of time. Never had any
13	arguments or anything like that. He always stayed
14	in constant contact with me. There was always
15	just toward the last few months, I noticed that I
16	wasn't being informed of some things that were not
17	proper. But other than that, I mean, we didn't have
18	any specific issues with our communication.
19	Q And the last few months what didn't you
20	find out? What do you mean there were some things
21	you weren't told?
22	A There was a water system or after
23	the what they called the Topo Well was moved onto
24	Pulaski County, there was apparently a break at one
25	of the residents' houses, and he called me and told

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1	Page 195 me on a Sunday that they were digging, digging this
2	place up, trying to figure out what was happening.
3	And he said it happened the day before, that this
4	break or breach happened the day before. And he
5	said, I'm sorry, I just couldn't I know I'm
6	supposed to call you, but I just haven't had time
7	while we're digging this up.
8	Come to find out, it
9	had actually broke the Thursday before.
10	Q Okay. So it wasn't the day before, it was
11	several days before?
12	A Right. And that concerned me that, you
13	know, if this digging had been going on, he had no
14	contact with me so that I could turn in the low
15	pressure report. I really don't know how long he'd
16	even been in contact with the DNR. I believe a
17	couple of residents contacted the DNR.
18	Q And did you ever act on your own did
19	you ever do anything with the well systems that you
20	didn't communicate with Mr. Blevins?
21	A Not really, no.
22	Q He excuse me. Do the the well
23	the system owners or operators, do they act on their
24	own without letting him
25	A To some to some things they can, and



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1	Page 196 there's other things they cannot. Low pressure
2	vents, to me, absolutely they shouldn't. They need
3	to contact their certified operator, and let us know
4	so that we can investigate we are obligated to
5	inform the DNR.
6	Q Okay. Did that ever happen when you were
7	the CO for
8	A No.
9	Q Okay. So was your duties as a certified
10	operator for Mr. Blevins public water systems, was
11	that any different than the duties you had for any
12	others?
13	A The duties are essentially the same. They
14	might have different testing requirements and things
15	for different types of systems, you know. There's,
16	you know, what you do for a residential well will
17	not be what you do for a factory well.
18	Q Okay. But his your duties with his
19	wells were pretty much the same as you would have
20	for any other well you were a certified operator
21	for?
22	A Uh-huh, yes.
23	Q And can you describe the conditions of his
24	well systems that you are responsible for?
25	A Some of them were very nice, very well

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1	Page 197 taken care of, have nice well houses, especially the
2	Charity system. The Charity, the three wells that
3	were operational, there was one that did not work.
4	The other three were well cared for. Everything was
5	clean, neat, not a lot of bugs. Bugs are natural.
6	I mean, they're going to be in a well house. They
7	like that moisture and the heat and everything, so.
8	Those were very well maintained. Rolling Hills, the
9	well house there is almost inaccessible. It's,
10	basically, just a little what I call a dog house.
11	A short and small building that just barely covers
12	the top of the and the door would not stay on it.
13	And it was very dark, dirty and spider ridden. Not
14	fun.
15	Q Did that concern you?
16	A Yeah, it did. And I mentioned a few times
17	that we needed to get that fixed, and it didn't go
18	anywhere. So I just kept brushing back the cobwebs
19	and move on. They're not the worst well house I've
20	ever seen certainly.
21	Q Okay. What about the other were there
22	any other well houses that were
23	A The Misty Mountain ones varied. The Topo
24	well house was actually probably in one of the best
25	conditions of the other Misty Mountain buildings.



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1	Page 198 Those buildings, I mean, they were, like I said,
2	I've seen much worse. His are certainly not the
3	worst well houses I've ever seen, but not the best
4	either. Misty Mountain could have especially the
5	Tigger-1 Well, what they call the big well, it was
6	in a pretty rough state for quite some time. Then
7	it got cleaned up late summer last year, early fall,
8	somewhere in there. They finally got in there and
9	got all the debris and some of the stuff I think
10	they were storing in there got moved out, new gravel
11	I think was chat or something was spread. Much
12	better conditions.
13	Q Do you know who did that?
14	A I assumed Mr. Blevins did, but I did not
15	specifically ask who did it. I know Mr. Blevins
16	instructed it to be done.
17	Q Okay. And what about the other well
18	houses that you said weren't in great shape. How
19	would you describe them?
20	A Well, like I said, the worst of them was
21	that Tigger-1 Well. The Charities were fine.
22	Several of them on Misty Mountain were fine. I
23	thought the Topo Well house was fine, but the Topo
24	Well had the biggest problems, the well itself. The
25	well house was properly constructed. It was just



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 199 small, and one when he has having these troubles
2	with the E. coli, and I suggested that the easiest
3	thing for him to do would be to go on chlorination,
4	that well house was not going to be accessible
5	because there was there was no room to add
6	storage for water retention, so. When you inject
7	chlorine, you have to have some way of retaining
8	that water so that it gets proper contact time with
9	the chlorine.
10	Q And that wasn't available with that
11	A It wouldn't have been in that well house,
12	and being right there in somebody's yard, I didn't
13	know how he would do storage, other than to build a
14	bigger warehouse and put large tanks inside of it.
15	Q Was that ever done?
16	A No.
17	Q Over the course of the time you were his
18	certified operator, did what was the how
19	responsive was Mr. Blevins when something was wrong
20	or when something
21	A Well, I really don't know, because I
22	always found out what was wrong or what was
23	happening after it happened. I never received a
24	call telling me something was going to happen.
25	Which in this business, you don't really know when

ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 200 things are going to happen, but if he was going to
2	work on something, I wasn't informed of it.
3	Q Were you I'm sorry.
4	A Only when there was a problem and then he
5	was working on it, was I informed.
6	Q Were you supposed to be informed
7	A Yes.
8	Q if he was
9	A I should have been informed of pretty much
10	everything.
11	Q And can you give some examples?
12	A Preparing lines. Anytime you take the
13	well of the system, I should have been called.
14	Q And were you
15	A No.
16	Q Okay. I'm sorry.
17	A Not until later. Not until later. Not as
18	soon as I should have been.
19	Q Okay. So what kind of what kind of
20	actions would he take that he wouldn't that he
21	was supposed to tell you but didn't tell you
22	afterwards.
23	A Like, when the late the one home there
24	on Topo had to be dug up, I should have been
25	informed the day he discovered it. Not four days



1	Page 201
2	Q And did you report that to anyone or did
3	you
4	A I spoke to, I believe, it was Dalten
5	Young, and I've got a feeling I have several
6	systems so it's kind of hard to keep them all on
7	track, but I think he already knew before I did.
8	Q And that he's from DNR?
9	A Yes.
10	Q Okay. And did you ever tell Mr. Blevins
11	about your concerns about him not telling you right
12	away?
13	A We spoke about that multiple times, that I
14	needed to be informed whenever there was anything
15	wrong with the wells.
16	Q And what was his reaction?
17	A Okay.
18	Q Did he do it?
19	A No, no.
20	Q Okay.
21	A Not breaks. I mean, if a couple times
22	I believe he told me he was not going to be
23	available, that he had doctor appointments or he was
24	taking his wife somewhere to be seen, but not I
25	don't think I was ever informed on the day that



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1	Page 202 something happened that there was an event. I don't
2	believe I ever received a call the same day.
3	Q It was always several days later or
4	A Two or more.
5	Q Okay.
6	A Two or more days.
7	Q All right. Ms. Aslin is going to hand you
8	what's been marked I believe we're on Exhibit 7.
9	(Staff Exhibit 7 marked.)
10	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Do you recognize what these
11	are?
12	A Yes.
13	Q I believe there's three of them.
14	A Yeah, they're the contractor operator
15	agreements that I prepare for each of my water
16	systems.
17	Q And there's one for Rolling Hills, one for
18	Charity and one for Misty Water Works?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay. Are they all about the same
21	language?
22	A Exactly. They should be almost exactly
23	the same.
24	Q And while you were does it what does
25	it set forth about what your responsibilities are,
	8-893-3767 Lexitas operates in all 50 states and is licensed where required Nevada Registration #116F.



	Evidentiary heating Julie 24, 202
1	Page 203 the certified operator's responsibilities are?
2	A Of course, my main thing is I needed to
3	make sure all the testing was done appropriately on
4	time. If there's timing issues, we have to meet
5	with giving a sample drawn to getting it to a lap,
6	making sure all of that happens in timely manner,
7	and appropriately, you know, preparing the
8	documentation that goes along with them; and these
9	other samples that come up through the year, you
10	know, we have we have time limits on all of that,
11	so I have to meet all those time restrictions, and,
12	you know, keep an owner informed of if I saw
13	something that maybe needed some maintenance. The
14	report the inspections that DNR does, I always
15	take them, break them down on a spreadsheet so we
16	can stay on top of the things that need to be
17	addressed, because some things are recommendations;
18	some things are not satisfactory; and then other
19	things are straight out violations. So you have to
20	kind of take them in a priority.
21	Q Okay. So did these agreements did
22	these agreements, did they also set out what
23	Mr. Blevins' responsibilities were in any way?
24	A Yes, that he was his main thing, other
25	than, of course, to make sure I got paid, was to,



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 204 you know, inform me of any changes or anything with
2	the system.
3	Q So you operated under the understanding of
4	these agreements, right?
5	A Correct.
б	Q While you were his certified operator?
7	A Correct.
8	Q And would you say that you met your
9	obligations under the agreements?
10	A I feel like I did, yes.
11	Q And do you feel like Mr. Blevins met all
12	his obligations under the agreement, those
13	agreements?
14	A That's kind of difficult to say because
15	I for the first probably six months that I worked
16	for Mr. Blevins, I honestly felt like he was being
17	picked on. I've worked in many nursing homes and
18	hospitals, and I have kind of an affection for
19	elderly people. So I kind of felt bad for him for a
20	long time that and I do think that one particular
21	DNR person was very hard on him. As time went on, I
22	started realizing that some of the things he could
23	have been doing, he just wasn't. But, yeah, I kind
24	of went into this at first thinking he was really
25	being picked on really badly.



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_	Page 205
1	Q You said that changed?
2	A Well, that person left the DNR.
3	Q Okay.
4	A Or left to another position, but I'm just
5	so used to the southeast and the southwest regions,
6	where I feel like they are a little more
7	communicative, helpful at answering questions and
8	things. Once that person left their position at the
9	central field office, things got better. I mean, as
10	far as the communication, I didn't feel like, okay,
11	they're just picking on him. That kind of went
12	away. Some of it was because I realized what he was
13	doing and some of it was I think we got a nice
14	person that just wasn't hellbent on punishing
15	him. I kind of felt like that's how it was in the
16	beginning.
17	Q And since then, you mentioned some of the
18	things were things he was doing. What do you mean
19	by that?
20	A Well, he just it wasn't that he was
21	specifically doing anything. It was that he wasn't
22	doing and I really do believe partly that
23	Mr. Blevins is what he considers urgent and what
24	some of the rest of us consider urgent items, are
25	two different playing fields. Maybe it's him coming

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1	Page 206 from a different generation that being without
2	water, you figure it out. You know, the old-timers,
3	they figured out what to do. They didn't have
4	wells. Nowadays, you know, if the water goes off a
5	second I also manage mobile home parks. If the
6	water is off for five seconds, these people are
7	blown the phone up. You know, our shift in what's
8	an emergency and what's not, is much different, I
9	think, than how he sees it.
10	Q And what about how DNR sees it?
11	A DNR sees it, you know, we got to stay on
12	top of everything all the time, and I think
13	rightfully so, that's my opinion. But I do think
14	Mr. Blevins has a different skew of that.
15	Q Okay. So you didn't necessary go along
16	with, I mean, his idea of what's important isn't
17	necessarily what the regulations say is important?
18	A Yeah. I think there's just a
19	difference a different way that they they're
20	looking at things totally different. He doesn't see
21	people being without water as being urgent. You get
22	out there and, yeah, he wanted to fix it, but it
23	wasn't okay, I'll get out there when I can, kind
24	of thing, and it's more urgent than that when you're
25	dealing with regulations and the public.



Evidentiary Hearing Page 207 Was that -- did that seem to be generally Q how he acted? Α Yeah. MS. KERR: I'm going to ask Exhibit 7 be entered into evidence. LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have any objection to admitting Exhibit 7, the system operator contracts, onto the hearing record? No objection. MR. BLEVINS: Exhibit 7 is admitted LAW JUDGE CLARK: onto the hearing record. (Staff Exhibit 7 admitted into the hearing record.) (By Ms. Kerr) Sorry, I'm just -- to go 0 back to that and for the record, on all those agreements, it looks like -- it looks like you signed them all. Is that --А Yes. -- accurate? Okay. So both you and 0 Mr. Blevins signed them? А Yes. 0 Okay, thank you. So you said you're no longer his certified operator and that was sometime in March of this year?

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25 Well, I resigned the 3rd of February, so I Α



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 208 took his February samples, but and as of,
2	technically, 30 days is what's written in the
3	contract, that I need to give notice or he needs to
4	give me notice, and so I didn't take I took
5	March samples, but not April's. Or excuse me, I
6	took February's and not March.
7	Q Okay. Was there any reason for you
8	deciding not to be his certified operator?
9	A There was several reasons. One of them
10	was because we had an incident, I don't recall the
11	month but it was a couple maybe three months
12	before, where I went up there. That area, certain
13	parts of it, are not the nicest neighborhoods. It
14	never really bothered me too much until I had an
15	altercation with his grandson. Then after that, I
16	had reservations about going.
17	Q And, so, did you decide no longer to be
18	his certified operator or did he
19	A I did.
20	Q Okay. Do you know if he has a new
21	certified operator?
22	A I don't know.
23	Q Okay. Do you know excuse me. It is
24	your understanding that as long as his water as
25	long as some of the well systems are regulated by
	888-893-3767 Lexitas operates in all 50 states and is licensed where required Nevada Registration #116F.



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1	Page 209 DNR, those systems need to have a certified
2	operator?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Okay. So compared to the other systems
5	that you that you work with, how how would you
6	describe his let's see, his ability to meet the
7	standards of the DNR regulation?
8	A Compared to the other systems I have?
9	Q Uh-huh.
10	A I have some where I have the same issues
11	with. Then I have but the majority, they act
12	pretty quickly, but the majority of what I have are
13	also factories that are owned by large businesses.
14	MS. KERR: Okay. Did you have when you
15	took the water samples well, never mind,
16	strike that. I don't think I have any further
17	questions right now.
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, did you
19	have any cross-examination for this witness?
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. BLEVINS:
22	Q Yeah, I do. I would. Ms. Jean, you
23	indicated that you were informed of things going on,
24	was there anything specific there that was going on
25	that you could relate to?



I	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 210 A I had heard from residents in some of your
2	housing developments that you or your son were
3	putting chlorine down the well prior to my arrival.
4	Q I see. I don't recall that, but, okay.
5	You also indicated one system was broke. What
6	system was that? Was that up on Topo?
7	A No, the one when I said there were
8	three working wells and one that was broken, that's
9	Charity and that's the one you called the concrete
10	well.
11	Q Oh, yeah.
12	A It was never in operation the entire time
13	I worked for you.
14	Q No, that's correct, yeah. I thought
15	that's the one you said had low pressure
16	A There's
17	Q or the broke one.
18	A There's been low pressure at every system
19	during the time I worked for you. I mean, at
20	different times?
21	Q At different times.
22	A Different times.
23	Q Yeah.
24	A Different reasons.
25	Q I hope we addressed those when we found



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 211 out. Rolling Hills, you refer to it as a dog house.
2	What is it constructed of? It's
3	A It had plywood.
4	Q Is that the concrete well, right?
5	A No
6	Q I know it's difficult to get in and out.
7	A It may have had some concrete to it, but I
8	know there was a plywood door that just
9	Q Yeah.
10	A No matter what you did to it, it just fell
11	off and fell back on the ground.
12	Q The plywood door, that's correct. But the
13	entire house is concrete even the roof.
14	A Well, even though it's concrete, doesn't
15	mean it was clean and
16	Q Right, I can agree with that, too. I just
17	wondered really what you meant there as a dog house.
18	A Well, a dog house. I mean, the size.
19	Size wise of a large dog house.
20	Q I know it's hard to get in and out of.
21	A Extremely.
22	Q You have to step down. I can't hardly get
23	in myself, but I didn't construct it. And urgency.
24	You're correct, in my opinion, as to what was
25	urgent. I always considered everything to be

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1	Page 212 urgent, I think. Did you mean that I would pay no
2	attention whatever?
3	A You pay you paid you seemed to
4	understand what was going on. I just don't think
5	you acted as quickly as someone else might have.
6	Q Okay. Oh, grandson.
7	A Yes.
8	Q Again, I would apologize. The problem you
9	had that was uncalled for. I have the same problem,
10	so does my wife. And at the present time, he's back
11	in prison, so I can't I'm sorry that that
12	encounter even happened. He was not even supposed
13	to be on our property, and especially to have a
14	conflict with somebody that pulled up in there.
15	The you did indicate that there was still a
16	payment due?
17	A Yes.
18	Q For which payment?
19	A The last payment. You had always paid
20	me most of my customers pay me right after I
21	finished going to a property.
22	Q Yeah.
23	A You always paid me the following month. I
24	never got the one for the last month.
25	Q Okay. I'll make sure you get that in the



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 213 mail, Ms. Jean.
2	A I've sent you several
3	Q Have you?
4	A invoices. Yes.
5	Q That's very possible.
б	A One of them was in the last letters that
7	the PSC had sent that ended up coming to my house in
8	April, I believe it was. There was three letters
9	from the PSC that came to my home, again, addressed
10	to the legal department.
11	Q Yeah. I don't know why they addressed you
12	at the legal department?
13	A So I sent those to you in a certified
14	letter, and you did receive them and with a bill.
15	Q Okay, very possible. I apologize for
16	that, but I'll make sure it's paid to you. I would
17	like to make a comment that, not a question or
18	anything, but I did appreciate your work when you
19	did work with us.
20	A Thank you.
21	MR. BLEVINS: You were professional in
22	every aspect that I'm aware of, so thank you.
23	I have no further questions.
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions
25	for this witness? I hear none. Ms. Jean, I

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 214 have a few question for you.
2	THE WITNESS: Okay.
3	QUESTIONS
4	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:
5	Q You had started off saying there's three
6	levels of training: DS-I, DS-II and DS-III
7	A Correct.
8	Q and you said you're DS-II, is that
9	correct?
10	A Yes.
11	Q What's the difference between those three?
12	A The level of education.
13	Q Okay.
14	A And what you're what you're trained on
15	lets you work for different sized systems. A I is a
16	very small system like Mr. Blevins. I did not need
17	to have a DS-II to work for him. I got a DS-II
18	because of the system that I originally started with
19	in Nixa, Missouri required a DS-II and a treatment
20	class C. So I tested for the type system, so each
21	one goes according to how many residents and what
22	different types of things you'll would be doing,
23	but mostly the size of the system.
24	Q Okay. So a DS-III would be a larger
25	system?



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1	Page 215 A Would be a very large system.
2	Q And just for my understanding, the system
3	you started out on was a mobile home park; is that
4	correct?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Now, you said you got the impression a DNR
7	employee was picking on Mr. Blevins. What DNR
8	employee was that?
9	A Sebastien Clos-Versailles.
10	Q And what particularly made you feel he was
11	picking on Mr. Blevins?
12	A He just seemed very abrupt with him and
13	almost rude at times. He even made we had
14	almost an argument, Sebastien and I, over the fact
15	he told me one day that he was going to get him.
16	And I said, you know, that's not really your job to
17	get him. I said, what aren't you helping him
18	because at first they weren't offering any
19	assistance. And later, they were. They were
20	offering him more technical assistance and trying
21	to but at first, it sure didn't seem like that.
22	It was very this is the regulation; this is what
23	you're going to do or I'm going to get you.
24	Q Okay. You said that later there that
25	at first it did not appear they were providing him

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1	Page 216 assistance but later they did. Do you know what
2	changed?
3	A Well, it seemed like Dalten and another
4	young man, I don't remember his name, were more
5	involved, then Jackie got involved. Jackie Johnson
6	and the other Jackie. There was another Jackie
7	before her. They started giving him more advice and
8	trying to get him to comply with things, and were
9	talking to him, I think, more on his level than
10	talking at him, spouting regulation numbers that
11	didn't mean anything to him.
12	Q When would you say this change occurred?
13	A It started gradually, but then
14	tremendously improved after Mr. Clos-Versailles left
15	the Central Field Office.
16	Q Do you remember when that was?
17	A I don't remember the date, I'm sorry.
18	Q Do you remember a month?
19	A I want to say it was mid, last summer.
20	Q Midsummer of last year?
21	A Somewhere around there, yeah.
22	Q So midsummer of 2023?
23	A Correct.
24	Q The altercation you had with Mr. Blevins'
25	grandson, was that water related?



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1	Page 217 A I was trying to be paid. Mr. Blevins had
2	told me to go his antique store to pick up a check
3	from Amanda, a young woman that worked as his kind
4	of secretary or assistant. I got there and she was
5	not there. I was told she was at her residence
6	across the road and up about a very short distance,
7	just a few 100 yards, when his grandson approached
8	me and demanded to know why I was there and grabbed
9	me by the arm.
10	Q Bear with me just a moment. Now, I know
11	you were in the room during the last witness,
12	correct?
13	A Correct.
14	Q And heard me saying I don't have a good
15	understanding of these systems. Can you give me a
16	better understanding of these systems, like, kind of
17	what their makeup is?
18	A Do you mean as far as one well to another,
19	the distance?
20	Q I mean, these three wells, two are in good
21	shape, one is inoperative, serve nine connections
22	A On Charity.
23	Q prone to leaks, prone to bacteria.
24	A On the Charity system, two of the well
25	houses, both of them located on the Charity Lane on



1	Page 218 the same street, were excellent water well houses,
2	kept clean, were in pretty good shape and didn't
3	have much issues. The one he calls the concrete
4	well did not work at all, never did work the entire
5	time that I worked for him. It was just a concrete
6	little slab building, and right along the Highway PP
7	and never did work as far as that. I don't know
8	when it last worked. Somebody apparently ran over
9	it is what I was told and caused it to be
10	inoperative.
11	Q But that system on the whole ran well?
12	The Charity system?
13	A It's on the Charity system.
14	Q I mean, was that well necessary to the
15	system or does the system run okay without it?
16	A It's running. It seems to be running fine
17	without it, but I can't I don't live there, so I
18	don't know how good of a pressure people are
19	getting. I've heard complaints of pressure
20	problems, but usually it was from a leak or
21	something of that nature. You know, sometimes these
22	wells, they've designed to only serve a few houses,
23	but they're been well constructed for a residential
24	well and will but that only lasts so long before
25	it just becomes hard on pumps and equipment to keep



1	Page 219 that moving.
2	Q Okay. You indicated that the Rolling
3	Hills Well had the worst well house, correct?
4	A I want to say Tigger-2 on the Misty
5	Mountain was the worst well house. But the one on
б	the Rolling Hills was a very close second.
7	Q Okay. How many wells are in the Rolling
8	Hills system?
9	A Just one.
10	Q What well is that?
11	A It was just the one.
12	Q It just goes by Rolling Hills?
13	A Yeah, Rolling Hills.
14	Q Okay. Then the Misty Mountain system?
15	A Misty Mountain consisted of multiple
16	wells. There was: Tricia, Topo, two wells on Tigger
17	Lane, Tigger-1 and Tigger-2, and then Taylor. I had
18	had to sample for Taylor because it did not work,
19	while I worked for Mr. Blevins.
20	Q Now, were you there during any of the
21	incidents with the Topo Well?
22	A Yes, I came into it, it was already on a
23	boil order, and it was a mess. I mean, we'd get a
24	good test, come back, you had to come back so many
25	days later after you took a number of tests, like,

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1	Page 220 to get those results, you'd have to then go back and
2	take another series to try to get it off the boil
3	order and it would be bad again. So chorine
4	shocking it was not cleaning out whatever was
5	calling whatever was causing the E. coli.
6	Q And that well ultimately failed,
7	correctly?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Correct?
10	A Yes.
11	Q You were were you the system operator
12	when that well failed?
13	A I was.
14	Q And do you know what caused it to fail?
15	A It broke right at or just below the
16	pitless adapter and caused parts of it to plummet
17	into the well.
18	Q Now, how many connections were on the
19	Rolling Hills?
20	A I believe I had in my records 15.
21	Q At Misty Mountain?
22	A Yeah. Misty Mountain. I've never known
23	an exact number, because one well would not be
24	considered part of it and then they put another one
25	back on it that they thought Mr. Blevins had sold



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1	Page 221 them. So it was it it varied all the time. I
2	never got a good number.
3	Q Okay. now, you're currently the certified
4	operator for the Tigger-1 Well; is that correct?
5	A Not anymore.
6	Q Oh, I'm sorry.
7	A As of this month, I'm not.
8	Q You were the system operator?
9	A Just for one month.
10	Q And that has nine connections, correct?
11	A Yes. Actually, it had more at that time
12	because Taylor was still feeding off that well, so I
13	want to say it had 15.
14	Q Do I know the Taylor Well was not
15	operational while you were there. Do you know how
16	many houses were connected to the Taylor Well?
17	A Four or five.
18	Q And the Tricia Well was also part of the
19	Misty Mountains system?
20	A Yes.
21	Q And how many connections were on the
22	Tricia Well?
23	A Three, I believe.
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Do you know why these
25	these systems were classified as I'm sorry,

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1	Page 222 that's a better question for DNR. Never mind.
2	I have no further questions for this witness.
3	Mr. Blevins, do you have any recross based upon
4	my questions?
5	MR. BLEVINS: No, none.
6	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from staff?
7	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
8	BY MS. KERR:
9	Q You said you had said that two of the
10	wells, not the I guess the Rolling Hills and the
11	Misty Waters or Misty Mountain, those well houses
12	were not well kept. What did you mean by that?
13	A Well, the one on Tigger-2, or excuse me,
14	Tigger-1, the big well, there was a lot of debris
15	inside that well house for a very long time. Wires,
16	a couple pieces of metal and just it was a dirt
17	floor well house, which is not uncommon, but it was
18	not kept very well. It had a lot of debris just
19	like junk thrown inside the corner of the well
20	house. But that did all get cleaned up eventually.
21	Q Do you know if that got cleaned up after
22	Tigger the Tigger-1 Well became part of the HOA?
23	A No, this was before.
24	Q Okay.
25	A Well before.

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1	Page 223 Q Okay. and what about the other the
2	Rolling Hills, you said that
3	A That house was still the same when I left
4	his employ.
5	Q What did you mean by that?
6	A The door still wouldn't stay on. It was
7	just a concrete plywood hut.
8	MS. KERR: Okay, okay. I don't have any
9	other questions, thank you.
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Jean.
11	You may step down. Staff, you may call your
12	next witness.
13	MS. KERR: I call Jackie Johnson.
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated.
15	(Jackie Johnson sworn.)
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Staff, you may go ahead.
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MS. KERR:
19	Q Thank you. All right, thank you. Good
20	afternoon, could you please state your name and
21	spell it for the record?
22	A Jackie Johnson, J-a-c-k-i-e,
23	J-o-h-n-s-o-n.
24	Q And by whom are you employed and in what
25	position.

Evidentiary Hearing Page 224 1 I am an environmental program specialist Α 2 with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 3 Q And how long have you been in that position? 4 5 I've been in my section for five years. А Ι 6 was an environmental program -- oh my gosh, I 7 blanked, analyst, then I became an environmental 8 program specialist. I've been in the same group for 9 five years. 10 0 Okay. Have you worked with DNR -- how 11 long have you been with DNR? 12 Α Five years. 13 Just five years, okay. All right, I 0 wasn't sure if I understood. And what are your 14 15 duties and responsibilities in the position you're 16 in? 17 А I'm a case manager, so I provide 18 compliance assistance to systems that have been 19 referred to enforcement; then I also provide 20 compliance assistance, in general, to systems with 21 various types of violations. 2.2 0 And are you familiar with Mr. Blevins? 23 Α Yes. 24 And how did you become familiar with him Q 25 or with his case?



	Evidentially heating Julie 24, 2024
1	Page 225 A I took over as the case manager for the
2	various Blevins cases after a previous case manager,
3	Jackie Hooker, left for a different position.
4	Q Okay. Had you been in the case matter
5	had you been in that position within the last five
б	years then?
7	A Yes.
8	Q Okay. And what's been your involvement
9	with his case in particular?
10	A Since I took over, I was the one who
11	drafted the administrative order for Misty Mountain
12	and then the administrative order on consent for
13	Rolling Hills, then the revised proposed versions of
14	the administrative order on consent for Charity.
15	Q Okay. And how often do you talk to
16	Mr. Blevins about his cases?
17	A It varies, but a lot. I would say we
18	probably average about once every other week we
19	speak.
20	Q Is that about the same as you do with
21	other systems that you're dealing with?
22	A No, I talk to Mr. Blevins far more often
23	than for my other cases.
24	Q Okay. Do you know why that is, or do you
25	have any reason do you have any ideas why?

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1	Page 226 A Well, part of it is there are three cases
2	with the same responsible parties, so that's going
3	to cause more communication, but also we just we
4	talk a lot about the different things that need to
5	be done for the different cases. Well, I do
6	communicate through writing and through e-mails, I
7	think, based off of my conversations, Mr. Blevins
8	prefers to talk versus getting an e-mail.
9	Q And does he call you, do you call him?
10	A Both.
11	Q Okay. And when you reach out to him, how
12	responsive is he?
13	A He's very responsive. He takes my call
14	when he is available. If he isn't able to, he will
15	call me back in a pretty short period of time. I
16	don't get as much respondence from written
17	correspondence whether it's letters or e-mails.
18	Q When you ask for him to give you something
19	or get back to you with an answer, how responsive is
20	he then?
21	A I have had some trouble getting things
22	returned by deadlines. I do usually get a response
23	eventually, but it's not usually in a timely manner
24	as far as there's a deadline for something to be
25	turned in, those deadlines are usually not met.



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1	Page 227 Q Okay. And you said you had three cases
2	open with regards to Mr. Blevins?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And how long have you how long have
5	they been opened or have you been working on them
6	with do you know?
7	A Yeah, that's kind of two parts because I
8	took over. So the three systems were sort of
9	officially referred to enforcement in November of
10	2022, and then I took over as case manager from the
11	previous case manager around February of 2023, then
12	we continued working through that process since
13	then.
14	Q Okay. And we're talking about the same
15	three that other people have testified to, the Misty
16	Mountain, Charity and Rolling Hills water systems?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Okay. I just wanted to make sure we're
19	all talking about the same thing. And so when a
20	case gets gets to you, how does how does a
21	case get to your section or get to you?
22	A Typically, it will start with the regional
23	office. So they will be working with the system and
24	violations, you know, there's some ongoing issues.
25	If their compliance assistance isn't successful in



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1	Page 228 returning a system to compliance, then it would get
2	referred to us. It can be based off of a formal
3	referral from the regional office, or sometimes we
4	become aware of situations. So in this case,
5	because this was a new system, specifically Misty
6	Mountain, we didn't really have a long history of
7	compliance issues. As soon as they started
8	collecting samples, we had the E. coli and that
9	wasn't getting better. Actions weren't being taken
10	to return them to compliance, so in that case, it
11	got referred to enforcement pretty quickly compared
12	to a normal system. Then Charity and Rolling Hills,
13	we already identified had as noncompliant wells, and
14	the solution to that is enforcement; and so that's
15	why these all kind of came directly to enforcement
16	without necessarily having to go through some of
17	that earlier compliance assistance.
18	Q So what kinds of what kind of
19	resolutions are possible then in these cases?
20	A Once it gets referred to enforcement, we
21	have a couple of options for formal enforcement
22	actions. The first is what we call an
23	administrative order on consent or AOC, that is a
24	negotiated agreement between the system and
25	Department of Natural Resources for certain actions



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1	Page 229 that have to be taken, so there will be deadlines.
2	AOC may contain an administrative penalty if there
3	were violations, but it gets sent to the system;
4	they would sign it; it comes back to DNR; we would
5	sign it and it becomes effective.
6	If a system won't participate in that
7	negotiation or we can't reach an agreement, we have
8	the option to have an administrative order or an AO
9	and that is a unilateral order. It becomes
10	effective just with the Department's signature.
11	It's not a negotiated agreement. We also have those
12	as an option if we if we don't think that the
13	normal AOC process is going to be successful or
14	there are things like an urgent health risk. If
15	they have signed an AOC or we have the
16	administrative order, the AO, and it's not being
17	complied with, we have the option to also escalate
18	enforcement to the Attorney General's Office. We
19	can refer a case to them.
20	Q And sorry. And you said sometimes an
21	AO is is that entered or not entered in? I guess
22	you would just issue an AO, administrative order, if
23	there's urgent health need. Were any of
24	Mr. Blevins' systems was the AO issued to
25	Mr. Blevins because of that?



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1	Page 230 A We did go with the administrative order,
2	that unilateral order for Misty Mountain, and part
3	of the reasoning behind that, it was twofold. There
4	had been a lack of action toward returning to
5	compliance and determining what the cause of that E.
6	coli and the ongoing boil order, but also because it
7	was E. coli and it had been going on for months. It
8	needed to be a faster process than the typical AOC
9	would take.
10	Q Okay. So are there any other disciplinary
11	actions available to take against violators by DNR?
12	A We could issue something called an
13	emergency abatement order. Those are it's built
14	into the statute, if there is an imminent health
15	risk, we can issue we call it an EAO, an
16	emergency abatement order. Those are pretty
17	uncommon.
18	Q Okay. And then do you I'll get to that
19	in a moment. Before we get into that too far, can
20	you explain what it means to be a public water
21	system under DNR regulations?
22	A Sure. That definition comes from the
23	federal level from the EPA. So a public water
24	system serves 15 connections or at least 25 people
25	for an average of at least 60 days out of the year.



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Page 231 Q Okay. And, so, how many of Mr. Blevins'
systems were considered public water systems under
the Missouri Department of or under DNR
regulations?
A We have three regulated systems. We have
Misty Mountain, Charity and Rolling Hills.
Q Are there some that are those different
than the systems that are not designated by as
public water systems?
A I am aware of other wells that are
purported owned by Blevins, such on Rejoice and on
Rowden. Those don't meet that threshold to be a
public water supply either with the connections
and/or the number of people served.
Q Okay. So he could so he could be
operating some well systems that are not regulated
by DNR and then in addition to the three that are
regulated by DNR; is that right?
A Yes.
Q To your understanding? Okay. Do they get
different treatment from DNR or are they just not
regulated at all?
A If they don't meet that threshold, then
they're not regulated by DNR.
Q Do you know if they're regulated by any

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1	Page 232 other agency?
2	A I don't.
3	Q And, so, with the public water systems
4	that Mr. Blevins operates, are there multiple wells
5	that make up the one well system or water system or
6	how does that work?
7	A Rolling Hills only has a one well, and
8	that well on its own has enough connections and
9	populations served. For Charity, there are four
10	wells. Three that have been functional. One
11	referred to as the concrete well is kind of in the
12	process of coming back online. Those have
13	interconnected distribution systems, but they also
14	have common ownership. So there was a case that
15	kind of established the precedent was McGinnis
16	Estates, that if there is that common ownership,
17	even though each individual well may not have enough
18	connections or populations served together with that
19	common ownership, they do, and that's why we
20	regulate, like, Charity, for example, as a public
21	water supply, even if, you know, the first well on
22	PP doesn't have 15 connections or the 25 people.
23	It's the same situation as Misty Mountain.
24	While the number of wells involved in
25	Misty Mountain does kind of vary, like Tricia is no

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1	Page 233 longer part of it, Tigger, the big Tigger Well
2	isn't, but Taylor is back in, it's still has as
3	it's waffled back and forth with the different
4	wells, stayed at that threshold of 15 connections
5	and/or 25 people served 60 days out of the year.
6	They do have that common ownership which is why they
7	get to count together.
8	Q Okay. So with regard to Mr. Blevins' well
9	systems, there have been references to Misty
10	Mountain and then there's Misty Water Works. Do you
11	know what the difference is? Can you explain that?
12	A As Mr. Grube was testifying, it's been
13	hard to tell who the continuing operating authority
14	is. So that's why in our order we refer to
15	specifically Leon Travis Blevins and Patricia
16	Blevins, because in the documentation that's
17	available, say, through Pulaski County through their
18	recorder, a lot of the records for the different
19	properties and wells have both of their names on
20	them. And, so, we put a specific corrective action
21	in the three orders that we have, that whatever that
22	continuing operating authority is needs to be
23	registered
24	Q Okay.
25	A with the Secretary of State.



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1	Page 234 Q Okay, and you're talking about if that's a
2	business or that's registered as a business?
3	A Yeah, if you go to the Missouri Secretary
4	of State's site and try to find Misty Water Works,
5	it's not a registered business entity, neither is
6	Outlaw's Corral or we weren't able to find any
7	LLCs or corporations or anything, which makes it
8	hard to know who the responsible party is,
9	especially when documentation exists with a name
10	that doesn't necessarily truly exist, as far as
11	being registered with the Secretary of State. So we
12	have written in our orders referring to that Misty
13	Water Works, because it was used for at least some
14	of the time as the operating authority, but that is
15	something that needs to get cleaned up and cleared
16	up through our administrative orders, is whatever
17	that actual operating authority is needs to be
18	registered with the Secretary of State.
19	Q And whose responsibility is that to to
20	do that, to fix that?
21	A That would be the Blevins.
22	Q Okay. And have they done that, or has he
23	done that yet?
24	A Kind of. So Mr. Blevins did register an
25	HOA for each of the systems. So there is a Misty

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1	Page 235 Mountain water supply HOA, and one for Charity and
2	one for Rolling Hills. The issue that I ran into
3	for our cases is that while those HOAs were
4	registered, I was never given a copy of the bylaws
5	that would or should show there actually is an HOA
6	or any sort of information about membership, because
7	like I said, Mr. Grube was talking about residents
8	that were joining the HOA were supposed to pay a fee
9	and then continued paying a water fee. I don't know
10	if anyone ever actually joined. So while these
11	three entities were registered with the Missouri
12	Secretary of State, I don't know that
13	they actually have any involvement in the operation
14	of these three water supplies.
15	Q Okay. So is there a centralized
16	distribution system for the wells that provide water
17	systems to all the residents or how you might
18	have already answered this but
19	A Well, yeah, it's complicated. Rolling
20	Hills, it has a single well and a single
21	distribution system. That one is simple. At
22	Charity, there are three functioning wells and one
23	that's on its way, and those distribution systems
24	are interconnected. Then at Misty Mountain, they
25	are not. So, for example, the homes on Taylor that



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1	Page 236 are served by the Taylor Well, now the Tigger-1, the
2	big Tigger well is disconnected, those homes are
3	served by their own distribution system. Same for
4	the homes on Topo; they have their own distribution
5	system. It's the same way for each of those. So
6	the short answer is, it's different at each one.
7	Q Okay. So as the operator of a public
8	water system, what's the operator's what's
9	required of the operator? Anything under DNR?
10	A Under 10 CSR60.14, that's chapter 14 in
11	our code of state regulations with drinking water
12	regulations, it defines what is a chief operator and
13	what their responsibilities are. So, ultimately,
14	they're responsible for the quality and the quantity
15	of water provided as a system that's required to
16	have a certified operator.
17	Q Okay. Is Mr. Blevins complying with those
18	requirements with regard to all three of the public
19	water systems?
20	A No.
21	Q And what do you mean? Could you explain
22	that?
23	A So because Charity and Misty Mountain and
24	Rolling Hills public waters are all community public
25	water systems, they are required to have a properly



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1	Page 237 certified chief operator. They're each classified
2	as level DS-I or distribution level I. So they have
3	to have an operator with at least that
4	certification. As of this time, they do not.
5	Q Okay. Are there any requirements of the
б	public water systems that Mr. Blevins' systems are
7	not complying with?
8	A Yes.
9	Q What are they?
10	A All of those systems: Charity, Rolling
11	Hills and Misty Mountain are required to collect one
12	routine well, I shouldn't say one. They're
13	required to collect bacterial samples per month.
14	The number of samples varies by system. Rolling
15	Hills collects one. Misty Mountain collects more
16	because of those distribution systems, but either
17	way, they're all required to collect those routine
18	bacteriological samples each month, and that has not
19	happened for all three systems for the months of
20	March, April or May. And we're getting pretty deep
21	into June, and I haven't seen samples yet. And then
22	there was an additional violation at Misty Mountain,
23	not enough samples were collected, I think, in
24	February.
25	Q Okay. And is that usually the certified



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1	Page 238 operator that does that or the owner or the
2	actual well operator?
3	A It depends on the system. You do not have
4	to be a properly certified operator to collect those
5	routine samples, but some systems prefer their
б	operator to do it, since there are already paying
7	for an operator, they have them to collect the
8	samples.
9	Q So can Mr. Blevins collect those samples
10	even though he doesn't have a certified operator
11	right now?
12	A Yes.
13	Q And you're saying he hasn't?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Okay. Is that a concern for DNR?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Can you explain why that's a concern?
18	A At this time, we don't know about the
19	safety of the water without those routine
20	bacteriological samples, we don't know if the water
21	is bacteriologically safe.
22	Q Again. Why is that concerning?
23	A People are drinking that water and, so,
24	it's important that they know the water is safe.
25	Q Okay. And there's been some talk about



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Page 239 his wells being noncompliant wells. Can you explain
what that means?
A As community systems, you're required to
have wells that meet certain standards. The wells
for all of the systems, Misty Mountain, Charity and
Rolling Hills, were built to either domestic or
multi-family standards, not to public water
standards. So when we became aware of the systems
and we activated them, we did what we call a well
determination, and looked into what we know about
the construction of the wells, standards they were
built to, so all of the wells at the three systems
are noncompliant. They were not built to the proper
standards for a public water system.
Q So is there are they still even
though they're considered noncompliant, could they
still be safe or useable wells? I mean, they
supposedly are.
A Yes, that is why we have written some of
the orders. So the order for Rolling Hills that
Mr. Blevins referred to earlier that he and his wife
signed, that is what we call a noncompliant well
agreement. It's a type of administrative order on
consent. It acknowledges the well at Rolling Hills
wasn't built to standards but under certain



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1	Page 240 conditions can continue to be used. And part of
2	that order is a path toward getting a permit to
3	dispense water, which is required of public water
4	supplies. That permit will also document that the
5	well was noncompliant and it will have some
6	stipulations, such as not being allowed to add
7	additional connections in the future. The Charity
8	order, which is still in negotiation, also contains
9	a noncompliant well agreement. For Misty Mountain,
10	it's a little more complicated because it has the
11	Topo Well, which has collapsed, but it also has the
12	other wells which are noncompliant.
13	Q And is there is he required to fix
14	those wells or bring or do something to those
15	wells to bring them into compliance or
16	A He is not, because what makes them
17	noncompliant comes down to the actual construction.
18	So a lot of the things, case and depth, casing
19	materials, how the grout was applied, that can't be
20	changed once the well is made. So that's why we
21	have these agreements, though, to acknowledge it
22	wasn't built to the proper standards at the time,
23	but there is a path forward to still being able to
24	use those wells.
25	Q What do you mean by path forward?



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1	Page 241 A We have to have this effective
2	noncompliant well agreement, so the effective
3	administrative order on consent. And then it has
4	some it sort of then has a set of corrective
5	actions built in. So you have to continue
6	collecting your regular samples. If there are
7	issues with those, then additional corrective
8	actions can be triggered, such as if you have E.
9	coli, you may have to have chlorination. Then as
10	long as the sampling is safe, and then those extra
11	steps are followed if needed, then you can continue
12	to use the well.
13	Q All right. So when you issue an AO, an
14	administrative order, an administrative order on
15	consent, what do they become do they become final
16	at some point or explain that?
17	A Yeah, so an administrative order is an
18	unilateral order. It's effective upon the date of

19 the Department's signature. They can be appealed to

20 the administrative hearing commission for 30 days,

21 and that's built into state statute. If it is

22 | appealed and that appeal is denied, say it wasn't

23 | filed in a timely manner, then the order is

24 effective. If the appeal is heard by the

25 Administrative Hearing Commission, they make a

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1	Page 242 recommendation that goes to the Safe Drinking Water
2	Commission, and they can either accept that
3	recommendation or modify it, but they would
4	determine at the end whatever their decision is,
5	whether that order is going to be upheld or if there
6	needs to be changes to it.
7	Q Okay. So does it become final then?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay. And and the administrative order
10	on consent, does that become final? When does that
11	become final?
12	A So that would be effective once it has the
13	parties' signature and the Department's signature.
14	We have a paragraph at the end of it that's a waiver
15	of right of appeal. Since it's a negotiated
16	agreement, you won't necessarily need to appeal to
17	something that you've already agreed to. So by
18	signing it, you're waiving your right to appeal that
19	order to the Administrative Hearing Commission.
20	Q Okay. So as soon as everybody signs it,
21	that's a final order basically?
22	A Yes.
23	Q Okay. And the administrative order you
24	said that can be appealed to the Administrative
25	Hearing Commission, and then when does is that

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1	Page 243 appealed at all? Do you know?	}
2	A The appeal of the appeal?	
3	Q Yes.	
4	A I don't know	
5	Q Okay. That's fine. Now, what happens if	
6	the corrective actions are there you said	
7	there are corrective actions included in those two	
8	types of orders?	
9	A Yes.	
10	Q And what happens if the corrective actions	
11	that ordered or consented to are not met?	
12	A If a system has an effective order and	
13	they're not complying with it, we will try and use	
14	compliance systems. We'll reach out. We'll remind	
15	them of deadlines. We try and see if deadlines need	
16	to be changed. But if a system is truly not going	
17	to comply to their order, we can refer that case to	
18	the Attorney General's Office.	
19	Q And what would the Attorney General's	
20	Office would they file it somewhere else?	
21	A So they could file in the circuit court to	
22	enforce the order.	
23	Q Okay. And do the corrective actions	
24	would these include fees or penalties that are	
25	that are ordered?	



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1	Page 244 A It could. For example, the Misty Mountain
2	order does contain administrative penalties because
3	Misty Mountain had violations that were issued by
4	the Department prior to us writing that order. So
5	it does contain an administrative penalty. Not
6	every order does contain penalties.
7	Q Okay. So if the person doesn't pay the
8	penalty or the fees, does that go through the
9	same same steps that you might refer back to the
10	AGO?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Okay. Okay, so we've been talking about
13	the we've been talking about the administrative
14	orders. Ms. Aslin is going to hand you what's been
15	marked as Exhibit 8.
16	(Staff Exhibit 8 marked.)
17	Q (By Ms. Kerr) So is before actually,
18	before I get to that document, I have a couple of
19	questions. Has DNR filed an administrative action
20	against all three systems?
21	A We have an effective order with Misty
22	Mountain and with Rolling Hills. I have been in an
23	extended negotiation process with the order for
24	Charity, and so that order is still not effective.
25	Q Okay, okay. All right, so now looking at



Evidentiary Hearing Page 245 1 Exhibit 8, can you -- do you recognize what's in 2 those documents? 3 Α Yes. 4 What is that? Could you explain that? 0 5 These are copies of the effective orders Α 6 for Rolling Hills and for Misty Mountain. 7 And does this say on here when they 0 Okay. 8 were issued? 9 Α If you go to page 20 of 20 of It does. the first order, which is the order for Misty 10 11 Mountain, it has the signature from our department 12 and the date. So that order was issued on 13 December 28th of 2023. 14 Then there's the second order for 0 Okay. 15 Rolling Hills? 16 Α Yes. 17 That's an administrative one, 0 18 administrative order on consent. That one was 19 negotiated? 20 Yes, for Rolling Hills. Α 21 0 And that was done when? 2.2 Α Page 15 of 15 of that document shows the 23 Department's signature was May 13th of 2024. 24 Now, there's also a letter between Ο Okay. 25 the two orders, right after page 20 of 20. Can you



1	explain what that is? Is that part, one part, of	Page 246
2	the Misty Mountain order, or where, I guess, does	
3	that fall in?	

We already had an effective administrative 4 А 5 order for Misty Mountain, but after that order 6 became effective Mr. Blevins let us know -- well, I 7 quess everybody did, that the Tigger HOA had been 8 formed. So because our order said Mr. Blevins owned 9 and was responsible for the big Tigger Well, but 10 that had changed and it became clear the 11 responsibility was actually on someone else, we 12 needed to address that. And, so, rather than 13 issuing a new administrative order, we wrote this 14 letter that says we won't enforce any requirements 15 that relate specifically to the big Tigger Well. So 16 the order stands. The effective order for Misty 17 Mountain and this letter acknowledges there's been a 18 change with Tigger, and we're not going to enforce 19 anything relating to it.

20 So it's just kind of an explanatory 0 Okav. 21 Okay. letter? So with regard to the first one, 2.2 Misty Mountain administrative order -- or 23 administrative order, what were the main problems 24 and violations noted in that one? You don't have to 25 read through it, but just generally summarize.



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1	Page 247 A So there's a section and it's the
2	statement of violations. Most of the violations
3	relate to the ongoing E. coli issues that were
4	happening at the Topo Well, which is part of Misty
5	Mountain. Not just that it had E. coli, but the
6	failure to correct that and to complete certain
7	required actions. It also acknowledges that there
8	are noncompliant wells being used at this system,
9	and that it does not have a permit to dispense
10	drinking water.
11	Q And how long had these problems been going
12	on? Do you know?
13	A The E. coli was an issue as soon as the
14	first samples were collected. So the system was
15	identified in the summer of 2022. We had received
16	some complaints at the Department prior to that. It
17	took several months to visit the site and kind of
18	tease apart the ownership, because it was confusing
19	and figure out which wells were interconnected,
20	which or wells had common ownership, which made
21	sense. So once the systems got activated and
22	samples were collected, immediately there was an
23	issue with E. coli at the Topo Well on Misty
24	Mountain and that continued until the well failed.
25	Q Okay. And what about the other the

,	Evidentiary nearing Julie 24, 202
1	Page248 other wells? What problems did you have with those?
2	A We did not have many issues other than
3	them being noncompliant for the other wells. It was
4	just that which wells were part of Misty Mountain
5	kept changing. So, for example, the Taylor Well was
6	owned by someone else; then it was owned by Travis
7	or, sorry, Mr. Blevins; and then the Tricia Well,
8	was the one I think that Lori Jean was referring to
9	that kept being in and out of the system, because it
10	was unclear if it was actually sold or not. So it
11	was a challenge figuring out which system which
12	wells were part of the Misty Mountain to include in
13	the order.
14	Q Okay. And how responsive has Mr. Blevins
15	been to resolving the problems, the issues noted?
16	A He has not paid the administrative
17	penalty, which should have been paid, I believe, it
18	was within 30 days of the effective date of the
19	order. He did talk to me about going on a payment
20	plan, but didn't actually provide any, like,
21	proposed payment options, so he has instead not paid
22	it. He has been continuing to collect the samples
23	up until the past couple of months, which is one of
24	the requirements. He has not plugged the Topo Well,
25	and the deadline for that is tomorrow, June 25th.



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1	Page 249 There's a deadline in there tomorrow of June 25 also
2	to submit the technical, managerial and financial
3	capability documentation. So those two deadlines
4	haven't been missed yet, but they're tomorrow.
5	And then he was required to register
6	the continuing operating authority with the
7	Secretary of State. He did complete he needed to
8	pay the outstanding primacy fee, and that did get
9	paid. However he has since not paid the laboratory
10	fee, which is now overdue.
11	Q Okay. And how long has he not paid the
12	lab fees?
13	A Those fees are due at the end of February,
14	so he would have gotten an invoice approximately in
15	January. They send a follow-up letter of warning
16	around the end of March or the beginning of April,
17	then violations go out. So there have been several
18	notices, and I sent to him the invoices, but I think
19	right now, the current fee right now with the
20	interest, is \$309.
21	Q And does that include last year's fees?
22	Does he still owe those?
23	A No, he did pay the primacy fee, which was
24	last year. But the laboratory fee for this year has
25	not been paid.



٦	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 250 Q Was there a lab fee for last year?
2	A Because of when he was activated, I'm not
3	sure. I would have to look and see.
4	Q Okay. Okay. And so what effect does
5	does it have on the safety of the water? The fact
6	that he hasn't done samples, the fact the samples
7	have come back with E. coli?
8	A So for the ones that were testing
9	positive, there is a chart in this order that goes
10	through all the different samples that were either
11	total coliform positive or E. coli positive. That
12	is a huge issue, because that water is not
13	bacteriologically safe. For as far as not paying
14	the fee, if the samples are sent in, we're still
15	testing those. There's the lab fee isn't being
16	paid. The bigger concern is that like, for that
17	first corrective action, it says you need to
18	continue collecting the required samples and that
19	hasn't been happening.
20	Q So not knowing the not having the
21	samples, not knowing what's what the water is
22	like, what kind of concerns does that bring to DNR?
23	A Well, the concern is that we don't know if
24	the water is safe at this time, especially if the
25	system where we know there was an ongoing issue



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1	Page 251 with E. coli. While it was on Topo and Topo Drive
2	Residents now get their water from the Public Water
3	Supply District, it's still a concern overall of
4	operation of the system if the water is safe?
5	That's why we collect those samples is or why
6	they submit those samples so we know that the water
7	is safe.
8	Q Okay. And you say he hasn't collected
9	those since or you haven't gotten any since
10	March? Or you didn't get from March forward?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Okay. What if he still doesn't provide
13	them for the next next month and the next month?
14	Is there any action that DNR takes or
15	A We will continue to issue monthly
16	violations if there's samples that are not
17	submitted. If these deadlines are not, these
18	deadlines of tomorrow are really the last deadlines
19	within the order, because submitting this
20	application for the permit to dispense is supposed
21	to be 60 days after all the other actions are
22	finished. If Mr. Blevins is not going to meet his
23	deadlines and not comply with the order, then our
24	next step would be referral to the Attorney
25	General's Office, and at that time, while the



Page 252 violations we're talking about for not collecting samples aren't in this order, it could be included in any actions the Attorney General's Office would take.

Q Okay. So is there any notice given to -given to the public about the testing and whether they had been tested and how they've been tested? What the results are?

9 Α So for the routine monthly samples, the bacteriological samples, those are not specifically 10 11 provided to the customers. We do have a website 12 that customers can go to, which I went to the public 13 meeting with the Public Service Commission, I went 14 over that with a lot of people that were there; how 15 to look up their results; and that's available 24 16 hours a day, seven days a week through Missouri 17 Drinking Water Watch. So customers can see their 18 routine results; they can see repeat samples, things 19 like that. As far as notifying customers, if you 20 don't collect a sample, there's a public notice 21 requirement for each of those violations.

Q Can you explain that? A So for public notice, a water provider would have to -- we send a form for that, but they provide that to their customers, that explains what



Page 253 1 happened; they have space on there to write why it 2 happened; and then they put their contact 3 information. And there are specific ways it has to 4 be posted whether it's a community system or a 5 noncommunity system. Then they have -- the water 6 provider would send back the form that they posted 7 for their customers and a certification for how they 8 notified their customers.

9 Q And do you know if Mr. Blevins did that? 10 A He has not done that yet for these current 11 violations, but they're also not overdue. So for 12 the specific type of violation for not collecting 13 your monthly sample, there's a year to complete that 14 public notice.

Q Okay. So what if he doesn't provide samples for eight months? Is there something the DNR does or is there some kind of notice that DNR sends out?

A If the system misses four or more samples within a rolling 12 moth period, then we send them a letter and notify them that they're what we call a chronic monitoring violator. We also post that information on our DNR website of chronic monitoring violators, so that the public can be aware that there's a system that is not collecting their



1	Page 2 samples.
2	Q So if Mr. Blevins does not provide a
3	sample, I guess, would it be for July or August,
4	would then he be considered a chronic monitoring
5	violator?
6	A I think it would be June, because we
7	haven't gotten samples for March, April, May. If we
8	don't get any for June, then that would be four
9	violations within a rolling 12-month period. Those
10	three, though, were going to hang on for a while.
11	So even if he does collect a sample in June, if he
12	missed one in, say, October, then that would still
13	be four violations in a 12-month period. So it's
14	going to be very important, if he does not want to
15	be on that list, that he collects all of his samples
16	forever, which you should anyways, but if the goal
17	is avoid being a chronic monitoring violator, he has
18	to for at least the next 12 months.
19	Q About what are there what you would
20	say the number of people or the number of
21	operators that are on this or designated as this
22	chronic monitoring violator? Are there a lot of
23	them, just a few? I mean, how would you describe
24	that?
25	A It's not a very long list. I looked the



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 255 other day, I guess it was last week, and I don't
2	think there were even 20 systems on that list.
3	Q In the whole state of Missouri?
4	A Yes.
5	Q So, usually, for the most part, everybody
6	gets samples to DNR?
7	A If they miss some, they don't miss that
8	many.
9	Q Okay. So on the administrative order for
10	Misty Mountain, were there fines assessed on that
11	one?
12	A Yes.
13	Q Is that separate, like, lab fees or
14	whatever that was overdue?
15	A Yes. I want to clarify: I think the word
16	fine is used as the same as penalty. I want to make
17	sure that's what you meant.
18	Q Yes, penalties, I'm sorry.
19	A Yeah, it does contain an administrative
20	penalty.
21	Q And how come do you know why the reason
22	that DNR included an administrative penalty in this
23	first AO?
24	A There were violations that were issued.
25	Again, it's built into the drinking water

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1	Page 256 regulations. We can calculate penalties for
2	violations that were issued. So for Misty Mountain,
3	there were separate types of violations related to
4	the E. coli and the failure to correct certain
5	things; and so the calculated penalty for that was
6	\$6,000.
7	Q Has he paid that?
8	A No.
9	Q And then you said there were corrective
10	actions included in that AO as well?
11	A Yes.
12	Q And has he has he complied with those
13	corrective actions or any of them?
14	A Corrective action 2 was to submit a
15	schedule of compliance, that includes the deadline
16	to plug well number one, which is the Topo Well, and
17	that deadline is tomorrow. So far that has not been
18	completed. He did pay the primacy fee, so he did
19	complete that corrective action. He has registered
20	an entity with the Missouri Secretary of State, but,
21	again, I don't think that is the entity
22	that's actually operating the water system, so I
23	don't think that completes our corrective action.
24	The only other one that has not passed its deadline,
25	is that demonstration of technical, managerial and



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1	Page 257 financial capacity that's due tomorrow. So, for
2	now, the only one that is actually really completed
3	is paying the primacy fee, and the others have
4	missed their deadlines except for the two that are
5	due tomorrow.
6	Q And how long did he have to fix these
7	corrective actions?
8	A It depended on each corrective action;
9	they kind of have their own deadlines. So, for
10	example, for corrective action 1, it's ongoing.
11	That is just to continue collecting the required
12	samples. That one doesn't really end, but it isn't
13	also being met because he's not collecting the
14	required samples.
15	The schedule of compliance that was
16	supposed to be included, you know, plugging the well
17	and everything, that was due within 30 days. He had
18	180 days to plug the well, which is tomorrow. He
19	needs to complete public notice. That one will keep
20	going, because he keeps getting violations that
21	require public notice. He did pay the fees. It was
22	not within 30 days, but he did pay it. He
23	registered the business. Again, I don't know that
24	that actually fixed it. Then he has until tomorrow
25	to submit the technical, managerial, and financial



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1	Page 258 documentation. Then the last corrective action says
2	within 60 days of completion of all of the others,
3	apply for a permit to dispense. But he hasn't
4	completed, though, so he can't apply for the permit
5	to dispense.
6	Q Okay. And do you have any reason to
7	believe that you'll that those two corrective
8	actions that are due tomorrow will get done?
9	A I don't think they will.
10	Q Why did you say that?
11	A For plugging the well, it's not as simple
12	as just dumping some concrete down there. It has to
13	be properly plugged based off of the requirements.
14	Also, in the Code of State Regulations, it's in
15	chapter 23, that has to be done properly and has to
16	be registered with the state. I don't see that
17	happening between now and tomorrow, but it would be
18	great if it did.
19	And then demonstrating the technical,
20	managerial and financial capacity, Mr. Blevins said
21	earlier that it was impossible for him to provide
22	certain documentation that you guys has requested.
23	Our checklist requires kind of a lot of
24	documentation, and it's the same information for all
25	three systems. There will be a little bit of

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1	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 259 difference for each one, but overall as having one
2	responsible party, it would be all the same; and so
3	I just based off of what he said himself and our
4	conversations, I don't see that will be provided
5	tomorrow.
6	Q Has any of the documentation been
7	provided?
8	A No.
9	Q And, so, how easy would you describe this
10	process to get this resolution or to get to that
11	AO, where you we were at the AO? You know what?
12	Forget that. That question didn't quite make sense.
13	Okay, so turning then to the administrative order on
14	consent for the Rolling Hills; that's the second one
15	in the packet there.
16	A Yes.
17	Q Kind of what that was also entered
18	against Mr. Blevins and his wife?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay. That was the same for the Misty
21	Waters, Misty Mountain?
22	A Yes.
23	Q Sorry. And, so, that was an
24	administrative order on consent. So that one was
25	negotiated with the Blevins?



	Evidentiary realing Julie 24, 2024
1	A Yes. Page 260
2	Q And how did that come about?
3	A I sent a proposed version of this
4	administrative order on consent at the beginning of
5	January in 2024. Let me check yes, 2024. It
6	required a 30-day response or signature. I did not
7	receive that. So, I sent a letter that was a
8	failure to respond letter, notifying Mr. Blevins
9	that we have to have a response to this, and so that
10	has a shorter deadline. I think it was 15 days. I
11	did a response after that deadline from his
12	attorney, that was asking for some changes. One of
13	those specifically for Rolling Hills was to take out
14	the waiver of right to appeal, and I guess
15	because I think that was the only thing that they
16	were kind of asking for for this one. And, so, once
17	we talked back and forth what we would or would not
18	change, then Mr. Blevins and his wife still had not
19	signed, so I was really kind of bugging him quite a
20	bit to get him to sign that; and they did sign it
21	and return it to the Department; and then we got our
22	signature and sent it back.
23	Q And that was in April
24	A Yes.
25	Q of this year? So about four months to



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1	Page 261 get to get the administrative order on consent
2	signed?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Does it usually take four months?
5	A It depends. It really varies by system.
6	Because this order for Rolling Hills was the most
7	straightforward, it only addresses a single well,
8	its corrective actions are pretty much related to
9	the noncompliant well. There just wasn't as much to
10	negotiate within this one. And I think it got a
11	little bit muddled with the appeal of the
12	administrative order for Misty Mountain, as far as
13	what the attorney was asking for with extensions and
14	things like that, it got a little confusing but we
15	got that we cleared up that understanding that
16	those were separate deadlines, and then it kind of
17	moved forward as far as what it took to get this
18	order signed.
19	Q And, so, what just generally, what are
20	the problems that you had with Rolling Hills?
21	A Really Rolling Hills is just that it
22	does it has noncompliant wells, and it does not
23	have a permit to dispense. So in the statements of
24	violations, the those are just the two, is that
25	it's noncompliant and does not have the permit to



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1	Page:
2	Q And how does he have to fix to do those
3	corrective actions?
4	A Well, the first corrective action is
5	really keep collecting samples. So right now,
6	that's not happening. The second corrective action
7	was to register the business entity, which, again,
8	there was an HOA registered, but I don't think that
9	HOA is actually operating the system. And then
10	there were 180 days to submit the technical,
11	managerial and financial capacity documentation,
12	which will be really similar to Misty Mountain. So
13	that needs to be turned in. And once that's turned
14	in, then apply for the permit to dispense.
15	So this order could be complete, as
16	soon as we get the technical, managerial and
17	financial checklist and documentation and that
18	permit to dispense applications, so then we can
19	issue the permit and then it can be closed.
20	Q Okay. You said on Rolling Hills, has
21	were there any fees or penalties assessed?
22	A There are no administrative penalties in
23	this order.
24	Q Okay. What about any fees?
25	A No. At the time that this was written,



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 263 there were no overdue fees for this system. Now
2	since then, Mr. Blevins also hasn't paid the lab
3	fees for Rolling Hills, so that is also \$309 as
4	of today.
5	Q Okay. Then what about Charity? Has he
6	paid the lab fees on Charity?
7	A No, and it's the same amount, 309.
8	Q So he owes 309 for each of the three
9	systems?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Okay. And, so, what happens if
12	Mr. Blevins does not meet these corrective actions
13	does not take these corrective actions on this one?
14	A We would follow the same procedure. We
15	would be able to refer it to the Attorney General's
16	Office.
17	Q Okay. And what would you say is the
18	probability that Mr. Blevins and, I guess,
19	Mrs. Blevins would meet the corrective actions on
20	this Rolling Hills AOC?
21	A This one is a lot easier. We really just
22	need them to register the actual continuing
23	operating authority and submit that we always
24	call it TMF; it's the shorter name for technical,
25	managerial and financial documentation. So if he

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1	Page 264 would do those two things and collect his required
2	monthly samples, then he can apply his permit, and
3	we can close it.
4	If he does meet his requirement for
5	Misty Mountain by putting that TMF documentation
6	together, he can really use for this system as well,
7	because it's still the same operating authorities,
8	TMF capacity. So I think it kind of depends on how
9	Misty Mountain goes, if he's able to complete that,
10	it should be very easy to complete this.
11	MS. KERR: I ask I move that Exhibit 8
12	be entered into evidence.
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
14	any objection to admitting Exhibit 8, the
15	Department of Natural Resources Administrative
16	Orders for Misty Mountain and Rolling Hills,
17	onto the hearing record?
18	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 8 is admitted
20	onto the hearing record, and you may continue,
21	Ms. Kerr.
22	(Staff Exhibit 8 admitted onto the hearing record.)
23	MS. KERR: I'm sorry?
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: You may continue.
25	MS. KERR: Sorry, sorry.



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1	Page 265 Q (By Ms. Kerr) Okay, now Mr. Grube
2	testified that he, and I think you had something
3	earlier about going to the public meeting that the
4	PSC had back was it last June? Do you remember
5	attending that?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Okay. And, I'm sorry, can you tell me
8	what your impression was of that meeting?
9	A It was very well attended. There it
10	was a pretty big auditorium. People were standing.
11	I think it was contentious. There were a lot of
12	people who were very unhappy and shared a lot of
13	their concerns. There's a lot of overlap even
14	though PSC regulates utilities; we regulate the
15	drinking water systems; there is kind of some
16	overlap in our involvement in the system. So, I
17	think it was really helpful to have DNR and PSC
18	there to answer questions. I was able to answer a
19	lot of questions about what's required of the public
20	water supply and sampling; how we can see their
21	sample results; and I think that was helpful for
22	people because they wouldn't just know that on their
23	own. But there were a lot of things we couldn't
24	answer at the time. We didn't have orders for the
25	system. We didn't have a good answer for what was

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1	Page 266 going to happen with Misty Mountain and the E. coli
2	and things like that. It it was a good meeting,
3	but it was a hard meeting.
4	Q Okay. And do you remember attending a
5	separate hearing here before the Commission on his
6	other on the other case regarding Mr. Blevins'
7	wells and well systems?
8	A Yes.
9	Q And that was about the PSC staff
10	requesting an appointment of receiver for the
11	various wells and well systems, right?
12	A Yes.
13	Q That was case number W020240036. Did you
14	testify at that hearing?
15	A Yes.
16	Q And were you cross-examined by Mr.
17	Blevins?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Just generally what what did you
20	testify about? Without getting into too
21	much detail, just generally, what was your testimony
22	about then?
23	A We focused more on safety, you know. Why
24	this is an issue that these are noncompliant wells;
25	why was it an issue that things were not resolved at



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1	Page 267 Misty Mountain. The ownership came up a little bit,
2	because it was confusing. It still is. Things
3	still like feel they change very frequently as far
4	as who owns what or who really owns what. And, so,
5	that was really the focus, I think, of the last one.
6	Q And you still have those safety concerns
7	going forward?
8	A I do, because there has been a complete
9	stop in submitting routine samples.
10	Q Okay. I don't know if I need to offer
11	this. I guess I'd offer that transcript from
12	from that last procedural, WO2024-0036, that
13	Ms. Johnson's testimony be entered into evidence or
14	be officially recognized or officially noted. I
15	guess
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: You're asking to take
17	official notice of her testimony in
18	WO2024-0036?
19	MS. KERR: Yes. And I have a copy of just
20	her testimony if I can I can provide copies
21	of that.
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
23	any objections to the Commission taking
24	official notice of Ms. Johnson's testimony in
25	the receivership case, the one you were here on

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1	before, in this case?	Page 268
2	MR. BLEVINS: I'm not sure I understand	
3	when you used the word receivership.	
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Do you remember	
5	we had an evidentiary hearing before? You were	
6	here, correct?	
7	MR. BLEVINS: Yes.	
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And that was on Staff	
9	asking to have a receiver appointed for your	
10	systems?	
11	MR. BLEVINS: That's correct.	
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: At that hearing,	
13	Ms. Johnson here testified.	
14	MR. BLEVINS: I don't remember what her	
15	testimony what she said.	
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Do you want to	
17	take a moment and look over the testimony that	
18	was given before determining whether or not you	
19	want to object?	
20	MR. BLEVINS: Maybe I should. Is this it?	
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No oh, it is.	
22	MS. KERR: Yes.	
23	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay.	
24	MS. KERR: I've got copies of her portion	
25	of the testimony.	



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1	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Why don't we just do	Page 269
2	this as an exhibit?	
3	MS. KERR: Okay.	
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I think at this point,	
5	that would be easier.	
6	MS. KERR: Okay.	
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: If you've got that	
8	available, if you'll bring me one and I'll mark	
9	that.	
10	MS. KERR: That would be Exhibit 9, I	
11	believe.	
12	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Correct.	
13	(Staff Exhibit 9 marked.)	
14	MS. KERR: And, specifically, in that	
15	transcript I think there are two volumes of	
16	transcripts for that hearing, and hers her	
17	testimony can be found at pages 206 to 241 of	
18	volume II of the transcript.	
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And that's what you've	
20	separated out	
21	MS. KERR: Yes.	
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: or it is all just	
23	volume II? Okay.	
24	MS. KERR: Yeah, I separated that out. Do	
25	you want a copy do you want copies?	



	Evidentiary Hearing	June 24, 2024
1	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I need at least one	Page 270
2	copy. Let me know when you're done reading,	
3	Mr. Blevins. Let's go off the record for a	
4	moment.	
5	(Off the record discussion.)	
6	LAW JUDGE CLARK: All right, let's go back	
7	on the record. Okay, we went back on the	
8	record. I wanted to go off the record to give	
9	Mr. Blevins a little bit of time to read.	
10	Mr. Blevins had some questions about the	
11	testimony in the prior cases, and we started to	
12	discuss that off the record, I felt that it	
13	would be better if we discussed that on the	
14	record. So, Mr. Blevins, you indicated that	
15	you had said a number of things there, but one	
16	of the things you said was this is testimony	
17	from the WO2024-0036 case, you're here during	
18	that testimony for both Ms. Johnson and	
19	Mr. Clos-Versailles. And they have essentially	
20	asked to offer right now, I believe, the	
21	testimony of Ms. Johnson from that hearing into	
22	evidence, and I believe they're going to offer	
23	the evidence from Mr. Clos-Versailles into	
24	that.	
25	And, so, you have a right to look at that	



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1	testimony and make any objections if you want	Page 271
2	to. The fact, as you brought up off the	
3	record, the fact that you didn't object at the	
4	time this was at the time the testimony was	
5	made, is not relevant to whether or not you	
6	want to object to it being into this	
7	proceeding, but that testimony is currently not	
8	part of this proceeding.	
9	MR. BLEVINS: I would not be a part of	
10	this part of proceedings.	
11	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, well	
12	MR. BLEVINS: I think that's already been	
13	done. Is that true or not true?	
14	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Well, I'm not sure what	
15	you mean true. Was the testimony given? Yes,	
16	the testimony was given. Did the Commission	
17	order a receivership at the time? No, it	
18	didn't. It ordered status reports to see if	
19	you remained engaged with DNR since it appeared	
20	the Department of Natural Resources was still	
21	engaging with you.	
22	So, I don't believe a final decision had	
23	been rendered in that case. But the	
24	Commission did not order a receivership at that	
25	time. So you're objecting to offer	



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1	Ms. Johnson's testimony into this case,	Page 272
2	correct?	
3	MR. BLEVINS: I would think that would be	
4	my answer to that, if I would object to it, to	
5	simply not muddle up what we're doing right	
б	now.	
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, so	
8	MR. BLEVINS: In my opinion.	
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: So your objection it	
10	is that would muddy it up, that's it	
11	MR. BLEVINS: I don't know what verbiage	
12	should be used, but that being already done, I	
13	would I don't want to see it come up again	
14	in this proceeding here, that these proceedings	
15	would be on their own merits.	
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, response, Staff?	
17	MS. KERR: Well, a lot of the that was	
18	a separate case number, but a lot of the	
19	information that was provided in that hearing I	
20	would present again in this hearing. I	
21	could my thought that was rather going through	
22	the same questions over and getting the same	
23	information in this hearing, that I would offer	
24	her testimony from the WO case into evidence to	
25	shorten the time that it's going to take to get	



1	Page 273 that same evidence in here today.
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, I'm going to
3	overrule the objection and admit Exhibit 9 onto
4	the hearing record. So Exhibit 9, the
5	testimony from Jackie Johnson from WO2024-0036
6	is admitted onto the hearing record.
7	(Staff Exhibit 9 admitted onto the hearing record.)
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: You may continue.
9	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Okay. Now, as part of your
10	testimony in that case, you discussed a number of
11	DNR documents, outlining and setting forth various
12	violations by DNR regarding the wells and the well
13	systems operated by Mr. Blevins?
14	A Yes.
15	Q And those did those include the three
16	public water systems that we've been talking about
17	right now?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Misty Mountain, Rolling Hills and Charity?
20	A Yes.
21	Q And the documents that you testified to or
22	about in the WO2024-0036 case, those were all
23	applicable to these three water systems?
24	A Yes.
25	MS. KERR: Okay. I'd ask that I have



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 274 the documents from that case, that hearing, and
2	I ask that be entered into evidence as Exhibit
3	10?
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And what
5	MS. KERR: It was the affidavit of
6	business records and the I guess I can show
7	her.
8	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Well, give a copy to
9	Mr. Blevins so he can look at it while
10	you're
11	(Staff Exhibit 10 marked.)
12	Q (By Ms. Kerr) All right, I've handed you
13	exhibit what's been marked or would be marked
14	Exhibit 10.
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And are these just DNR
16	records; is that correct?
17	MS. KERR: Yes.
18	Q (By Ms. Kerr) And were those the documents
19	that were entered into that receivership case and
20	that hearing in October?
21	A I think so.
22	Q Okay. So there was a business record
23	affidavit and the DNR records. Is that what's in
24	that packet?
25	A Yes.



1	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 275 Q And those is that what was entered
2	during your testimony in the WO2024-0036 case?
3	A I'd say I think so because it's a lot of
4	documents, but these would be the things that we
5	discussed, so, yes.
6	MS. KERR: Okay. And I ask that this is
7	Exhibit 10, Exhibit 10 be entered into
8	evidence?
9	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And all these documents
10	were entered during her testimony in the WO
11	case?
12	MS. KERR: Yes.
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
14	any objection to the Department of Natural
15	Resources Records that were offered by
16	offered as part of Ms. Johnson's testimony in
17	WO2024-0036?
18	MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
19	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 10 is admitted
20	onto the hearing copy.
21	(Staff Exhibit 10 admitted onto the hearing record.)
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: May I have a copy?
23	MS. KERR: If I can get you a copy
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: When you're done.
25	MS. KERR: When I'm done, yes. It was



 Exhibit 7 in the WO case, just by the way, just for the record. But I can get a copy of that if you need another copy. LAW JUDGE CLARK: I think there will probably be one left over here in a minute. MS. KERR: Okay. LAW JUDGE CLARK: I just need a copy for the Commission. MS. KERR: Okay. If I can get that after today's when we go on break. LAW JUDGE CLARK: That would be fine. MS. KERR: Okay. Q (By Ms. Kerr) So are there any other are there any other actions being taken against Mr. Blevins for his well systems that he operates other than the two we just discussed, the Misty Mountain and the Rolling Hills? 	ge 276
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Mr. Blevins for his well systems that he operates other than the two we just discussed, the Misty	
16 other than the two we just discussed, the Misty	
17 Mountain and the Rolling Hills?	
18 A We are still in the process of negotiating	3
19 an administrative order on consent for Charity.	
20 Q And can you where are you in the	
21 process there?	
22 A I sent a proposed AOC at the same time as	
23 Rolling Hills, so the beginning of January. I sent	
24 the same failure to respond letter, I sent a revised	1
25 proposed AOC and then after that point, Mr. Blevins	

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1	Page 277 let me know that he has repaired the well that is
2	known as the concrete well on PP. Because I had
3	corrective actions to plug that well and said it was
4	not used and things that no longer make sense in the
5	order. I've asked for additional documentation for
6	justifying that, so Mr. Blevins also let me know
7	that he has sold one of the wells to a resident, and
8	so I've asked for documentation of that. And then
9	once I had that information, then I will evaluate
10	whether I need to revise the AOC again. It has been
11	in a protracted negotiation process because the
12	circumstances keep changing, and because there was
13	that lack of response at the beginning.
14	Q Okay. And that lack of response from
15	Mr. Blevins?
16	A Yes.
17	Q And do you anticipate when do you
18	anticipate filing that?
19	A The deadline for the information that I
20	requested was the 22nd, so that has passed. I still
21	need certain documentation to be able to evaluate
22	whether I can change it. I will follow up with
23	Mr. Blevins outside of this hearing, hopefully
24	tomorrow if I have time or on Wednesday, because
25	I we're to the point where if we're not going to



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 278 reach an agreement, we don't need to continue trying
2	to negotiate an order. We can instead move forward
3	with a unilateral order, which is that order that
4	becomes effective with just the Department's
5	signature.
6	Q Is that what you would end up doing with
7	the Charity AOC or is that
8	A Specific to Charity. That's our normal
9	process. We if we cannot reach an agreement on
10	an administrative order on consent, then we will
11	move with the unilateral order.
12	Q Okay. But you haven't made that decision
13	yet?
14	A No, because the deadline just happened
15	over the weekend. So I did check my e-mail this
16	morning before I came, and I did not have any
17	e-mails from Mr. Blevins. He gave me a paper when I
18	came in this morning that I haven't had time to
19	review, but still I don't think it's probably going
20	to be sufficient for the documentation that we need
21	to make any changes to the order.
22	Q Now, does this seem to be a pattern with
23	Mr. Blevins?
24	A It has been for these orders that, you
25	know, it'll seem like we've got a good handle on



r	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 279 what's going on and then something changes. So for,
2	example, the Taylor Well changing ownership or
3	the this Charity Well that's gotten fixed and the
4	Charity Well supposedly sold. Despite having
5	continuing conversations with Mr. Blevins, I just
6	found out a week ago about the Charity Well
7	allegedly being sold to one of the residents. And
8	that's been included in the order that's been sent
9	out multiple times. So it's been a challenge to
10	reach an endpoint because it feels like things keep
11	changing.
12	Q Okay. I'm sorry, I'm kind of going out of
13	order. When we were at the hearing last time in
14	October on the WO2024-0036, there were somebody else
15	from DNR that testified?
16	A Yes.
17	Q And who was that?
18	A Sebastien Clos-Versailles.
19	Q Okay. And do you remember what he
20	testified to?
21	A Mr. Clos-Versailles was involved before
22	me. He was in the original group of people that
23	went out and visited the system and tried to
24	identify where the wells were, who owned the wells.
25	He was with Central Field Operations, and was

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1	Page 280 receiving a lot of the concern calls. He
2	was actually visiting the system for compliance
3	assistance and collecting samples and things like
4	that. So he had a much more hands-on in-person
5	experience with the system compared to me.
6	Q And, so, his testimony was basically about
7	what his involvement was?
8	A Yes, and the required actions relating to
9	his visits to the system.
10	MS. KERR: Okay. All right, I ask that
11	Mr. Clos-Versailles's testimony in the
12	WO2024-0036 case be entered into evidence? His
13	testimony is specifically pages 124 to 202 of
14	volume II of the transcript.
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
16	any objection to admitting
17	Mr. Clos-Versailles's testimony onto the
18	hearing record?
19	MR. BLEVINS: I have no objection. It's
20	already been done.
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Well, it was done the
22	testimony was taken from the previous hearing.
23	This is one, for which I believe,
24	administrative notice is appropriate or
25	official notice is appropriate since



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1	Page281 Mr. Clos-Versailles is not here to lay a
2	foundation.
3	MS. KERR: Then I would ask that the
4	Commission take official notice of
5	Mr. Clos-Versailles's testimony in file number
6	WO2024-0036 in this case.
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Blevins has
8	already indicated he doesn't have any objection
9	to it being admitted onto the hearing record,
10	so I will take official notice of
11	Mr. Clos-Versailles's testimony from the
12	WO2024-0036. I will note that, you know, given
13	Ms. Jean's testimony, that might affect the
14	weight given such to Mr. Clos-Versailles's
15	testimony, but I will take administrative
16	notice of it.
17	MS. KERR: Thank you.
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
19	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Now, so our understanding
20	from the testimony that Mr. Blevins well, does he
21	have a certified operator currently for his systems?
22	A No.
23	Q And is he supposed to have one?
24	A Yes.
25	Q And what requires him to do that, to have



Г	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 202	
1	Page 282 a certified operator?	:
2	A It's required by 10 CSR 60-14.	
3	Q And what's the purpose of having a	
4	certified operator? Why would why does DNR have	
5	that requirement?	
6	A It	
7	Q Do you know?	
8	A I don't know why DNR came up with it, but	
9	I know in chapter 14 in 10 CSR 60-14, it talks about	
10	how the properly certified chief operator is	
11	responsible for operational decisions, day-to-day	
12	operation of the system. They're the ones who are	
13	ultimately responsible for the quantity and the	
14	quality of the water.	
15	Q And do DNR regulations require a public	
16	water system like Mr. Blevins' systems to have a	
17	plan for a backup or a replacement certified	
18	operator?	
19	A Yes. Systems that are required to have a	
20	properly certified operator are also required to	
21	have a backup plan. It doesn't necessarily have to	
22	be another employee, but has to be a plan for what	
23	happened if they lost their operator.	
24	Q And did Mr. Blevins have such a plan?	
25	A It appears that he doesn't have an	

	Evidentiary Hearing	June 24, 2024
1	operator since his left.	Page 283
2	Q Okay. And that was Ms. Lori Jean?	
3	A Yes.	
4	Q Okay. Is that you've been dealing with	ı ——
5	as you been involved with Mr. Blevins' case, a	
6	certified operator?	
7	A Yes.	
8	Q Okay. And, so, does he have a deadline	to
9	get a new certified operator?	
10	A Well, you're required to have one as a	
11	community water supply at all times. So it's not	-
12	like there's a deadline to replace your operator.	
13	Q Okay. So as soon she tendered her	
14	resignation, he the requirement that he would	
15	have somebody to immediately follow her?	
16	A Yes, that's why they have to have a bac	kup!
17	plan.	
18	Q Okay. And do you know what the reason,	
19	you know, what the reasoning is behind that? Why	r
20	these systems need to have a certified operator?	
21	A It's built into the regulations, becaus	e
22	this is a community public water system, communit	·У
23	public water supplies are required to have a	
24	properly certified operator.	
25	Q And what happens if he does not replace	1



	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 284 Ms. Jean or get a new certified operator? Anything?
2	A We will send a letter of warning. The
3	month after we become aware of a system, we run a
4	report once a month, so once we're aware that a
5	system doesn't have an operator, we add them to our
6	report and we'll issue a letter of warning and then
7	the next month we'll issue a violation for not
8	having an operator. As long as the system continues
9	to be without an operator and doesn't have a
10	specific schedule of compliance for how they will
11	obtain an operator, we will continue issuing
12	violations each month.
13	Q And have you have you done that with
14	Mr. Blevins' systems?
15	A Yes, we have issued violations for not
16	having a properly certified chief operator.
17	Q Okay, so he got the warning letter first,
18	basically, and then after he got how many
19	violations so has it been, like, April, May,
20	June?
21	A I know he has at least one. I'm not sure
22	if he's gotten the next one yet. I have I didn't
23	look at the timing for when that first one was
24	issued. But until we have a specific plan, so it
25	can't just be saying, I'll get an operator, it has



r	
1	Page 285 to be specific, I'm taking an exam on a certain day,
2	then we can pause sending additional violations
3	until that plan either doesn't happen or doesn't
4	work. Or the system returns to compliance and than
5	we don't need to issue any more violations.
6	Q And, so, has Mr. Blevins done anything to
7	replace his certified operator that you know of?
8	A He told me that he's been looking. I was
9	contacted by someone who was interested in
10	potentially becoming a contractor operator. It was
11	a very savvy person who was familiar with our
12	Drinking Water Watch, and saw that there were
13	violations, saw that there were enforcement actions.
14	That person was able to read the order for Misty
15	Mountain, and I think that person ultimately decided
16	that they did not want to be the operator. They
17	told me that there was an issue with what they would
18	charge versus what Mr. Blevins said he was willing
19	to pay. So I do know he was at least attempting to
20	find an operator at that point. I don't know about
21	his actions since then.
22	He Mr. Blevins and I spoke last
23	week, and I talked to him about if he wanted to get
24	certified, then there are classes you can take.
25	You're not required to take a class, unless you fail

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1	Page 286 the exam three times, and that's built again into 10
2	CSR 60-14. So we identified a couple of classes
3	that were within a reasonable driving distance, so
4	one was in Belle; one was in Springfield.
5	The public water supply in these
6	community public water systems get vouchers each
7	year that can be used to cover the cost of taking a
8	class, cover the cost of taking a test, so I talked
9	about that with Mr. Blevins, that he could get
10	certified on his own. He does not have to take a
11	class. He could just take an exam, and I talked to
12	him about how we now have more testing options, so
13	you could basically test twenty-four hours a day
14	seven days a week at your convenience. You can
15	either test at home, but there are some requirements
16	for that, or you go to a testing location to do it.
17	So he did indicate that he would be interested in
18	getting certified himself.
19	Q Has he done anything? Has he actually
20	taken any of these step that you know of?
21	A I gave him the phone number and contact
22	information for the person in Springfield. It
23	sounds like he indicated earlier that he has spoken
24	with them about getting registered for a class, but
25	that class does start I think until July, and so if



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1	Page 287 he does end up taking that class, it hasn't started
2	yet.
3	Q Okay. Do you have any concerns whether
4	Mr. Blevins will able to get a new certified
5	operator or become certified himself?
б	A I think with his years of experience, and
7	he says he had good knowledge of, you know, how to
8	operate the system and everything, he could take the
9	exam and see if he passed it. And then he would
10	know if he needs a class or not. But lots of people
11	feel more comfortable if they take a class first.
12	He should as long as he attends the class, be
13	able to pass it, and then take the exam and
14	hopefully be successful.
15	Q If he doesn't do that, do you have any
16	concerns about whether Mr. Blevins will hire a new
17	certified operator any time soon?
18	A Yes.
19	Q What are those concerns?
20	A I'm concerned that he won't, because he
21	said he's having trouble finding an operator. Can I
22	answer one more? I also provided information, as
23	has one of my co-workers, about how to find a
24	contract operator in the area. We have an online
25	system where you can search for people who are



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1	Page 288 certified. You can search by county. You can click
2	multiple counties if you're not finding them in
3	Pulaski. You can select counties around it. I've
4	provided those directions. My co-worker has
5	provided those directions as well, so Mr. Blevins
6	does have the tools to identify operators in his
7	area. But the one issue with that is that unless an
8	operator provides their contact information to be
9	listed on the website, it will just be a name. It
10	won't have a phone number. There are just not a lot
11	of contractor operators available in the State.
12	Q Okay. So other than other than what
13	you've testified to and what's been entered into
14	evidence, is there any general testing or oversight
15	going on of Mr. Blevins' wells or well systems?
16	A Not at this time.
17	Q And has that been since March?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Or February?
20	A Pretty much since March. So Lori Jean did
21	collect samples in February, and so since then, we
22	haven't had any samples.
23	Q Okay. Is there do you have concern
24	about that?
25	A Yes.



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1	Q And what is that? Page 289
2	A We don't know if the water is
3	bacteriologically safe.
4	Q Okay. So the problems that that you
5	testified to last time, do those continue to show
6	up?
7	A I'm trying to think of the timeline. I
8	guess, the Topo Well had already collapsed by that
9	point. So there hasn't really been a big change in
10	what the concerns are. Topo Well still has
11	collapsed and not been plugged. That is a concern.
12	There was a well at the Charity. The PP well or the
13	concrete well, that was not in use, but also not
14	plugged, and that was a concern. There was a Taylor
15	Well which had not been in use for years and was not
16	plugged, and that was a concern. The circumstances
17	have changed for some of it, because the Taylor
18	Well, as of June 6th, is producing water again.
19	Mr. Blevins said that he's repaired the Charity
20	Well, so that has kind of changed. But the Topo
21	Well is still collapsed and not plugged, and that's
22	a concern for us but that's why we included that as
23	a required corrective action in the AO.
24	Q And how would you describe
25	Mr. Blevins' responses to getting those things



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1	Page 290 fixed?
2	A He tells me a lot that he will do things,
3	but I agree what was said earlier about how there's
4	a different sense of urgency. I definitely stick
5	with deadlines. We run by rules and deadlines, and
6	it feels likes Mr. Blevins while he'll say he's
7	going to do something, he's not moving at the same
8	speed I wish he would. So, a lot of deadlines are
9	just not getting met.
10	For example, if I send an order and
11	it has 30 days to respond or sign; and that day
12	comes and goes; and I have to send a letter to tell
13	you that you missed your deadline and give you a new
14	deadline and that comes and goes; it gets
15	frustrating that we're very specific about what
16	needs to be done and when; and then it doesn't
17	happen.
18	Q Does that seem to be a pattern with
19	Mr. Blevins?
20	A Yes.
21	Q Okay. Does he seem to does Mr. Blevins
22	end up usually doing what he says he's going to do
23	with regards to fixing things or taking tests or
24	taking the samples?
25	A I would say no, and sometimes he just does



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1	Page 291 different things. So, for example, we put it in the
2	order for Charity in the revised proposed AOC that
3	the PP Well should be plugged because it wasn't in
4	use and instead he fixed it. So that was
5	unexpected. There's just been a lot of things
б	where, you know, we said you need to do a specific
7	thing, like when there was the ongoing E. coli
8	issues with the Topo Well and we had a very specific
9	list of actions that needed to be taken, it didn't
10	happen. Instead, the well collapsed, and it
11	connected to the county. So even times where it
12	feels we have a very defined path forward, it
13	doesn't go that way.
14	Q Okay. And do you have concerns about
15	his responses, his ability to the way he responds
16	like that?
17	A I do. It's it's hard to believe that
18	he's going to follow through on things when he says
19	he will and he doesn't meet the deadlines.
20	Q Okay.
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Anything further from
22	Staff at this point.
23	MS. ASLIN: Just a moment.
24	MS. KERR: If we could have just a second,
25	please. I want to make sure I have all the

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1	exhibits that I wanted to be included.	Page 292
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay.	
3	MR. BLEVINS: Can we take a five?	
4	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Here in just a moment, I	
5	think we're going to take a break, Mr. Blevins.	
6	If you can hang on just a second.	
7	MR. BLEVINS: Okay.	
8	MS. KERR: Okay, thank you. I don't think	
9	I have any other questions.	
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Blevins had	
11	asked about a break. I also think I planned	
12	to take a break after this witness, but this	
13	has taken a little bit longer than expected, so	
14	why don't we break until it's now 3:34. Why	
15	don't we take about 11 minutes, and be back	
16	here at 3:45. We can go off the record.	
17	(Wherein, a short recess was taken.)	
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, Commissioner	
19	Coleman who been listening via Webex has joined	
20	us in person in the hearing room. Welcome,	
21	Commissioner. When we left off, we were it	
22	was just about to begin cross-examination by	
23	Mr. Blevins. Mr. Blevins, do you have any	
24	cross-examination for this witness?	
25	MR. BLEVINS: I just had a couple of	



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1	Page 293 questions.
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
3	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BLEVINS:
4	Q Ms. Johnson, the State of Missouri doesn't
5	have very many operators that are available to
6	Pulaski County. Do you know about how many would be
7	available? When I go to the website that you gave
8	me, I didn't find any, but I did talk to a few but
9	to no success. Is there a number of operators that
10	would handle Pulaski County in your knowledge?
11	A I'm not sure. In order for there to be a
12	phone number listed on that search that you're
13	referring to, an operator submits a form to ask for
14	their information to be shared. So there are likely
15	other operators on that list of results that you get
16	that are potential contractor operators. They just
17	don't have their phone number listed.
18	Q Yeah, I didn't find any. The ones that I
19	talked to, their cost was more than what all these
20	wells brought in on a monthly basis, impossible to
21	do. My my discovery is that the not very many
22	operators available out there to be contracted with.
23	I've chosen other avenues to go but
24	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
25	a question?



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1	Page 294 MR. BLEVINS: That's what I'm trying to
2	get to.
3	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Let's see. Do you
4	remember you mentioned the one well that was
5	sold. Do you remember talking about that well
6	sometimes at the first of the year, that would not
7	be included in Charity?
8	A There was talk of potentially selling the
9	well. I spoke with the people who was going to
10	maybe buy it, and then I never heard anything else
11	about it actually being sold. I did send you orders
12	since then that contained that well, and then you
13	didn't tell me that the well was sold.
14	MR. BLEVINS: That was the document I
15	handed to you today. I thought that you had
16	been informed with it sometime back. I have no
17	further questions.
18	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission
19	questions? I hear none. I got a few for you,
20	Ms. Johnson.
21	QUESTIONS
22	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:
23	Q I heard you indicate you said it was
24	case law that kind of established that if you're a
25	single owner of multiple wells that that can be put

1	Page 295 together as one public system; is that correct?
2	A Yes.
3	Q How are the systems determined in
4	Mr. Blevins' case?
5	A I was not a part of that decision, but
6	from what I've read in our internal documentation,
7	proximity was part of it. So, like, for Misty
8	Mountain, those five wells that were originally
9	identified, were all together and serving homes that
10	were all in close proximity, and it's known as a
11	subdivision as Misty Mountain, so that one made
12	since for grouping those.
13	And then Charity has interconnected
14	wells, so that was really simple. And Rolling Hills
15	just has the one well.
16	Q Okay. Thank you for explanation. Now,
17	you remember testifying here in WO2024-0036,
18	correct?
19	A Yes.
20	Q And that was in that case, the Commission
21	Staff was requesting that the Commission appoint a
22	receiver to take over Mr. Blevins' wells, correct?
23	A Yes.
24	Q Now, at that time, you had indicated that
25	you were working a noncompliant well agreement for

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1	Page 297 Topo Well to be plugged, contains those noncompliant
2	well agreement corrective actions, because the other
3	wells are still noncompliant. Then it had some
4	other things built in, including the administrative
5	penalty.
б	Q And that administrative order was appealed
7	to the AHC, correct?
8	A Yes.
9	Q And, ultimately, it was determined that
10	that order stood?
11	A Yes.
12	Q And, so, that's currently that is a
13	current enforceable order?
14	A Yes.
15	Q But that's not the case with the other
16	two, correct?
17	A Incorrect. So Rolling Hills does have an
18	effective order. It contains a waiver of right to
19	appeal and actually let me
20	Q Okay, so that's a consent order?
21	A Yes.
22	Q So what he's done there, is that it is an
23	agreement where he's agreed to give up the appeal,
24	and then there's some enforcement action that can be
25	done?



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1	Page 298 A And I just want verify real quick that
2	that this is part of that order. Yes, so there was
3	a waiver of the right to appeal for the Rolling
4	Hills administrative order.
5	Q And you said there is or is not one out in
6	regard to the Charity?
7	A I'm still trying to get a signed order for
8	Charity.
9	Q Okay. There's there's one consent
10	order and one administrative order; is that correct?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Now, originally I'll come back to that.
13	Originally, it was my understanding from the last
14	hearing, from the receivership hearing, that it was
15	DNR that put Mr. Blevins in contact with Lori Jean;
16	is that correct?
17	A I don't know about that. I don't know how
18	she came to be his operator.
19	Q Okay, so you don't know if DNR assisted
20	him with that?
21	A DNR isn't allowed to enforce or not
22	enforce, endorse any specific products or
23	businesses, so I think it would be unusual for us to
24	say you should hire this operator. Instead, we can
25	provide, like Mr. Blevins was referring to, we have



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1	Page 299 an online website where they can look up certified
2	operators in their area, but I don't know how Lori
3	Jean was identified and how she became his operator.
4	Q Okay. Now, Mr. Blevins has indicated that
5	he's had difficulty finding a system operator for
6	Pulaski County, and it appears that the commission
7	staff is having difficulty finding a potential
8	receiver if someone were to take Mr. Blevins'
9	systems in Pulaski County. So I'm taking that this
10	is a fairly rural out of the way place in which it's
11	hard to get people to handle these small water
12	systems; is that correct?
13	A While the neighborhoods themselves are a
14	little bit remote, they really are not that far from
15	cities like Waynesville, St. Robert. I you don't
16	have to hire a contractor operator; you can also be
17	certified yourself. You can have an employee get
18	certified. There are other options besides just
19	hiring someone who already is a contractor operator.
20	Q That's actually where I was going.
21	Wouldn't given the lack of available resources,
22	wouldn't it make the most sense for Mr. Blevins to
23	become his own system operator?
24	A I think so. Especially because DNR
25	provides vouchers which can cover the cost of



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1	Page 300 getting certified.
2	Q Now, I know that Staff had asked you what
3	had been done, and you listed a few things. One of
4	the things that was absent was the Taylor Well.
5	Now, we had had a procedural conference a while
6	back, and Mr. Blevins had expressed at that
7	conference that he had until the beginning of June
8	to get the Taylor Well operational. Is that part of
9	one of the AOCs or the AOs?
10	A At the time that we wrote the Misty
11	Mountain AO, the Taylor Well was just not
12	functional. And, so, we had we've had to kind of
13	pivot a little bit, with how we're handling that
14	because, while the Tigger HOA had a deadline, it
15	changed a little bit, but it was all that first week
16	of June for when they were going to cut off the
17	water access to Taylor.
18	Mr. Blevins did he told me he had
19	tested privately through the health department and
20	determined that it was bacteriologically safe. I
21	haven't seen those results. That wouldn't be a
22	sample we would take for compliance, but we don't
23	have any sort of sampling history for that well, so
24	outside of the order, because this was a new
25	development since the order was issued, we have set

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1	Page 301 up the sampling schedules for the other testing
2	that's done for community systems, things like
3	nitrate and organic compounds, there's several. So
4	we have kits I don't know if he's already gotten
5	them yet or if they're just still on the way, but he
6	needs to collect those samples that we also know
7	they're not only bacteriologically safe but
8	chemically safe.
9	Q Is there currently any outstanding order
10	of consent or otherwise in regard to the Taylor
11	Well?
12	A The Taylor Well is already included in the
13	effective order, the AO, for Misty Mountain. But
14	Mr. Blevins did not own the well at the time that we
15	wrote that order. So, like, we have the letter in
16	there that is already addressing the change in
17	ownership of the Tigger Well. This was a very
18	recent development. It happened just a few days ago
19	about the Taylor Well. We may have to, again, write
20	something about how we're going to handle that. I
21	don't know if we'll have to have any sort of
22	separate order. I don't know how that's going to
23	happen, because we have an effective order for the
24	circumstances that happened at the time, but they
25	keep changing.



1	Page 302 Q And I'm just I'm trying to follow this,
2	because the thing is it seems like there's a I
3	guess, there's a break in the system that I don't
4	quite understand. It seems like that you're telling
5	Mr. Blevins he has to do these things, and when he
6	doesn't do them, that there are these penalties
7	issued and these penalties are predominantly
8	financial, which, of course, you want to see that
9	money going into actually fixing the system, instead
10	of necessarily going toward fines and penalties, but
11	I also understand there's not a lot of other actions
12	that DNR can do prior to the Attorney General's
13	Office getting involved.
14	So I how do you currently see
15	Mr. Blevins how does DNR currently see
16	Mr. Blevins' situation getting resolved?
17	A As far as the orders that I have, I do not
18	believe Mr. Blevins will meet his deadline for
19	tomorrow to complete the corrective actions for the
20	Misty Mountain AO, so the next step would be
21	referral to the Attorney General's Office. With the
22	Attorney General's Office, we'll be able to also
23	address the additional violations that have happened
24	since then, the change of ownership of Tigger, the
25	change in ownership of Taylor; the fact that this



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1	Page 303 keeps changing.
2	If we do have a resolution, if it
3	does get taken care of, that's great. We would love
4	to be able to have compliance. That's the purpose
5	of the order is to identify what the issues are and
6	the steps that need to be taken to correct it.
7	That's the goal.
8	As far as the penalty, that's built
9	into statute. It's a common question that comes up
10	is that if the system is supposed to be fixing
11	things, why we do charge them money that won't go
12	towards the system, but that's in statute. That's
13	one of the things, though, that I don't know. In
14	an AO, it's not as negotiable, but if we had
15	penalties in the other order, that's something that
16	could be negotiated is the amount of the penalty.
17	I don't know that he is going to be
18	successful in returning to compliance with Misty
19	Mountain. Rolling Hills is really straight forward.
20	He just needs to submit that documentation that we
21	asked for. He needs to register his operating
22	authority, and he needs to get a permit to dispense.
23	Charity, if we cannot reach an
24	agreement within the next few days, I mean, so much
25	time has passed, so many requests for changes. If

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1	Page 304 he's not going to provide the information, we're not
2	going to reach an agreement, we're going to stop
3	trying to reach an agreement, and then we could
4	refer it to the Attorney General's Office.
5	The issue is, though, that one is
6	really a noncompliant well agreement. It's us
7	saying we know you have that well that wasn't built
8	to standards, but we will let you continue using it
9	under certain conditions. If he's not willing to
10	agree to that, I don't know that the attorney
11	general will also then try and enforce an order to
12	let him continue using noncompliant wells. He may
13	in fact lose the ability to use those wells if it
14	goes to the Attorney General's Office.
15	Q Thank you, just a moment. Mr. Blevins has
16	indicated that he's continued to do stuff, such as
17	activate the Taylor Well in response to being asked
18	to remove that that grouping of houses from the
19	Tigger Well, which I guess was supplying it. He's
20	also indicated other items he has done. Would it be
21	fair to say that while Mr. Blevins has accomplished
22	some actions, these are not the actions that DNR has
23	wanted him to accomplish?
24	A Yes.
25	Q So if DNR has a priority right now, what



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1	Page 305 would that priority be? If he were to do one thing,
2	what would be the most important thing?
3	A Collect routine bacteriological samples
4	from all of the systems.
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you. Any
6	recross based upon bench questions?
7	Mr. Blevins, do you have questions based on my
8	questions?
9	MR. BLEVINS: I have no questions. I've
10	got a lot of information or details I could
11	provide, but I don't think that's the time to
12	provide that.
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No, you'll have an
14	opportunity to do that when you testify. Any
15	redirect from the Commission Staff.
16	MS. KERR: No.
17	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Ms. Johnson, you
18	may step down. Now unfortunately today because
19	of childcare duties, I am not going to be able
20	to run this hearing late today. I would be
21	able to tomorrow, so why don't we go ahead and
22	start our next witness. If we get through him,
23	great; if not, we will continue upon to
24	tomorrow.
25	MS. KERR: Okay. I call Dalten Young.



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1	Page 306 LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Young, would you
2	come up to the stand and raise your right hand
3	and be sworn.
4	(Dalten Young sworn.)
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated.
б	Staff, go ahead.
7	DIRECT EXAMINATION
8	BY MS. KERR:
9	Q Good afternoon. Could you please state
10	your name and spell it for the record?
11	A Dalten, D-a-l-t-e-n, Young, Y-o-u-n-g.
12	Q And by whom are you employed, and what's
13	your position?
14	A I am the Public Drinking Water Unit Chief
15	for Central Field Operations for the Missouri
16	Department of Natural Resources.
17	Q And how long have you been employed in
18	that position?
19	A In this current position, since
20	October 2nd of 2023, but I've been with the unit
21	since September of 2021.
22	Q Okay. And just generally what do you do
23	in that in that position you're in?
24	A So, currently, I supervise three
25	inspectors and an engineer who conduct compilatory



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1	Page 307 inspections on public water supplies in the nine
2	counties of central Missouri, and that details doing
3	compliance inspections, compliance assistance,
4	technical assistance, really anything repertory for
5	the system or the boots on the ground type of
6	people.
7	Q Okay. And before you became a supervisor,
8	what kind of what were your duties and
9	responsibilities then?
10	A I was just an investigator, so I would go
11	out to systems who had to do their three to five
12	year inspection, or I would provide technical
13	assistance for systems that requested it. I also
14	served as the enforcement coordinator for Central
15	Field Operations, so I was involved with sending
16	systems to enforcement or referring them to
17	enforcement, if need be.
18	Q And are you familiar with Mr. Blevins?
19	A I am.
20	Q And how did you become familiar with him?
21	A I was part of the initial team that went
22	down to the Misty Mountain area in June of 2022 to
23	investigate some concerns we had about health-based
24	issues with the water, and through that process, we
25	met Mr. Blevins when he was activated as a public



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1	Page 308 water supply in August of 2022.
2	Q And when you became supervisor, did you
3	replace anyone?
4	A Yes, I did.
5	Q Who did you replace?
6	A I replaced Sebastien Clos-Versailles.
7	Q Okay. So you took over the case relating
8	to Mr. Blevins as supervisor for you replaced
9	sorry. Basically, you took over the case from
10	Mr. Clos-Versailles
11	A Yes, ma'am.
12	Q as supervisor? Okay, I'm sorry. And
13	how long so you've worked with Mr. Blevins since
14	2022?
15	A Off and on less directly. When I did
16	visit the Misty Mountain system, I did talk to Lori
17	Jean, the design operator, to keep information as
18	streamlined as possible. Ms. Johnson would speak to
19	Travis Blevins directly, and I mostly spoke to
20	customers and residents in the area, as so we did
21	not cross information or did have multiple sources
22	of information.
23	Q And, so, what is with Mr. Blevins'
24	case, what kind what kind of contact, I guess you
25	said what kind of contact you had with Mr. Blevins,



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1	Page 309 but with his case overall, what kind of contact did
2	you have with that or what's your involvement with
3	his particular case?
4	A Oh, we did the compliance inspections.
5	Me, personally, is more of a concern route. So
6	whenever we got concerns from residents in the area,
7	my main job was to go down and investigate those
8	concerns, either do sampling or look at the wells
9	themselves; or I would contact Lori Jean, the
10	operator, about the compliance issues that we had.

11 I did speak to Mr. Blevins in the field in person a 12 few times, but when did I contact him, it was mostly 13 through the phone as he was pretty responsive in 14 that area.

15 And did -- have you done the -- do 0 Okay. 16 you do inspections then and write reports?

I do. Α

17

Okay. With regard to Mr. Blevins' 18 0 19 systems, what kind -- what's been the result of the 20 inspections over the last couple of years that 21 you've been working with him?

2.2 So, Sebastien did the inspection in June Α 23 of 2022, when he left in September of 2023, I took 24 over the required actions of the case. So I worked 25 with Lori Jean to get the system back in compliance



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1	Page 310 and get updated information from the system about
2	that. Past that, I conducted two leveled
3	assessments on the Charity Public Water Supply,
4	which happens when you get multiple bac T samples
5	that are positive total coliform (sic) in a certain
6	amount of period, but that has been my only official
7	reporting I've done since being in this role.
8	Q Okay. And since you since you've taken
9	over as a supervisor for Mr. Blevins' case, could
10	you explain what kind of how his compliance has
11	been?
12	A Yes. As regarding to the official report
13	from 2023, all of these deficiencies from that
14	report have been resolved. There are what we call
15	unsatisfactory findings, which is usually more of a
16	paperwork issue, just the way a system is ran and
17	not really a physical component or health and safety
18	hazard. Some of those unsatisfactory findings are
19	still out of compliance regarding the permit to
20	dispense; we are lacking one of those. The lack of
21	a backup operator and fees from last year that are
22	not paid. The report findings are sill out of
23	compliance.
24	Outside of that, there are out of
25	compliance issues with not taking bacteriological



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1	Page 311 samples from all three systems; not having a
2	certified operator; and there is current violation
3	for not correcting a Level 2 Assessment from
4	December of 2023 or 2022, I'm sorry.
5	Q So he hasn't fixed the problems that were
6	there in December of '22?
7	A That's correct.
8	Q What problems were those?
9	A That was regarding the Topo E. coli issues
10	we were having up to that point. The corrective
11	action was to find and fix the issue or plug the
12	well and neither one of those things have happened.
13	Q Okay. What did happen?
14	A The well failed in March of 2023.
15	Q Okay. And Ms. Johnson has testified that
16	since March of this year, there have not been any
17	any water samples taken or provided to DNR?
18	A Not that were compliance samples from
19	Travis or a certified operator.
20	Q Okay. I mean, was there something else?
21	I mean, there was something.
22	A There was a concern that I worked two
23	weeks ago at the beginning of June, on Topo Drive, a
24	resident was very concerned that they did not have
25	any sample results from samples being taken the last



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1	Page 312 month, and they requested that my office go down and
2	do technical assistance just to get an idea on the
3	water. So I took a noncompliant sample, which means
4	it doesn't go in the record of the system, if it
5	comes back bad, we don't issue violations for it.
6	It's just kind want of an overall view of how the
7	water is. I did collect one of those that was total
8	coliform positive.
9	Q Okay. So that was for the do you know
10	which one I'm sorry, you might have already
11	answered this question, which well was that one for?
12	A It was for the Topo Drive, the well that
13	is currently connected to Pulaski County Number 2.
14	Q Okay.
15	LAW JUDGE CLARK: And can you clarify this
16	for me, I'm not understanding. So, the well is
17	collapsed, but it's connected to something?
18	THE WITNESS: Yes, so the physical well
19	that is in the ground, the casing collapsed and
20	dropped into the aquifer. There is a hookup,
21	or what we call bypass, in the well house.
22	Sometimes it's called an emergency connection,
23	where if that well fails or they need to turn
24	off for any kind of maintenance, they can
25	bypass that well if they're interconnected to



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1	another nearby water supply, which happened in	Page 313
2	this instance. They found an inner connection	
3	with the county district, Pulaski County Number	
4	2, and they were able to bypass that well, shut	
5	off the piping around it and use the water from	
6	the county to supply those houses. So it's	
7	kind of like having an interstate with an	
8	access road, the interstate is closed but	
9	there's still an access road where you can kind	
10	of go around.	
11	LAW JUDGE CLARK: I guess my question	
12	ultimately, is there a danger of	
13	cross-contamination from the Topo to the public	
14	water supply or Pulaski Water Supply 2?	
15	THE WITNESS: There is, if the Topo Well	
16	is not properly plugged and there's somehow	
17	still piping from that well into the	
18	distribution system, there can be backflow if	
19	Pulaski County Number 2 loses pressure, or if	
20	there's a major leak and stuff gets in there	
21	and backflows. That is a possibility.	
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, thank you. That's	
23	what I wanted to know. Go ahead, Staff, sorry	
24	for the interruption.	
25	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Thank you, Ms. Aslin is	



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1	Page 314 going to hand what's been marked I believe we're
2	on Exhibit 12?
3	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 11. I took
4	administrative or I took official notice of
5	Mr. Clos-Versailles's testimony.
6	MS. KERR: Okay.
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Instead of making it an
8	exhibit.
9	(Staff Exhibit 11 marked.)
10	Q (By Ms. Kerr) Do you recognize what I've
11	handed you?
12	A I do.
13	Q And what is that? Can you explain what
14	they are?
15	A Yes, this is two separate documents. One
16	is a Level 1 Assessment from having multiple
17	positive total coliform samples, and the second one
18	is a Level 2 Assessment, which happens when you have
19	multiple Level 1 Assessments, so it's kind of an
20	upgraded assessment.
21	Q Okay. What so the Level 1 is the first
22	one
23	A Yes, ma'am.
24	Q Is that like you get the Level 1, and then
25	if you don't fix Level 1 you get Level 2?

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1	Page 315 A Not necessarily don't fix. It's more if
2	you keep getting bad samples, then you get to
3	upgrade it to Level 2. In most tradition, a Level 1
4	Assessment is conducted by the system. A Level 2 is
5	conducted by our office.
6	Q Okay. Is that what happened here with
7	these two documents?
8	A No, what happened with the Level 1 is it
9	was coming up on the due date for the system, and so
10	these can actually be conducted over the phone with
11	the operator, which is what I did in this case. I
12	called Lori Jean on looks like November 13th and
13	conducted this assessment with her over the phone.
14	Q And what does can you explain what
15	were there violations noted?
16	A There were no violations noted with either
17	one of these assessments.
18	Q Okay. Was there any concerns that you had
19	when you got when he was issued these Level 1 and
20	Level 2 Assessments?
21	A Not at first. With most of these
22	assessments, it's due to operator sampling error
23	or weather conditions. I think we note on both of
24	those, it was windy or raining during the time of
25	the sampling. Bacteriological samples are so



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1	Page 316 finnicky that wind, pollen, even your breath can
2	make a sample bad. So, we think that's what
3	happened in this case just to due to all the rain we
4	had in early November, late October, is the reason
5	for these. With that, there's really nothing the
6	operator or the system owner can do other than
7	sample when it doesn't rain.
8	Q Okay. And, so, did you do that?
9	A We informed the operator, Lori Jean, to
10	monitor the weather and take samples when, maybe,
11	after it rains, wait a week or two or clean the
12	sample top really well before sampling.
13	Q Okay, so so was this Level 2
14	Assessment, the second document, was that as a
15	result of the Level 1?
16	A Yes, it was a result, because they got two
17	Level 1 Assessments in the same 12 months; that
18	second level assessment gets upgraded to a level 2,
19	which is when our office goes physically on site to
20	conduct the assessment, which is the same as
21	inspection just without the paperwork. So it has
22	the same thoroughness as a compliance inspection.
23	Q Were any of were there any assessment
24	Level 1 or Level 2 that assesses for Level 1 or
25	Level 2 Assessments done for any of the other wells



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1	Page 317 this one, I believe, is Charity?
2	A I believe last year. I'm not sure what
3	the date was. There may have been a Level 1 for
4	Rolling Hills. We don't really see too many
5	compliance issues coming out of that system. Misty
6	Mountain, there have not been since Topo has been
7	hooked up to Pulaski County 2. Before then, there
8	were numerous Level 2 Assessments due to E. coli on
9	the Topo Drive Well. But nothing since March of
10	last year.
11	Q Okay. And, so, are these notices new
12	violations that have occurred since October of '23?
13	A They're not necessarily violations.
14	They're just more saying you have an issue, please
15	fix it. And that's what the assessment does. It
16	helps them identify what the issue is to fix. So
17	that's been the only new thing only new thing
18	since October.
19	Q Okay. Now, you're saying there's an
20	issue do these normally go out to other water
21	systems when just as a matter of course?

A Yeah, these are fairly common, especially
in heavy rain seasons like early spring and late
fall. These assessments are pretty common for
systems who maybe have a more shallow well or an

1	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 318 operator who may know to not sample in the rain or
2	just not clean a sample tap. These are a pretty
3	common thing in my office.
4	Q And you've your office has collected or
5	has received water samples from each of the three
6	public water systems. And just is that right?
7	A Up until March of this year, yes, ma'am.
8	Q And in comparison, what what was the
9	level of those? I mean, were there concerns with
10	those or what was the problem with those?
11	A Out of Charity and Rolling Hills, there
12	wasn't too much concern. We had a few total
13	coliform positive samples here and there. That's
14	typical. I mean, that can happen to any system. E.
15	coli is what are we worried about the most, and out
16	of Misty Mountain, I believe, there's between 85 and
17	90 compliance samples since August of '22, and 55 of
18	those were total coliform positive and 35 of those
19	were E. coli positive.
20	Q And that was since I'm sorry, you said
21	since
22	A August of 2022 when they were activated as
23	a public water supply.
24	Q Okay. Compared to other water systems,
25	how does that compare?

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1	Page 319 A It depends on the system. A system of
2	similar size and operation, we may see an E. coli
3	once every three or four years. They are not very
4	common. If there's an E. coli, there's usually
5	contamination in the well itself on the lines. It's
6	very rare that some systems get them; some systems
7	may never get one. One may get ten a year. It's
8	very hard to tell, but based on similar systems,
9	similar size, I would say once every three years.
10	Q And, so, compared to that, the 35 E. coli
11	samples that came back, that's out of the ordinary?
12	A Extremely, yes.
13	Q And, so, what was the difference between
14	the coliform the first type of sample?
15	A So, in order to have E. coli, you need to
16	have total coliform. Total coliform is a pocket of
17	bacteria that E. coli is housed into. So you can
18	have total coliform or TC and not E. coli, but you
19	have to TC to have E. coli. Very rarely will E.
20	coli ever be present by itself, so it's kind of like
21	you need a house to live in; the TC is the house and
22	E. coli is the person.
23	Q Okay. And, so, 35 of those samples had
24	enough to have E. coli?
25	A Yes.



1	Page 320 Q And just for the commissioners of and
2	my edification, what what of the what kind of
3	concerns does that bring to DNR when there's so many
4	bad samples?
_	

5 Α It brings a lot of concern. It lets us 6 know that there is an active issue somewhere in the 7 system, whether it's the well or the lines. You 8 know, one bad sample here and there, you can kind of 9 write off, but when you have this amount, you know 10 there's an active issue somewhere. And E. coli can 11 lead to numerous health risks and sicknesses, and we 12 did get a report of a couple sicknesses, which led 13 us to investigate the area.

14 Q And was Mr. Blevins notified of these 15 sample -- these E. coli and other total coliform 16 samples?

I believe so. 17 At least Lori Jean was Α 18 always notified. When a sample comes into my office 19 for results, we notify whoever is listed as chief 20 operator, unless it's the owner themselves. Then 21 we'll call the owner. But Lori Jean was always 2.2 notified, and I believe she would forward that 23 information on to Mr. Blevins.

Q Okay. And so these 35 samples, was that over the course of the time that you testified to --



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1	Page 321 was there more E. coli samples at one point than the
2	other or was that just spread out?
3	A It was a pretty constant stream. As Lori
4	Jean testified earlier, there would be sometimes
5	when the well would come back clean, you go back the
6	next day and you have E. coli. So, TC moves in
7	pockets, so it's not like someone is dumping in a
8	steady stream of it. You may catch a pocket one day
9	and then not the next, but these E. colis were never
10	hit or miss. They were always pretty constant.
11	Q And do you know as far as you know, has
12	that been corrected?
13	A Since the Topo Well has collapsed and they
14	are now connected to the county, we have not
15	received any more E. coli samples out of Misty
16	Mountain.
17	Q What about in any from the other two?
18	A We have never received an E. coli from
19	Charity or Rolling Hills.
20	MS. KERR: I'll ask that I'll move that
21	Exhibit 11 be admitted?
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have
23	any objections to admitting Exhibit 11, the
24	Level Assessments documentation onto the
25	hearing record?

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1	Page 322 MR. BLEVINS: No objection.
2	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Exhibit 11 is admitted
3	onto the hearing record.
4	(Staff Exhibit 11 admitted onto the hearing record.)
5	Q (By Ms. Kerr) And you worked with Jackie
6	Johnson on Mr. Blevins' case?
7	A I do, yes.
8	Q And can you describe what that how that
9	works between your office or your section and hers?
10	A Yeah, we routinely share information on
11	ongoing cases. Jackie has a numerous amount of
12	cases. Some that are in my area, some in other
13	jurisdictions. So anytime I learn something new or
14	she learns something new, we always share the
15	information together.
16	Q So that would include all the samplings
17	and if there were any violations
18	A Yes, ma'am.
19	Q Okay. So do you have any ongoing concerns
20	about any of the well systems?
21	A I do.
22	Q And what are they?
23	A The lack of sampling for all three
24	systems, especially with the Taylor Well now up and
25	running, we have zero sampling history from bac T or

	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024
1	Page 323 any kind of chemical samples from that well; and we
2	have no idea what kind of water that well is pushing
3	out.
4	Mr. Blevins did indicate that he took
5	a sample to the county health department that tested
6	clean for any kind of bacteria, but we do not count
7	the county health department samples as regulatory
8	samples for DNR.
9	Q Okay. So not having those samples, do
10	you does that bring you concerns about his
11	ability to provide safe and adequate water for the
12	residents of those systems?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Can you explain that?
15	A How so?
16	Q Well, why would not having the samples
17	how would that be considered how would that
18	make make that a DNR concern for the safe and
19	adequate drinking water?
20	A Because we have no idea what people
21	are actually drinking or bathing in. We don't know
22	if there are pockets of TC or E. coli running
23	through those wells. We don't know if they have
24	high levels of nitrate. We don't know if there's
25	any volatile or organic chemicals in there. We

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1	Page 324 don't know if there's any type of cyanide or any
2	type of inorganic chemicals that are in those wells:
3	high iron, manganese, calcium, nitrate, nitrite.
4	There's a bunch of chemicals we test for that we
5	just don't know that's in those wells and what
б	people are drinking.
7	Q And that's just with regard to the public
8	water systems that are regulated by DNR?
9	A Yes, ma'am.
10	Q To your knowledge, does Mr. Blevins
11	operate other well systems that are not that are
12	not regulated by DNR; is that correct?
13	A I believe so. I don't have a list of
14	exactly what those are or where they're at, but I
15	only knew a few of them.
16	Q But he does have some wells that he's
17	operating that are not, as far as you know,
18	regulated by DNR?
19	A I believe so, yes.
20	Q And, so, having not since they aren't
21	regulated, you don't get any samples from those?
22	A That's correct.
23	MS. KERR: I don't have any other
24	questions.
25	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, do you have



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024 Page 325			
1	any cross-examination for this witness?			
2	CROSS-EXAMINATION			
3	BY MR. BLEVINS:			
4	Q I do, yes. The testing that you mentioned			
5	a while ago, done at the Topo, what residence was			
6	that done on?			
7	A That was an anonymous concern, and I am			
8	not the authority to give that address out.			
9	Q That was it done on the Pulaski County			
10	water side or the distribution side?			
11	A That was on the distribution side after			
12	the connection.			
13	Q Okay. You did mention also about the			
14	possibility of the the well that is			
15	non-operational there; there is no well or anything			
16	there inside or down in the culvert. There you			
17	mentioned backflow. How would that backflow if the			
18	Pulaski County is going directly into that			
19	distribution system and not going through the well,			
20	whatsoever?			
21	A If there is a connection with the well			
22	into the distribution at any point, and Pulaski			
23	County loses pressure from a major line break or a			
24	well goes offline, it will back siphon what's ever			
25	down in those lines: air, dirt, bugs, stagnant			



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1	Page 3 water, back into the distribution system.	20			
2	Q Even though there's a the a valve				
3	there keep that from happening?				
4	A The foot valve, yes, but we've known that				
5	foot valves are not reliable to prevent stuff like				
6	that.				
7	Q How about a regular valve?				
8	A Possibly, but we also don't know how many				
9	connections were on the well itself. You could have				
10	a distribution piping, but in the case of a pitless				
11	adapter, that could be one 10 feet down; there could				
12	be one 12 feet down. We physically do not know				
13	what's down there.				
14	Q If that line was also capped on that side				
15	of the hole between the distribution lines and the				
16	well hole, if that was capped in between there, does				
17	that prevent backflow?				
18	A It can if it is physically severed.				
19	Q If what?				
20	A If it is physically severed, yes, it can.				
21	Q Okay, so that can be prevented on				
22	backflow?				
23	A Yes, sir.				
24	Q Okay. The were you aware at the time				
25	that when the E. coli problem was existing in that				

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1	Page327 Topo Well area, which I'm, of course, well aware of					
2	that myself, because we I think we all tried to					
3	investigate and find out what was going on, there					
4	was two other wells drilled during that time. Are					
5	you aware of that?					
6	A I am.					
7	Q Could that drilling have caused a lot of					
8	the E. coli possibly from the overflow or flushing					
9	or					
10	A It is technically possible, but in this					
11	case I don't believe so because the E. coli was					
12	present before those two holes were drilled.					
13	Q Yeah. It kept coming back, though; you					
14	would agree with that?					
15	A It					
16	Q During that period of time, that E. coli					
17	kept showing up regardless of what was done.					
18	The actual sample of the Taylor Well water					
19	different still on Misty Mountain; I did not do					
20	that sample. That was done by Rick Gile (sic). He					
21	was the operator, not the DNR operator but					
22	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, you're					
23	testifying. Is there a question in there?					
24	Q (By Mr. Blevins) Well, my question is,					
25	were you aware of that test being done by Mr. Gile?					



I	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024				
1	Page 328 A I am aware of the test being done. I did				
2	not know who conducted the test. I just know that a				
3	report from Jackie Johnson to me was that the test				
4	was clean of any bacteria.				
5	MR. BLEVINS: Yeah, okay. No further				
6	questions.				
7	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission				
8	questions? I hear none. I've got maybe just a				
9	couple.				
10	QUESTIONS				
11	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:				
12	Q You said you had indicated that a				
13	couple people in the area had gotten sick. Is that				
14	from E. coli?				
15	A It's from what we believed was E. coli.				
16	There was never any doctors who backed it up, if				
17	they even went to a doctor. They just claimed they				
18	had waterborne illness.				
19	Q Okay. Were these people that were				
20	would have been Blevins' customers?				
21	A Yes.				
22	Q Now, you indicated that you indicated				
23	that outside of the Topo Well, there were no E. coli				
24	samples taken at any of Mr. Blevins' other wells; is				
25	that correct?				

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1	A Yes. Page 329				
2	Q And then Topo Well collapsed, and this is				
3	more just a concern of my mine than anything else,				
4	that I noticed that Mr. Blevins will be proactive in				
5	repairing something when he sees a way that he can				
6	do it. And, so, I know that DNR, that there stance				
7	is we want the Topo Well capped, and that's one of				
8	the things that they've asked to have done, but I				
9	also just heard you tell him that if he physically				
10	severed it from the Pulaski Water Supply Number 2,				
11	but that won't cap the well, correct?				
12	A Correct. We still require a plugging				
13	which involves pouring cement down there.				
14	Q So that doesn't really resolve the issue.				
15	A Correct.				
16	Q So my concern is he's going to hear that,				
17	go out and do something that does not really resolve				
18	DNR's violation, so that's the comment and not				
19	really a question.				
20	Now, looking at Exhibit 11 of these				
21	level assessments, you had indicated or you				
22	testified on the stand that these are issued and				
23	then they're given a corrective action, correct? In				
24	this case, it says they were issued, there were two				
25	tests that were bad, and the response was the				

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1	Page 330 defects noted was windy or raining during sampling				
2	conditions and no corrective actions needed at the				
3	time. You just want them to sample better?				
4	A Yes. Oh, usually, we do a verbal				
5	recommendation of watch the weather report; do not				
6	sample during heavy wind or heavy rain or directly				
7	after; and wait a few days.				
8	Q What outside of the sampling				
9	violations, what health or safety violations have				
10	occurred since since this was before the				
11	receivership action in October?				
12	A Since October or before October?				
13	Q Since October.				
14	A Since October, we have no official health				
15	and safety violations I'm aware of besides the				
16	operator. I'm not sure that is a health and safety				
17	violation or a compliance violation.				
18	Q So the two the two ongoing things are				
19	no operator and no regular sampling?				
20	A Yes, sir.				
21	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Those are				
22	the questions I have. Mr. Blevins, do you have				
23	any cross-examination based on questions I just				
24	asked?				
25	MR. BLEVINS: No, sir.				



ſ	Evidentiary Hearing June 24, 2024				
1	Page 331 LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from staff.				
2	REDIRECT EXAMINATION				
3	BY MS. KERR:				
4	Q I just had a couple of questions. Now,				
5	you said you just testified in response to a				
6	question that severing the Topo Well, that would not				
7	resolve your concern, DNR's concerns?				
8	A That's correct, because even though that				
9	well is capped, someone could come by with a pipe				
10	wrench or a crowbar and uncap it, and then you have				
11	a direct hole into the aquifer where, as Mr. Blevins				
12	mentioned, there are two other wells connected to				
13	that aquifer downstream, and there may be more in				
14	the area on the same aquifer. So if someone comes				
15	by and dumps something down the well or continimants				
16	get inside of it, they're now contaminating other				
17	wells in the area as well.				
18	Q Okay. So that's so he could sever it				
19	and you'd still have problems?				
20	A Yes, ma'am. We would require a physical				
21	plugging of the concrete.				
22	Q Okay. And that has not been done?				
23	A As to my knowledge, no.				
24	MS. KERR: Okay. And okay. I don't				
25	have any other questions. Thank you.				

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1	Page 332 LAW JUDGE CLARK: I have one more question				
2	that occurred to me.				
3	FURTHER QUESTIONS				
4	BY LAW JUDGE CLARK:				
5	Q How many do you know do you have any				
6	idea with a well of this size, how many yards of				
7	concrete you're looking at to plug it?				
8	A I do not. Our Missouri geological survey				
9	would know that answer, but I do not.				
10	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any				
11	questions based upon my question, Mr. Blevins?				
12	MR. BLEVINS: No, sir.				
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Any further redirect				
14	based upon that?				
15	MS. KERR: No.				
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Young, you				
17	may step down. Thank you for your testimony.				
18	Staff, you may call your next witness. Well,				
19	I'm actually just going to ask: you can call				
20	your next witness, or we can take this witness				
21	up first thing in the morning. I have no				
22	preference, but I am going to call it right at				
23	close to 5:00.				
24	MS. KERR: Why don't we start with the				
25	next witness tomorrow morning, because I don't				

	20
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1	Page 333 think that I'll get through this witness			
2	necessarily before 5:00, and I'd rather have it			
3	all in one in one day, the same day, than			
4	try to split it up, if that's okay?			
5	LAW JUDGE CLARK: No, I think that's			
6	acceptable. Okay, before we break until			
7	tomorrow, is there anything else that the			
8	Commission needs to take up at this time?			
9	Staff?			
10	MS. KERR: I don't believe so. We need to			
11	get you copies of Exhibit 10, I think, but			
12	that's			
13	LAW JUDGE CLARK: If you just want to			
14	bring that tomorrow morning?			
15	MS. KERR: I can do that, sure.			
16	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Blevins, is there			
17	anything the Commission needs to take up today			
18	before we break for the day?			
19	MR. BLEVINS: No.			
20	LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, all right. We			
21	will break until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, and I will			
22	adjourn for the day. Thank you very much.			
23	(Wherefore, the hearing adjourned at 4:38 p.m.)			
24				
25				



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	Evidentiary Hearing	June 24, 2024
1	I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of	Page 336
2	Missouri do hereby certify that the witness	
3	whose testimony appears in the foregoing	
4	Examination Under Oath was duly sworn by me;	
5	that the testimony of the said witness was	
6	taken by me to the best of my ability and	
7	thereafter reduced to typewriting under my	
8	direction; that I am neither counsel for,	
9	related to, nor employed by any of the parties	
10	to the action in which this examination was	
11	taken, and further that I am not relative or	
12	employee of any attorney or counsel employed by	
13	the parties thereto, nor financially or	
14	otherwise interested in the outcome of the	
15	action a Kalonia	
16	Com mound	
17	within and for the State of Missouri	
18		
19		
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