

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

In the Matter of the Commission’s Proposed	)	
Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.155 and Proposed	)	
Rescissions of 20 CSR 4240-20.015, 40.015	)	
40.016, and 80.015 Relating to Affiliate	)	File No. OX-2025-0104
Transactions for Electrical Corporations,	)	
Gas Corporations, Heating Companies,	)	
Certain Water Corporations and Certain	)	
Sewer Corporations	)	

**MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY’S COMMENTS**

COMES NOW the Respondent, Missouri-American Water Company (“MAWC” or “Company”), provides the following comments in response to the proposed Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) Rule 20 CSR 4240-10.155 and the proposed rescission of Commission Rules 20 CSR 4240-20.015, 40.015, 40.016, and 80.015 concerning Affiliate Transactions.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Commission currently has affiliate transaction rules that apply to electric, gas, and heating utilities, gas utilities with gas marketing operations, electric, gas, and heating utilities with HVAC affiliates. MAWC has previously submitted and continues to affirm, that it does not believe those rules should be rescinded and replaced with the proposed rule that includes water corporations and certain sewer corporations. No such affiliate transactions rules currently apply to water corporations or sewer corporations. The proposed rule that has been filed with the Secretary of State and is open for comment largely works to combine the existing electric and gas affiliate transaction rules and gas marketing affiliate rules. However, it also seeks to apply those rules for the first time to large water and sewer corporations (those having 8,000 or more customers). MAWC understands it is the only “large” water or sewer utility in Missouri to which

this draft rule would apply. The expansion of an affiliate transaction rule that includes MAWC is not an efficient use of the Commission's, and MAWC's, resources because concerns regarding affiliate transactions can, and are, addressed in the context of MAWC's rate proceedings and water utilities are distinct from natural gas and electric utilities.

### **AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS ARE EXAMINED IN RATE CASES**

MAWC's affiliate transaction are fully audited and auditable by the Staff of the Commission (Staff), the Office of the Public Counsel, and other parties today. These issues have been raised, examined, and resolved in past MAWC rate cases. In fact, MAWC affiliate transactions have been scrutinized in all of its rate cases, including its most recent concluded rate case – Case No. WR-2022-0303. As a part of those cases, the Company has provided studies to support the reasonableness of service company costs in the context of its rate cases. No rate case adjustments were proposed in Case No. WR-2022-0303 for improper affiliate transactions or cost allocations to MAWC.

### **WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES ARE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER UTILITY TYPES**

Affiliate transaction rules are not necessary for water and sewer corporations in the same way they may apply to electric and gas corporations. In many cases, the gas and electric companies have transactions with affiliates that compete with other, unregulated entities in the marketplace. These transactions may consist of natural gas and power purchases and sales, including electric power supply agreements, capacity supply agreements, energy swaps and energy products, and transmission services. MAWC does not have a similar situation. The vast majority (if not all) of MAWC's transactions with affiliates are for corporate support, including its purchases of professional services from the service company and its access to debt markets through its financing affiliate. The overwhelming evidence in past rate cases shows that MAWC is procuring these services from its affiliates at costs that are well below what it would otherwise incur if it had to

purchase those services from unaffiliated, third parties or employ full-time employees to provide those services to MAWC.

### **COST ALLOCATION MANUAL**

There is no need for MAWC to create a new cost allocation manual. As part of the Stipulation and Agreement in Case No. WR-2003-0500 approved on April 6, 2004, the Company agreed to provide, and continues to provide, a Cost Allocation Manual (CAM) to the Staff of the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) by March 16th of each year. That CAM contains criteria, guidelines and procedures for the Service Company cost allocations to MAWC and its affiliates. The costs of support services, including wages, employee benefits, professional services, and other expenses, are based on, or are an allocation of, actual costs incurred. Therefore, this obligation already exists and MAWC is committed to continue compliance as previously stipulated.

### **COMMENTS TO PROPOSED RULE**

Should the Commission determine that applying an affiliate transactions rule to MAWC is appropriate, MAWC suggests that the changes reflected in redline on the attached Appendix A be adopted by the Commission before this rule moves forward.

MAWC submits that the Commission further refine the evidentiary standard for affiliate transactions as proposed. The proposed standard is ambiguous and contradicts the tenet that a covered utility's decision must be evaluated based on the known facts at the time the decision was made. The proposed standard introduces hindsight into the review, unfairly subjecting the covered utility to be second guessed on facts or circumstances not known to the utility at the time the decision was made. Additionally, as proposed, the evidentiary standard is ambiguous as to when the timing of cost calculation should occur; therefore, MAWC proposes that the Commission clarify the timing in which costs are calculated.

MAWC suggests that the Commission refine the proposed language requiring the covered utility, the Commission and Office of Public Counsel agree to the electronic format of a covered utility's transaction records. The proposed rule provides no recourse to a covered utility when an unreasonable demand is made by another party. Additionally, because business processes and business needs of a covered utility may change, a covered utility should maintain its affiliate transaction records in a format most appropriate and consistent with its information system and business practice needs. Additionally, MAWC suggests that the Commission clarify that certain transactions, as defined in 20 CSR 4240-10.155(2)(F) are exempt from the Affiliate Transactions Report.

As proposed, 20 CSR 4240-10.155(7) Records of Affiliates directs a covered utility to "ensure" its parent and affiliates retain affiliate transaction records and designates a minimum standard of information to be maintained. As the Commission is likely aware, MAWC is not the controlling entity of its parent nor any of its affiliates and does not have the authority to direct their respective business practices or specifically, the maintenance of their respective books and records. Therefore, in order to define the limitations over a covered utility's authority over its parent and affiliates business practices and records, MAWC suggests changes to the rule to limit access to documents maintained by the covered utility and not purport to extend this access to the records of unregulated entities not regulated by the Commission beyond those records related to the affiliate transactions with the covered utility.

Additionally, MAWC notes that the proposed rule contains provisions concerning the movement of employees. This general issue of applicability of the affiliate transaction rule to employee movement was addressed by the Commission when the original affiliate transaction rules were promulgated. The Commission found at that time that "employee transfers do not have to be restricted, penalized or compensated to accomplish" the purpose of the affiliate transaction

rules; and, that the “requirement to list employee movement between the regulated utility and affiliated entities.” is a burdensome requirement that is not necessary. . . ” (Missouri Register, Vol. 25, No. 1, p. 57 (January 3, 2000)).

## **CONCLUSION**

Because the Commission already has the opportunity examine, and does examine, MAWC’s affiliate transactions within MAWC’s rate case, adding the restrictions or requirements in the proposed rule adds little or no value to the Commission or its customers. Alternatively, if the Commission deems it appropriate for all utility types to be included in the affiliate transactions MAWC requests the Commission adopt the proposed changes included in Appendix A.

Respectfully submitted,

MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via electronic mail on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024 to:

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*/s/ Rachel L. Niemeier*  
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**TITLE 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE**  
**Division 4240—Public Service Commission**  
**Chapter 10—Utilities**

**PROPOSED RULE**

**20 CSR 4240-10.155 Affiliate Transactions Respecting Electrical Corporations, Gas Corporations, Heating Companies, Certain Water Corporations and Certain Sewer Corporations**

*PURPOSE: This rule is intended to prevent a Missouri Public Service Commission regulated electrical corporation, gas corporation, heating company, water corporation (with more than eight thousand (8,000) customers), or sewer corporation (with more than eight thousand (8,000) customers) from subsidizing its nonregulated operations or its affiliates. In order to accomplish this objective, the rule sets forth standards of conduct, financial standards, evidentiary standards, access requirements, training requirements, and recordkeeping requirements applicable to any of these commission-regulated utilities whenever any such entity participates in a transaction with an affiliate (except with regard to HVAC services as defined in section 386.754, RSMo).*

(1) Definitions.

- (A) Affiliate means any person, including an individual, corporation, service company, corporate subsidiary, firm, partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, political subdivision including a public utility district, city, town, county, or a combination of political subdivisions, which directly or indirectly, through one (1) or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the covered utility. This term shall also include the nonregulated business operations of a covered utility.
- (B) Affiliate transaction means any transaction between a covered utility and an affiliate. Affiliate transactions as defined by this rule shall also include all transactions carried out between any nonregulated business operation of a covered utility and the regulated business operations of a covered utility. An affiliate transaction for the purposes of this rule excludes heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) services as defined in section 386.754, RSMo.
- (C) Affiliate Transactions Report means the filing that each covered utility is required to make with the secretary of the commission no later than each May 15, providing the information identified in section (6) of this rule, Recordkeeping Requirements.
- (D) Control (including the terms “controlling,” “controlled by,” and “common control”) means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or to cause the direction of the management or policies of an entity, whether such power is exercised through one (1) or more intermediary entities, or alone, or in conjunction with, or pursuant to an agreement with one (1) or more other entities, whether such power is exercised through a majority or minority ownership or voting of securities, common directors, officers or stockholders, voting trusts, holding trusts, affiliates, contract, or any other direct or indirect means. The commission shall presume that the beneficial ownership of ten percent (10%) or more of voting securities or partnership interest of an entity constitutes control for purposes of this rule. This provision, however, shall not be construed to prohibit a covered utility from rebutting the presumption that its ownership interest in an entity confers control.

- (E) Corporate support means those functions dedicated to supporting the joint operations of a covered utility and some or all of its affiliates, including but not limited to the areas of corporate oversight, governance, support systems and personnel, payroll, shareholder services, financial services, financial planning and management support, human resources, employee records, pension management, legal services, research and development, information technology, accounting services, environmental services, internal audit, supply chain, regulatory affairs, facilities management, security, and community relations.
- (F) Cost allocation manual (CAM) means the document that specifies the criteria, guidelines and procedures that the covered utility will follow to be in compliance with this rule. The CAM sets forth the covered utility's cost allocation, market valuation, and internal cost methods.
- (G) Covered utility means, for purposes of this rule, an electrical corporation, gas corporation, or heating company as defined in section 386.020, RSMo, subject to commission regulation pursuant to Chapters 386 and 393, RSMo, or a water corporation as defined in section 386.020, RSMo, subject to commission regulation pursuant to Chapters 386 and 393, RSMo, with more than eight thousand (8,000) customers, or a sewer corporation as defined in section 386.020, RSMo, subject to commission regulation pursuant to Chapters 386 and 393, RSMo, with more than eight thousand (8,000) customers.
- (H) Derivatives means a financial instrument with a value that is directly dependent upon or derived from an underlying factor. This underlying factor can be financial assets, real assets, indices, securities, debt instruments, commodities, other derivative instruments, any agreed upon pricing index or arrangement (e.g., the movement over time of the Consumer Price Index or freight rates), or the composition of these factors. Derivatives involve the trading of rights or obligations based on the underlying good, but may not directly transfer property. They are used to hedge risk or to exchange a floating rate of return for a fixed rate of return.
- (I) Financial advantage means an advantage provided by a covered utility to an affiliate when the covered utility—
1. Compensates an affiliate for assets, goods, information, or services of any kind above the lesser of—
    - A. The fair market price (FMP); or
    - B. The fully distributed cost (FDC) to the covered utility to provide the assets, goods, information, or services for itself; or
  - ~~2. Transfers assets, goods, information, or services of any kind to an affiliate below the greater of— for less than the FDC to the covered utility.~~
  - ~~3.2. The FMP; or~~
    - ~~A. The FDC to the covered utility.~~
- (J) Fair market price (FMP) means a price determined by a covered utility as the amount it would pay or receive for receiving or providing a good or service in an affiliate transaction based on comparisons of similar transactions with, or the price of similar goods and services available from, unrelated third parties. A covered utility shall make such determination based on competitive bids, if feasible. If not feasible, surveys, third-party studies, specific price inquiries, benchmarking, or any other reasonable method may be employed for this purpose. For goods or services for which there is no readily available comparative market price, the price shall be the fully distributed cost of the entity supplying the goods or services. The covered utility shall have the burden of



demonstrating its method of determining FMP is reasonable, and/or that there is no readily available comparative market price for a given good or service.

- (K) Fully distributed cost (FDC) means a methodology that examines all costs of an enterprise in relation to all the goods and services that are produced. FDC requires recognition of all costs incurred directly or indirectly to produce a good or service. Costs are assigned either through a direct or allocated approach. Costs that cannot be directly or indirectly charged or assigned (e.g., general and administrative) must also be included in the FDC calculation through a general allocation.
  - (L) Information means any data obtained by a regulated utility that is not obtainable by nonaffiliated entities or can only be obtained at a competitively prohibitive cost in either time or resources.
  - (M) Long-term means a transaction in excess of thirty-one (31) days.
  - (N) Marketing affiliate means an affiliate that engages in or arranges a commission-related sale of any natural gas service or portion of natural gas service to a shipper.
  - (O) Nonregulated operations mean assets, goods, information, or services of an affiliate or a covered utility not subject to the jurisdiction of the commission under Chapters 386 and 393, RSMo.
  - (P) Opportunity sales means sales of unused contract entitlements necessarily held by a gas corporation to meet the daily and seasonal swings of its system customers and intended to maximize utilization of assets that remain under regulation.
  - (Q) Preferential position means treatment provided by a covered utility that offers an affiliate an advantage that cannot be obtained by nonaffiliates, or can only be obtained at a competitively prohibitive cost in either time or resources.
  - (R) Shippers means all current and potential transportation customers on a regulated gas corporation's natural gas distribution system.
  - (S) Short-term means a transaction of thirty-one (31) days or less.
  - (T) Transportation means the receipt of natural gas at one point on a gas corporation's system and the redelivery of an equivalent volume of natural gas to the retail customer of the gas at another point on the gas corporation's system including, without limitation, scheduling, balancing, peaking, storage, and exchange to the extent such services are provided pursuant to the regulated gas corporation's commission tariff, and includes opportunity sales.
  - (U) Variance means an exemption granted by the commission from any applicable standard required pursuant to this rule.
- (2) Standards.
- (A) A covered utility shall not provide a financial advantage to an affiliate.
  - (B) A covered utility shall conduct its business in such a way as to not provide any preferential position to an affiliate over another entity at any time.
  - (C) A covered utility shall not participate in any affiliate transactions that are not in compliance with this rule, except as otherwise provided in the variance section (11) of this rule.
  - (D) If a customer requests information from the covered utility about goods or services provided by an affiliate, the covered utility may provide information about the affiliate but must inform the customer that regulated services are not tied to the use of an affiliate provider and that other service providers may be available. The covered utility may provide reference to other service providers or to commercial listings, but is not required to do so.

- (E) Marketing materials, information, or advertisements distributed to Missouri residentsa covered utility's customers by an affiliate entity that shares an exact or similar name, logo, or trademark of the covered utility shall clearly display in a font size no smaller than ten- (10-) point font or announce that the affiliate entity is not regulated by the "Missouri Public Service Commission."
  - (F) This section shall not apply to or prohibit any of the following unless found by the commission, after notice and hearing, that such practice is contrary to the purposes and intent of this rule:
    - 1. The joint provision of corporate support services, at FDC, between or among a covered utility and any affiliate. This includes joint provision of corporate support services by an affiliated service company; and
    - 2. The provision, at FDC, of goods, information, or services of any kind between or among a covered utility and an affiliate regulated by the commission or other state utility commission.
- (3) Nondiscrimination Standards Respecting Gas Marketing.
- (A) Nondiscrimination standards under this section apply in conjunction with all the standards under this rule and control when a similar standard overlaps.
  - (B) A regulated gas corporation shall apply all tariff provisions relating to transportation in the same manner to customers similarly situated whether they use affiliated or nonaffiliated marketers or brokers.
  - (C) A regulated gas corporation shall uniformly enforce its tariff provisions for all shippers.
  - (D) A regulated gas corporation shall not, through a tariff provision or otherwise, give its marketing affiliate and/ or its customers any preference over a customer using a nonaffiliated marketer in matters relating to transportation or curtailment priority.
  - (E) A regulated gas corporation shall not give any customer using its marketing affiliate a preference, in the processing of a request for transportation services, over a customer using a nonaffiliated marketer, specifically including the manner and timing of such processing of a request for transportation services.
  - (F) A regulated gas corporation shall not disclose or cause to be disclosed to its marketing affiliate or any nonaffiliated marketer any information that it receives through its processing of requests for or provision of transportation.
  - (G) If a regulated gas corporation provides information related to transportation that is not readily available or generally known to other marketers to a customer using a marketing affiliate, it shall provide that information (electronic format, phone call, facsimile, etc.) contemporaneously to all nonaffiliated marketers transporting on its distribution system.
  - (H) A regulated gas corporation shall not condition or tie an offer or agreement to provide a transportation discount to a shipper to any service in which the marketing affiliate is involved. If the regulated gas corporation seeks to provide a discount for transportation to any shipper using a marketing affiliate, the regulated gas corporation shall, subject to an appropriate protective order—
    - 1. File for approval of the transaction with the secretary of the commission and provide a copy to the commission staff counsel and the Office of the Public Counsel;
    - 2. Disclose whether the marketing affiliate of the regulated gas corporation is the gas supplier or broker serving the shipper;

3. File quarterly public reports with the secretary of the commission that provide the aggregate periodic and cumulative number of transportation discounts provided by the regulated gas corporation; and
  4. Provide the aggregate number of such agreements which involve shippers for whom the regulated gas corporation's marketing affiliate is or was at the time of the granting of the discount the gas supplier or broker.
- (I) A regulated gas corporation shall not make opportunity sales directly to a customer of its marketing affiliate or to its marketing affiliate unless such supplies and/or capacity are made available to other similarly situated customers using nonaffiliated marketers on an identical basis given the nature of the transactions.
  - (J) A regulated gas corporation shall not condition or tie agreements (including prearranged capacity release) for the release of interstate or intrastate pipeline capacity to any service in which the marketing affiliate is involved under terms not offered to nonaffiliated companies and their customers.
  - (K) A regulated gas corporation shall maintain its books of account and records completely separate and apart from those of the marketing affiliate.
  - (L) A regulated gas corporation is prohibited from giving any customer using its marketing affiliate preference with respect to any tariff provisions that provide discretionary waivers or variances.
  - (M) A regulated gas corporation shall maintain records when it is made aware of any marketing complaint against an affiliate. The records should contain a log detailing the date the complaint was received by the regulated gas corporation, the name of the complainant, a brief description of the complaint, and, as applicable, how it has been resolved. If the complaint has not been recorded by the regulated gas corporation within thirty (30) days, an explanation for the delay must be recorded.
  - (N) A regulated gas corporation will not communicate to any customer, supplier, or third parties that any advantage may accrue to such customer, supplier, or third party in the use of the regulated gas corporation's services as a result of that customer, supplier, or third party dealing with its marketing affiliate and shall refrain from giving any appearance that it speaks on behalf of its affiliate.
  - (O) If a customer requests information about a marketing affiliate, the regulated gas corporation may provide the requested information but shall also provide a list of all marketers operating on its system.
- (4) Evidentiary Standards for Affiliate Transactions.
- (A) When a covered utility purchases information, assets, goods, or services from an affiliate, other than those listed in subsection (2)(F) of this rule, the covered utility shall either determine a FMP for such information, assets, goods, or services or demonstrate why no reasonable FMP can be determined.
  - (B) In transactions that involve either the purchase or receipt of information, assets, goods, or services by a covered utility from an affiliate, other than those listed in subsection (2)(F) of this rule, the covered utility shall document both the FMP of such information, assets, goods, and services and the FDC to the covered utility to produce the information, assets, goods, or services for itself.
  - (C) In transactions that involve the sale or provision of information, assets, goods, or services to affiliates, other than those listed in subsection (2)(F) of this rule, the covered utility bears the burden to establish ~~must demonstrate~~ that it reasonably —
    1. Considered all material costs incurred to complete the transaction;

2. Calculated the material costs at times in which the costs are actually incurred or anticipated to occur~~relevant to the transaction;~~
    3. Charged, assigned, or allocated all material joint and common costs appropriately; and
    4. ~~Adequately d~~Determined the FMP of the information, assets, goods, or services.
  - (D) In transactions involving the receipt or purchase of information, assets, goods, or services by the covered utility from an affiliate, the covered utility will use a commission approved cost allocation manual (CAM).
- (5) Cost Allocation Manuals (CAM)
- (A) Each covered utility shall maintain a CAM that sets forth cost allocation, market valuation, and internal cost methods and specifies the criteria, guidelines, and procedures that the covered utility will follow to be in compliance with this rule.
  - (B) Each covered utility shall file a CAM for approval by the commission as part of its first general rate case after the effective date of this rule, or in a separate filing no later than two (2) years after the effective date of this rule. Each covered utility shall conduct periodic reviews of its cost allocation, market valuation, and internal cost methods, and shall update its CAM accordingly.
  - (C) Each covered utility shall file its CAM with the commission on or before May 15 each year as part of the covered utility's Affiliate Transaction Report. Included in the report should be a list of all affiliates regardless if services are provided to or services were obtained from the affiliate. The commission may, at any time, direct its staff to conduct an audit or review of a covered utility's CAM.
- (6) Recordkeeping Requirements.
- (A) A covered utility shall maintain books, accounts, and records separate from those of its affiliates.
  - (B) Except for the transactions detailed in Section (2)(F) of this rule, each ~~Each~~ covered utility shall maintain the following information in a mutually agreed-to~~reasonable~~ electronic format ~~(i.e., agreement between the commission staff, the Office of the Public Counsel, and the covered utility)~~ regarding affiliate transactions with affiliates on a calendar year basis and shall file such information in the form of an Affiliate Transactions Report with the secretary of the commission in the commission's electronic filing and information system (EFIS) and serve a copy on commission staff counsel and the Office of the Public Counsel no later than May 15 of the succeeding year:
    1. A full and complete list of all affiliates as defined by this rule;
    2. A full and complete list of all the types of assets, goods, information, and services sold or provided to, or purchased or received from, affiliates;
    3. A full and complete list of all contracts entered with affiliates;
    - ~~4. A full and complete list of all affiliate transactions undertaken with affiliates without a written contract together with a brief explanation of why there was no contract;~~
    - 5.4. The amount of all affiliate transactions by affiliate and account charged;
    - 6.5. The basis used (e.g., FMP, FDC, etc.) to record each type of affiliate transaction, and a description of the method used by the covered utility to determine FMP;
    - 7.6. A list of all affiliate transactions for which the covered utility could not determine a reasonable FMP, with explanations as to why a reasonable FMP was unobtainable; and

~~8-7.~~ A full and complete listing of all affiliate transactions made pursuant to subparagraph (11)(A)2.B. of this rule.

(C) In addition, each covered utility shall maintain the following information regarding affiliate transactions on a calendar year basis:

1. Records identifying the basis used (e.g., FMP, FDC, etc.) to record all affiliate transactions; and
2. Books of accounts and supporting records in sufficient detail to permit verification of compliance with this rule.

(7) Records of Affiliates.

(A) Each covered utility shall ~~ensure request~~ that ~~its parent and any other affiliates~~ an affiliate it contracts with for goods or services maintains books and records that include, ~~at a minimum,~~ the following information regarding affiliate transactions:

1. Documentation of the costs associated with affiliate transactions that are incurred by the ~~parent or~~ affiliate and charged to the covered utility;
2. Documentation of the methods used to allocate and/or share costs between affiliates including other jurisdictions and/or corporate divisions;
3. ~~Description of costs that are not subject to allocation to affiliate transactions and documentation supporting the nonassignment of these costs to affiliate transactions;~~
4. Descriptions of the types of services that corporate divisions and/or other centralized functions provided to ~~any affiliate or division accessing~~ the covered utility's ~~contracted services or facilities;~~
5. ~~Names and job descriptions of the officers and managers, and only the job descriptions of such other employees that transferred or were transferred from the covered utility to an affiliate;~~
- ~~6-5.~~ ~~Evaluations of the effect on the reliability of services provided by the covered utility resulting from the access to regulated contracts and/or facilities by affiliates;~~
- ~~7-6.~~ Policies regarding the access to services available to nonregulated affiliates desiring use of the covered utility's contracts and facilities; and
- ~~8-7.~~ Descriptions of and supporting documentation related to any use of derivatives that may be related to the covered utility's operation even though obtained by the parent or affiliate.

(8) Access to Records of Affiliates.

(A) To the extent permitted by applicable law and pursuant to established commission discovery procedures, and to the extent a covered utility has access to ~~shall make available~~ the books and records of its parent and any other affiliates, the covered utility shall make available the books and records of its parent and affiliates upon request when required in the application of this rule.

(B) The commission shall have the authority to—

1. Review, inspect, and audit books, accounts, and other records kept by a covered utility or affiliate transaction records kept by an affiliate for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with this rule and making findings available to the commission; and
2. Investigate the transactions between ~~operations of~~ a covered utility ~~or and~~ affiliate and their relationship to each other for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with this rule.

(9) Record Retention.

- (A) Records required under this rule shall be maintained by each covered utility for a period of not less than six (6) years.
- (10) Training.
  - (A) The covered utility shall train and advise its personnel as to the requirements and provisions of this rule at least every two (2) years, or more often if appropriate, to ensure compliance.
- (11) Variances.
  - (A) A variance from the standards in this rule may be obtained by compliance with paragraph (11)(A)1. or (11)(A)2.
    - 1. A covered utility may request a variance upon written application in accordance with commission procedures set out in 20 CSR 4240-2.060(4), except as provided in section (2) of this rule, and it may not engage in such an affiliate transaction until the commission grants the variance for good cause shown; or
    - 2. A covered utility may engage in an affiliate transaction not in compliance with the standards set out in section (2) of this rule, on an interim basis, when to its best knowledge and belief, compliance with the standards would not be in the best interests of its regulated customers and it complies with the following procedures:
      - A. All reports and record retention requirements for each affiliate transaction must be complied with; and
      - B. Notice of the noncomplying affiliate transaction shall be filed with the secretary of the commission and a copy served upon the commission staff counsel, the Office of the Public Counsel, and any person or entity granted intervention in the covered utility's most recent general rate proceeding, within ten (10) days of the occurrence of the noncomplying affiliate transaction. The notice shall provide a detailed explanation of why the affiliate transaction should be exempted from the requirements of section (2), and shall provide a detailed explanation of how the affiliate transaction was in the best interests of the regulated customers. Upon the filing of a covered utility's notice of the noncomplying affiliate transaction, the commission shall prescribe an intervention period, and order any interested party to file a request for a hearing regarding the noncomplying affiliate transaction within forty-five (45) days of the notice of the noncomplying affiliate transaction. Any affiliate transaction for which a variance is requested pursuant to this section shall remain interim, subject to disallowance, pending final commission determination on whether the noncomplying affiliate transaction resulted in the best interests of the regulated customers.

*AUTHORITY: sections 386.250 and 393.140, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed Sept. 25, 2024.*

*PUBLIC COST: This proposed rule will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.*

*PRIVATE COST: This proposed rule will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.*

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Anyone may file comments in support of or in opposition to this proposed rule with the Missouri Public Service Commission, Nancy Dippell, Secretary of the Commission, PO Box 360, Jefferson City, MO 65102. To be considered, comments must be received at the commission's offices on or before Dec. 6, 2024, and should include a reference to Commission File No. OX-2025-0104. Comments may also be submitted via a filing using the commission's electronic filing and information system at <http://www.psc.mo.gov/efis.asp>. A public hearing regarding this proposed rule is scheduled for Dec. 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., in Room 139 of the James C. Kirkpatrick Building, 600 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO. Interested persons may appear at this hearing to submit additional comments and/or testimony in support of or in opposition to this proposed rule, and may be asked to respond to commission questions. Any persons with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one (1) of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline 1 (800) 392-4211 or TDD Hotline 1 (800) 829-7541.*