

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Request)
of Liberty Utilities (Missouri)
Water) LLC d/b/a Liberty for) File No.
Authorityto Implement a General) WR-2024-0104
Rate Increase for Water and)
Wastewater ServiceProvided in its)
Missouri Service Areas)

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
6:18 p.m. - 6:29 p.m.

WebEx

Volume 3

JOHN CLARK, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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

Stenographically Reported By:
Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

Job No. 173446

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I N D E X

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1 The following proceedings began at 6:20 p.m.:

2 JUDGE CLARK: My name is John Clark. I'm the
3 Regulatory Law Judge. It is now 6:18. I'm going to
4 wait two minutes and we're going to start at 6:20. I
5 know many of the Commissioners wanted to attend tonight,
6 and I'm going to give them an opportunity to join.

7 (Off the record.)

8 JUDGE CLARK: It is now 6:20. Why don't we go
9 on the record. Good evening. It is September 17 of
10 2024, and the current time is 6:20 p.m. The question
11 and answer portion of the local public hearing just
12 ended. And if you had questions about this case, I
13 would hope you were able to get answers to those
14 questions.

15 Now we're going to start the formal part of
16 the hearing whereby anyone who wants to make comments to
17 the Commission about this case may do so. The Missouri
18 Public Service Commission has set aside this time this
19 evening for a local public hearing in File No.
20 WR-2024-0104, which is a general rate case captioned as
21 In the Matter of the Request of Liberty Utilities
22 (Missouri Water) LLC d/b/a Liberty for Authority to
23 Implement a General Rate Increase for Water and
24 Wastewater Service Provided in its Missouri Service
25 Areas.

1 As I said before, my name is John Clark. I'm
2 the Regulatory Law Judge presiding over this local
3 public hearing tonight. The Missouri Public Service
4 Commission regulates the rates charged by investor-owned
5 utility companies in Missouri to ensure that those rates
6 are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates
7 the quality of service and the safety of operations of
8 investor-owned utilities.

9 Now, the Commission is made up of five
10 Commissioners: The Commission's Chair, Kayla Hahn, and
11 Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman, Glen
12 Kolkmeier and John Mitchell. I believe all of those are
13 with me this evening and are here to listen to your
14 comments.

15 The Commissioners are appointed by the
16 Governor to a fixed term and confirmed by the Senate.
17 The Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
18 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other
19 specialists in the field of utility regulation.

20 Would any of the Commissioners like to make
21 any opening remarks? I hear none. I'm going to begin
22 by asking counsel to enter their appearance for the
23 record starting with Liberty Utilities.

24 MS. CARTER: Diana Carter for Liberty
25 Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Carter. For the
2 Commission Staff.

3 MS. ASLIN: Casi Aslin for Commission Staff.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Aslin. For the
5 Office of the Public Counsel.

6 MR. POSTON: I'm Marc Poston appearing for the
7 Office of the Public Counsel.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Poston. And are
9 there any intervenors present?

10 MS. WHIPPLE: Peggy Whipple for the Missouri
11 Electric Commission.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.
13 Whipple. You said the Missouri Electric Commission?

14 MS. WHIPPLE: Yes, Your Honor.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Now, as of right now
16 I don't have anyone signed up to provide comments today.
17 However, if you would like to make comments to the
18 Commission, this is your opportunity to do so. The
19 Commission takes your comments very seriously. We like
20 to get as much input from the public as we can about
21 these kinds of cases.

22 If you wish to offer comments to the
23 Commission tonight, what I'm going to do is I'm going to
24 ask you to let me know, then I'll ask you to state your
25 name and spell it for the record. Then I'll place you

1 under oath. All comments are taken under oath. And you
2 may offer your comments to the Commission. There's no
3 specific time limit tonight, but please try and keep
4 your remarks to less than five minutes so that everybody
5 who might want to speak could get a chance to.

6 Also, if you choose to offer comments to the
7 Commission, after you're done offering your comments
8 don't immediately mute yourself. Myself, some of the
9 attorneys, or even a Commissioner may have a question
10 for you about your comments. So please wait just a
11 minute before rejoining the audience.

12 Also, if you are attending via phone and you
13 need to unmute yourself for the purpose of making a
14 comment, you'll want to press *6 to do so.

15 Now, the Commission and myself are not going
16 to be able to answer questions today, and that's because
17 the Commissioners have to remain impartial until after
18 all the evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing
19 in this case.

20 If you have questions, please speak to the
21 representative of the Company, Commission Staff or the
22 Office of the Public Counsel. I'm also going to ask
23 that everybody be polite, not interrupt each other, and
24 treat others who are speaking today as you would like to
25 be treated. As I said, nobody has signed up. Is there

1 anybody at this time who would like to offer comments to
2 the Commission about this case?

3 MR. WILLIAMS: I would. My name is Trenton
4 Williams.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, could you spell
6 your name for the record.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Trenton, T-r-e-n-t-o-n,
8 Williams, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

9 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Williams, will you raise
10 your right hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or
11 affirm that the comments you're about to give at this
12 local public hearing are the truth?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead. What would you
15 like to tell the Commission this evening?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: I feel like that there should
17 be an increment of rate increase instead of all at once
18 at 100 percent increase. I think that that would be a
19 more fair solution for both commercial and residential
20 consumers.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Is that all you
22 wanted to say about that, or do you have further you
23 would want to expound on?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: That's all I have to say.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments,

1 Mr. Williams. Is there anybody else who would like to
2 make comments to the Commission at this time?

3 Okay. I'm not hearing anybody. If anybody
4 else would like to, or decide they would like to, before
5 I finish my closing remarks, please let me know. I'd
6 like to thank everybody who showed up today to get
7 answers to your questions about this case. I know it
8 takes a lot of fortitude to do that. If you get home
9 and you realize that maybe you wanted to make a comment
10 but didn't or you are talking to a friend or neighbor
11 and they wanted to make a comment but were unable to
12 attend, there's also the opportunity to make written
13 comments. You may do so by contacting the email address
14 psc (Public Service Commission) pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. You
15 may contact the Office of the Public Counsel. They have
16 been very amenable at helping people make comments to
17 the Commission. Or by going to the PSC's web page and
18 you'll see a link to comment on cases. If you're going
19 to comment on a case, be sure that you include the case
20 number, which I said at the beginning and I will say one
21 more time, is WR-2024-0104.

22 MR. LAMONS: Judge, this is Brian. I might
23 have seen someone raise their hand. I'm not sure if
24 they meant to or not.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I wasn't looking at the

1 screen. Is there somebody who raised their hand who
2 would like to make a comment? I do not see any hands
3 up.

4 Okay. I would like to thank everyone for
5 attending this hearing. I have no closing remarks to
6 make since we only had one comment. Thank you,
7 Mr. Williams, again. With that in mind, we will adjourn
8 this hearing and go off the record. Thank you very
9 much.

10 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 6:29
11 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Public Service Commission Local Public Hearing and that the transcript, pages 1 through 10, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

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

Dated this 25th day of September, 2024.

Beverly Jean Bentch

Beverly Jean Bentch, RPR, CCR No. 640

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