

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
VIRTUAL LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Request)
of Liberty Utilities, LLC,)
d/b/a Liberty for Authority)
to Implement a General Rate) File No WR-2024-0104
Increase for Water and)
Wastewater Service Provided)
In its Missouri Service Areas)

Friday, September 27, 2024
12:15 P.M.

Volume IX

JOHN CLARK
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, CHAIR
MAIDA J. COLEMAN
JASON R. HOLSMAN
GLEN KOLKMEYER
JOHN P. MITCHELL

Reported by:
COLIN WALLIS
LEXITAS LEGAL

1 * * * * *

2 (The hearing began at 12:15 p.m.)

3 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: Okay, it's
4 now 12:15. Let's go ahead and go on the
5 record. Good afternoon. September 27 of 2024.
6 And the current time is 12:16 p.m. The
7 question-and-answer portion of this local
8 public hearing just ended. If you had
9 questions about this rate case, I hope you were
10 able to get answers to those questions.

11 The Missouri Public Service Commission has
12 set aside this time for a local public hearing
13 in file number WR-2024-0104, which is a general
14 case captioned as In the Matter of the Request
15 of Liberty Utilities Missouri Water, LLC, doing
16 business as Liberty, for Authority to Implement
17 a General Rate Increase for Water and
18 Wastewater Provided in its Missouri Service
19 Areas.

20 My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory
21 Law Judge presiding over this hearing today.
22 Now, the Missouri Public Service Commission
23 regulates the rates charged by investor-owned
24 utility companies in Missouri to ensure that
25 those rates are just and reasonable. The

1 Commission also regulates the quality of
2 service and the safety of operations of
3 investor-owned utilities.

4 Now, the Commission is made up of five
5 commissioners: Commission's Chair, Kayla Hahan,
6 and Commissioners Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman,
7 Glen Kolkmeier and John Mitchell. The
8 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to
9 fixed terms and confirmed by the Senate. The
10 Commissioners employ a staff of engineers,
11 accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and
12 other specialists in the area of utility
13 regulation.

14 Now, with me today, present at this WebEx
15 hearing, are the Commission's Chair, Kayla
16 Hahn, and Commissioners Coleman, Holsman and
17 Kolkmeier.

18 There's a court reporter here today. The
19 Commission -- the court reporter is taking
20 everything down, so that any commissioners that
21 were not able to attend today will have an
22 opportunity to look over any comments that are
23 given to the Commission. Would any of the
24 commissioners like to make any opening remarks?

25 CHAIRPERSON HAHN: Good afternoon, Judge

1 Clark. This is Chair Hahn. On behalf of all
2 of the commissioners, I just want to say, I
3 look forward to hearing everyone's public
4 comments today, appreciate Staff -- Staff's
5 time and parties' time on this Friday afternoon
6 and look forward to learning more. Thank you
7 so much.

8 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you,
9 Chair Hahn. I'm going to begin at this time by
10 asking the parties to enter their appearance
11 for the record starting with Liberty Utilities.

12 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Judge, if I may,
13 for the record, Commissioner Mitchell is
14 present.

15 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: I apologize,
16 Commissioner Mitchell. I did not know you were
17 here. So, the entire Commission is present.
18 Thank you again, Commissioner Mitchell. On
19 behalf of Liberty Utilities?

20 MS. CARTER: Good afternoon. This is
21 Diana Carter for Liberty Utilities Missouri
22 Water, LLC.

23 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you,
24 Ms. Carter. On behalf of Commission Staff?

25 MS. ASLIN: Casi Aslin for Commission's

1 Staff.

2 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you,
3 Ms. Aslin. On behalf of the Office of the
4 Public Counsel?

5 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston for the Office of
6 the Public Counsel.

7 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE CLARK: Thank you,
8 Mr. Poston. Are there any intervenors present?
9 There were a number of intervenors in this
10 case. Okay, I don't hear anyone.

11 Now, normally, this would be the part of
12 the local public hearing where I would tell
13 everyone that I would be calling -- calling
14 people to comment based on how many signed up
15 to comment. However, nobody has signed up to
16 offer comments with the Commission. However,
17 this is still a portion of the local public
18 hearing, so what I'm going to do is, I'm going
19 to ask right now, and you can let me know by
20 unmuting yourself. We don't really use the
21 chat function in these WebEx, but is there
22 anybody who wanted to offer their comments to
23 the Commission today about this rate case?
24 This is really the Commission's only
25 opportunity to hear from the public, and we,

1 the Commission, really does want to hear what
2 you have to say. So, is there anyone who
3 wanted to offer comments to the Commission
4 today?

5 Okay. I hear no one. I would like to
6 everyone -- like to thank everyone who showed
7 up today. Again, I hope if you had questions,
8 during the question-and-answer portion, you
9 were able to get those questions answered. If
10 you get home and you realize that you had
11 wanted to make a comment but didn't get to make
12 it or you're talking to a friend or a neighbor
13 and they said, oh, I would have liked to -- I
14 would have liked to left a comment for the
15 Commission, you may still do that. The
16 local public hearings are not the only means of
17 offering comments to the mission -- Commission.

18 You may offer -- also offer them by
19 contacting the e-mail address, PCS, that stands
20 for Public Service Commission, PSC info at
21 psc.mo.gov, and by contacting the Office of the
22 Public Counsel, they've been very good about
23 seeing -- helping people leave comments with
24 the Commission; and probably the easiest method
25 is by going to the -- the PSC's webpage, and

1 you go to our webpage, you'll find a link to
2 leave comments. If you decide you want to
3 leave comments using that link, you'll need to
4 know the case number, which I've said before
5 is, WR-2024-0104.

6 I'll ask one more time: is there anybody
7 who wanted to offer comments to the Commission
8 today? All right, hearing none, thank you very
9 much. I will adjourn this hearing, and we will
10 go off the record.

11 (Ending time of the hearing: 12:21 p.m.)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

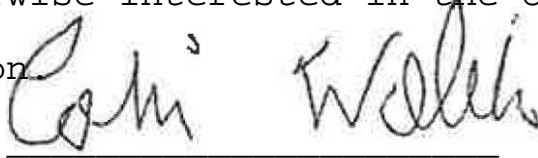
22

23

24

25

1 I, Colin Wallis, in and for the State of
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.


Colin Wallis

17 within and for the State of Missouri
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1	C	D	21 3:15 4:3 5:12, 18
12:15 2:2,4	calling 5:13	Diana 4:21	Holsman 3:6,16
12:16 2:6	captioned 2:14		hope 2:9
2	Carter 4:20,21,24	E	I
2024 2:5	case 2:9,14 5:10, 23	employ 3:10	Implement 2:16
27 2:5	Casi 4:25	ended 2:8	Increase 2:17
A	Chair 3:5,15 4:1,9	engineers 3:10	intervenors 5:8,9
accountants 3:11	CHAIRPERSON 3:25	ensure 2:24	investor-owned 2:23 3:3
afternoon 2:5 3:25 4:5,20	charged 2:23	enter 4:10	J
ahead 2:4	chat 5:21	entire 4:17	Jason 3:6
analysts 3:11	Clark 2:3,20 4:1,8, 15,23 5:2,7	everyone's 4:3	John 2:20 3:7
answers 2:10	Coleman 3:6,16	F	Judge 2:3,21 3:25 4:8,12,15,23 5:2,7
apologize 4:15	comment 5:14,15	file 2:13	K
appearance 4:10	comments 3:22 4:4 5:16,22	financial 3:11	Kayla 3:5,15
appointed 3:8	Commission 2:11, 22 3:1,4,19,23 4:17,24 5:16,23	fixed 3:9	Kolkmeier 3:7,17
area 3:12	Commission's 3:5,15 4:25 5:24	forward 4:3,6	L
Areas 2:19	Commissioner 4:12,13,16,18	Friday 4:5	Law 2:3,21 4:8,15, 23 5:2,7
Aslin 4:25 5:3	commissioners 3:5,6,8,10,16,20, 24 4:2	function 5:21	learning 4:6
attend 3:21	companies 2:24	G	Liberty 2:15,16 4:11,19,21
attorneys 3:11	confirmed 3:9	general 2:13,17	LLC 2:15 4:22
Authority 2:16	Counsel 5:4,6	Glen 3:7	local 2:7,12 5:12, 17
B	court 3:18,19	Good 2:5 3:25 4:20	M
based 5:14	current 2:6	Governor 3:8	made 3:4
began 2:2		H	Maida 3:6
begin 4:9		Hahan 3:5	
behalf 4:1,19,24 5:3		Hahn 3:16,25 4:1, 9	
business 2:16		hear 5:10,25	
		hearing 2:2,8,12,	

<p>make 3:24</p> <p>Marc 5:5</p> <p>Matter 2:14</p> <p>Missouri 2:11,15, 18,22,24 4:21</p> <p>Mitchell 3:7 4:12, 13,16,18</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p>quality 3:1</p> <p>question-and-answer 2:7</p> <p>questions 2:9,10</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>taking 3:19</p> <p>terms 3:9</p> <p>time 2:6,12 4:5,9</p> <p>today 2:21 3:14, 18,21 4:4 5:23</p>	
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>number 2:13 5:9</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>rate 2:9,17 5:23</p> <p>rates 2:23,25</p> <p>reasonable 2:25</p> <p>record 2:5 4:11,13</p> <p>regulates 2:23 3:1</p> <p>regulation 3:13</p> <p>Regulatory 2:3,20 4:8,15,23 5:2,7</p> <p>remarks 3:24</p> <p>reporter 3:18,19</p> <p>Request 2:14</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>unmuting 5:20</p> <p>utilities 2:15 3:3 4:11,19,21</p> <p>utility 2:24 3:12</p>	
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>offer 5:16,22</p> <p>Office 5:3,5</p> <p>opening 3:24</p> <p>operations 3:2</p> <p>opportunity 3:22 5:25</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>safety 3:2</p> <p>Senate 3:9</p> <p>September 2:5</p> <p>service 2:11,18,22 3:2</p> <p>set 2:12</p> <p>signed 5:14,15</p> <p>specialists 3:12</p> <p>staff 3:10 4:4,24 5:1</p> <p>Staff's 4:4</p> <p>starting 4:11</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>wanted 5:22</p> <p>Wastewater 2:18</p> <p>Water 2:15,17 4:22</p> <p>Webex 3:14 5:21</p> <p>WR-2024-0104 2:13</p>	
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>p.m. 2:2,6</p> <p>part 5:11</p> <p>parties 4:10</p> <p>parties' 4:5</p> <p>people 5:14</p> <p>portion 2:7 5:17</p> <p>Poston 5:5,8</p> <p>present 3:14 4:14, 17 5:8</p> <p>presiding 2:21</p> <p>Provided 2:18</p> <p>public 2:8,11,12, 22 4:3 5:4,6,12, 17,25</p>			