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September 26, 2003

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Case No. ER-2004-0034

Dear Mr. Roberts:

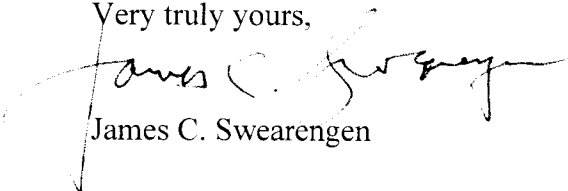
Provided herewith for filing on behalf of Aquila, Inc., please find in electronic format a Pleading of Aquila, Inc. in the above-referenced case.

A copy of this filing will be provided to all parties of record.

Please see that this filing is brought to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,


James C. Swearengen

JCS/lar

Enclosure

cc: Nathan Williams
John Coffman
Stuart Conrad
Mark Comley
Shelley Woods
Major Craig Paulson

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

In the Matter of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila)
Networks - L&P and Aquila Networks - MPS) Case No. ER-2004-0034
to Implement a General Rate Increase in)
Electricity)

PLEADING OF AQUILA, INC.

Comes now Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks - L&P and Aquila Networks - MPS (“Aquila” or “Company”), by counsel, and for its Pleading in response to the Order Directing Filing issued by the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in the captioned-matter respectfully states as follows to the Commission:

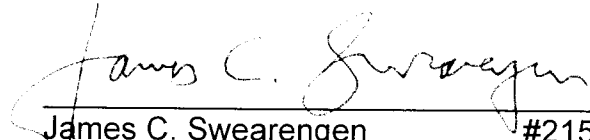
1. Aquila recommends that the test year in this proceeding be adjusted for known and measurable changes through September 30, 2003 in order to reduce, to the extent possible, the lapse of time between the date Aquila’s cost of service is determined in this case and the date new rates go into effect. For example, if the Commission authorizes a change of rates in this proceeding effective on the operation of law date in June 2004, this will be almost twelve (12) months from the June 30, 2003 update period proposed by the Staff. The Company’s proposal would shorten this lag by three (3) months.

2. In addition, Aquila anticipates that it might lose one of its largest Missouri customers and the announcement with respect to this event is likely to occur within a matter of days. This event, if it occurs, will have a major impact on the case and should be considered in its resolution.

3. Finally, Aquila believes that any issue between the Company and the Staff concerning the update period has been resolved by the Staff’s Motion to Accept Unanimously Agreed Upon Modifications to Proposed Procedural Schedules filed with the

Commission on September 23, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorneys for Aquila, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 26th day of September, 2003, to all parties of record.

