

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

In the Matter of United Services, Inc’s)
Rate Increase Request) **File No. SR-2024-0206**

RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR CUSTOMER NOTICE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through counsel, and for its *Response to Motion for Customer Notice* states as follows:

1. On July 1, 2024, Staff and United Services, Inc. filed their *Non-Unanimous Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Utility Company Revenue Request Increase*.¹
2. On July 11, 2024, the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”) filed its *Motion for Customer Notice*, requesting a second notice of rate increase request be sent to United Services, Inc.’s customers and that a 30-day response period occur before the Commission consider issuing an order on the *Non-Unanimous Agreement*.
3. On July 12, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Setting Time for Responses*, stating that any responses to OPC’s *Motion for Customer Notice* be filed no later than July 22, 2024.
4. In the course of this case, Staff has followed the procedures set out in 20 CSR 4240-10.075 *Staff Assisted Rate Case Procedure*. 20 CSR 4240-10.075(6) and (7) set out requirements regarding local public hearings and a notice to be sent out ahead of local public hearings.

¹ On July 16, 2024, Staff filed a *Notice of Corrected Agreement* and a *Corrected Non-Unanimous Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Utility Company Revenue Increase Request*. The corrections have no effect on the *Agreement’s* proposed rates.

5. Nothing in 20 CSR 4240-10.075 requires a second notice be sent to customers following the completion of the Staff's audit.

6. While OPC is correct that the notice sent to customers did not include the amount of the proposed rate increase, it did state that United Services, Inc. was seeking a rate *increase*.

7. A virtual public hearing was held on February 20, 2024, and no United Services, Inc.'s customers testified. Additionally, there were no public comments received from customers.

8. If a second customer notice were sent, rate case expense would essentially double, and Staff would need to update the proposed amount of rate case expense to be recovered in rates.

9. A second notice and comment period is not necessary, will increase costs to United Services, Inc. and its customers, needlessly delays the implementation of new rates, and is not required by 20 CSR 4240-10.075.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits this *Response to Motion for Customer Notice* for the Commission's information and consideration and requests that the Commission approve the *Corrected Non-Unanimous Agreement* without a second notice and comment period.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Casi Aslin

Casi Aslin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 22nd day of July, 2024.

/s/ Casi Aslin