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STATE OF MISSOURI

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Request)
of Liberty Utilities,)
(Midstates Natural Gas) Corp.)
d/b/a Liberty to Implement)
a General Rate Increase for) File No. GR-2024-0106
Natural Gas Service in the)
Missouri Service Areas of the)
Company)

August 29, 2024
12:00 p.m.

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
via WebEx

Volume 5

CHARLES HATCHER, Presiding
SENIOR CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
JASON R. HOLSMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
JOHN MITCHELL,
COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED BY:
Shelley L. Mayer, CCR
Job No. 171331

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Commission

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For: Office of the Public Counsel

10 MS. JERMAINE GRUBBS
11 602 South Joplin Avenue
Joplin, Missouri 64801
12 For: Liberty Utilities

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1 (On the record at 12:09 p.m.)

2 JUDGE HATCHER: First, let's go on the
3 record. I would ask that everyone please mute
4 themselves unless they are speaking. This will cut
5 down on the noise level and also prevent audio
6 feedback.

7 Today is August 29th, 2024. The
8 Missouri Public Service Commission has set this
9 time for a local public hearing to give members of
10 the public a chance to comment about Liberty's
11 General Rate Increase application. And that is File
12 No. GR-2024-0106.

13 The Commission regulates the charges --
14 the rates charged by public utility companies in
15 Missouri to ensure that those rates are just and
16 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the
17 quality of service and safety of operations of the
18 public utilities.

19 There are five commissioners as I
20 mentioned. They are appointed by the governor and
21 confirmed by the senate. The Commission itself
22 employs a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys,
23 financial analysts, and other specialists in the
24 field of utility regulation.

25 My name is Charles Hatcher and I am the

1 regulatory law judge that will preside over this
2 hearing. With me today, again stating for the
3 record, with me today are Chair Kayla Hahn,
4 Commissioner Maida Coleman, Commissioner Jason
5 Holsman, Commissioner Glen Kolkmeier, and
6 Commissioner John Mitchell.

7 The commissioners have not made any
8 decisions in this case and, therefore, they cannot
9 answer any questions that you might have today
10 because they need to remain impartial until after all
11 of the evidence is presented.

12 At this time I'd ask for any opening
13 remarks from commissioners. And that is Star 6 to
14 unmute if you're called in. I don't hear anyone
15 offering opening remarks. Let's go ahead and move to
16 our entries of appearance for the parties. For
17 Liberty Midstates, go ahead. You might be muted,
18 Counsel, if you're speaking.

19 MS. GRUBBS: Can you hear me now, sir?

20 JUDGE HATCHER: Yes. Yes, go ahead.

21 MS. GRUBBS: Apologies. This is Jermaine
22 Grubbs. I'm appearing on behalf of Liberty
23 Utilities, Midstates Natural Gas Corporation doing
24 business as Liberty. I am the director of legal
25 services for Liberty's central region. My business

1 address is 602 South Joplin Avenue in Joplin,
2 Missouri 64801. Thank you.

3 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And for the
4 Staff of the commission.

5 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Good afternoon. I'm
6 Eric Vandergriff representing Staff counsel's office.
7 Our address is the Governor's Office Building at 200
8 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City.

9 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. And for the
10 Office of the Public Counsel.

11 MS. MARTIN: Hello. Appearing for the
12 Office of the Public Counsel is Anna Martin. I am
13 the associate counsel, and we are also at 200 Madison
14 Street in Jefferson City, Missouri 65202 or 1, I've
15 heard both, so. But we are in Suite 650.

16 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you. I appreciate
17 that. The normal process is to call up names on a
18 sign-up sheet. We did not have any witnesses
19 preregister to testify for this afternoon, so what
20 I'll do is I'll open this up to anyone who would like
21 to testify to give their comments to the Commission.
22 If you have called in on a phone, you'll need to
23 press Star 6 to unmute yourself. And what I'd like
24 to do is just go ahead and you to unmute yourself now
25 and then we will take witnesses one at a time. I'll

1 ask you to state and spell your name once again for
2 the record for the court reporter and then I'll swear
3 you in. Is anyone in attendance that would like to
4 offer their comments in this public hearing?

5 I understand it can be a little
6 overwhelming at times. Let me go ahead and give the
7 instructions for written comments. And I'll come
8 back around and ask one more time before we adjourn
9 the hearing for any live comments. But if you would
10 like to offer your written comments, you can go to
11 the PSC's website. And that's PSC.MO.gov. And in
12 the upper right-hand corner of that website is a link
13 that says Submit Comments. Just make sure that your
14 comment includes the case number. And once again
15 that is GR as in gas rate, GR-2024-0106.

16 And we'll come back to see if anyone
17 would like to go ahead and offer live testimony. If
18 you'd like to offer your comments today right now,
19 all of the commissioners are in attendance. Please
20 go ahead and unmute yourself and that's Star 6 if you
21 have used -- if you have called in on a phone.

22 Sometimes this happens. We have a public
23 question and answer session; that takes care of most
24 of the issues. And again, I understand it can be a
25 little overwhelming to -- to come before a public

1 body and testify. With that, I'll pause for just a
2 second to see if anyone is unmuting. With that we'll
3 go ahead and close out the hearing. Are there any
4 closing remarks from commissioners?

5 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, this is
6 Commissioner Holsman. On behalf of all the
7 commissioners just wanted to say thank you for
8 running the meeting and Staff and OPC and everybody
9 who attended today. And we'll keep presenting these
10 opportunities to hear from the public. And it's
11 their chance to let us know how they feel, and
12 sometimes not testifying lets us know something as
13 well. So thank everybody for their effort today.

14 JUDGE HATCHER: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Holsman. Any other commissioners wish to make any
16 closing remarks?

17 Okay. Thank you to all of our
18 participants today and to all of the supporting staff
19 and counsel that attended. The Commission does
20 appreciate this effort. And again, if you would like
21 to make written comments or you know someone who
22 couldn't attend today, they can still make comments
23 in this case by going to the website. And that again
24 is PSC.MO.gov. If you do have any questions for the
25 Office of the Public Counsel, you can send those to

1 their email address and that's MOPCO@OPC.MO.gov. And
2 that was a little long, let me repeat that.
3 MOPCO@OPC.MO.gov. And with that, this hearing is
4 adjourned and we'll go off the record.

5 (Off the record at 12:17 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF CALLAWAY)

I, Shelley L. Bartels, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 679, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the transcript of proceedings; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 8, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, or attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 4th day of September, 2024.



Shelley L. Bartels, CCR 679

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