

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2 STATE OF MISSOURI
3 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
4 LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING
5

6 In the Matter of Missouri-American)
7 Water Company for a Certificate of) Case No.
8 Convenience and Necessity) WA-2026-0072
9 Authorizing it to Install, Own,)
10 Acquire, Construct, Operate,)
Control, Manage and Maintain a)
Water System and Sewer System in)
and around the City of Neosho,)
Missouri)

11
12 December 8, 2025
13 6:00 p.m.
14

15 601 Laclede Avenue
16 Neosho, Missouri 64850
17 and WebEx
18

19 VOLUME 1
20

21 KENNETH J. SEYER, Presiding
22 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
23

24 KAYLA HAHN, Chair,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
GLEN KOLKMEYER,
COMMISSIONERS
25

26 REPORTED BY:
27 Tracy Taylor, CCR No. 939
28
29
30

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 The following proceedings began at 6:35 p.m.:

2 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Let's go on the
3 record. Today is December 8th, 2025. The time is
4 roughly 6:40. My name is Ken Seyer. I am a
5 Regulatory Law Judge with the Missouri Public Service
6 Commission and I will preside over this portion of the
7 hearing tonight.

8 The Commission has set this time for a
9 local public hearing to give members of the public a
10 chance to comment about Missouri-American Water
11 Company's application for authority to purchase and
12 operate the water and sewer systems currently owned
13 and operated by the City of Neosho. The Commission's
14 case number for this matter is WA-2026-0072.

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

20 The Commission has five Commissioners,
21 but there is currently a vacancy. All the
22 Commissioners are appointed by the governor and
23 confirmed by the Senate. The Commission employs a
24 staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
25 analysts, and other specialists in the field of

1 utility regulation.

2 With me today is Commissioner Glen
3 Kolkmeyer, and joining us online are Chair Kayla Hahn
4 and Commissioner Maida Coleman. The Commissioners
5 have not made any decisions in this case and cannot
6 answer any questions today because they have to remain
7 impartial until after all the evidence is eventually
8 presented at the evidentiary hearing in this matter.

9 Commissioner Kolkmeyer, would you like to
10 make opening remarks?

11 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Please. Thank
12 you, Judge.

13 And I want to welcome everyone here to
14 this local public hearing with Missouri-American
15 Water. Like the Judge said, we have not made any
16 decisions. We haven't heard any evidence from anyone.
17 This is the first step in the process and that's
18 hearing from you, the customers, the ratepayers.

19 So that's -- that's -- that's -- we will
20 have hearings later on about this. So at this point
21 all we know is that this has been proposed, okay?

22 The other thing is even though there's
23 four Commissioners, why is there only one here?
24 Commissioners are -- live all over the state and we
25 cover live the public hearings that are on our side of

1 the state. So I'm from the Kansas City area, so I
2 came down here. I typically don't go to the east side
3 of the state and the Commissioners that live on the
4 east side typically don't come to the west. So this
5 way we get all these public hearings covered.

6 So, again, we're here tonight to take
7 your evidence, to hear -- to hear from you, the
8 customers, the ratepayers and we will take all this
9 under advisement. So thank you.

10 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Commissioner.

11 There are attorneys here today
12 representing the parties in this matter. For the
13 record, would each of you identify yourselves and
14 state which party you're representing beginning with
15 Missouri-American Water Company?

16 MR. LUFT: Thank you, Your Honor. Tim
17 Luft for Missouri-American Water, 727 Craig Road,
18 Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141.

19 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you.

20 And for the Commission Staff.

21 MS. HANSEN: Andrea Hansen for Commission
22 Staff. For the court reporter, that is A-n-d-r-e-a
23 H-a-n-s-e-n. And address is 200 Madison Street,
24 PO box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

25 JUDGE SEYER: And for the Public Counsel.

1 MS. VANGERPEN: Good evening, Your Honor.
2 Lindsay VanGerpen on behalf of the OPC. Business
3 address is 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City,
4 Missouri 65102.

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you.

6 The way we'll proceed with this -- with
7 the remainder of this portion of the hearing is
8 we'll -- I'll call the names on the sign-up list in
9 the order that people signed up.

10 When I call your name, please step up to
11 the podium, I'll place you under oath and ask that you
12 state and spell your name and then you can offer your
13 comments to the Commission.

14 Tonight we're going to limit comments to
15 five minutes per person. And then once you finish
16 your comments, please remain at the podium in case
17 there are questions from the Commissioners or the
18 attorneys for the parties.

19 So first name on the list is Ray Stipp.
20 Good evening, Mr. Stipp.

21 MR. STIPP: Good evening.

22 JUDGE SEYER: Would you raise your right
23 hand, please?

24 (Ray Stipp sworn.)

25 JUDGE SEYER: And could you go ahead and

1 state and spell your name?

2 MR. STIPP: Ray Stipp, S- -- R-a-y
3 S-t-i-p-p.

4 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. All right. Go
5 ahead, Mr. Stipp.

6 MR. STIPP: Thank you. I thank you for
7 this opportunity to give opinions and hopefully some
8 facts.

9 To give you a little background I think
10 is helpful. I've been a Neosho resident since 1973
11 and I've been involved with Community Bank and Trust
12 for 25 years as President, now retired.

13 I'm involved with a couple of economic
14 development companies locally. One of those is Neosho
15 Area Business and Industrial Foundation. It's an
16 economic development company. We try to recruit
17 businesses and industries to the Neosho area.

18 Another one is known as the Neosho Land
19 Development, Inc. It's also a Missouri non-profit
20 corporation that does the same thing. We try to
21 recruit companies to come to Neosho. It's a volunteer
22 thing. We've done that many years.

23 The reason I want to mention that, it
24 does have some bearing on water and the value of water
25 to companies that might come to Neosho.

1 I just have a few quick points I'd like
2 to make. Number one is that, you know, we -- I think
3 we all know that the loss of treated water has
4 increased dramatically in the last 20 years despite
5 the efforts of the City of Neosho.

6 I'm not criticizing the City, but as --
7 as many of you know, it's -- when you have different
8 councils, you have different priorities. And a lot of
9 times long-term issues get pushed long-term.

10 And so what we've seen is that not --
11 even with emphasis, we have not been able to reduce
12 water loss. We've gone the other way. I think
13 20 years ago it was like 40, 50 percent. I'm hearing
14 now it's like 60 percent. So it's going the wrong way
15 for water loss. And that's -- that's not good for the
16 city, it's not good for rates, it's just not a good
17 thing to have happen.

18 The second thing I'd like to say about
19 that is that water and sewer rates will -- in my
20 opinion, will be increasing regardless of who owner --
21 who's the owner of the systems.

22 I think we're in a situation to where
23 that with the investments that are now going to be
24 required to cure -- or to reduce the water loss, it's
25 going to take a lot of money. And -- and regardless

1 who owns the system, they're going to have to charge
2 more rates.

3 This -- and so how do you minimize that
4 to the extent that you can? The point was made I
5 think earlier by someone that, you know, the
6 investments by the City of Neosho in infrastructure
7 must be amortized over a shorter period of time as
8 compared to the Missouri Water group.

9 They have much longer time to amortize
10 their investments. And that means that you can kind
11 of spread the -- those costs over a period of time and
12 that would affect rates, both water and sewer rates.
13 So that is an advantage of that. I think that is a
14 point. I think it's a -- it's a factor.

15 Number three, the City of Neosho -- water
16 availability in Neosho will be challenged by having
17 two water sources. Right now we have Shoal Creek and
18 we have two -- or a couple of wells. Those are our
19 sources for water.

20 As I understand it with Missouri Water,
21 we will be able to access the reservoir -- the new
22 reservoir that's being considered now and is to be
23 hopefully built and that would be a source of water,
24 an additional source. And also, we'll have access to
25 a pipeline water from Lake Stockton, which would be

1 very helpful.

2 And -- and so we need more sources.

3 We -- not only are we losing water, but, you know, the
4 availability of water -- of water has been a problem
5 and it will be a problem in the future. So I say that
6 as an advantage for Missouri Water in that
7 consideration.

8 Now, I can tell you that -- from my
9 economic development hat, that as we've negotiated
10 with businesses to come to Neosho, one of the things
11 that many times we talk about is water availability
12 and can you do it.

13 And we -- and, frankly, folks we -- we
14 have had to turn down or been eliminated because we
15 could not provide adequate water for businesses and
16 industries that would come here. And that has been --
17 that has a fact -- impact on jobs as well, as you
18 know.

19 JUDGE SEYER: Mr. Stipp, we are bumping
20 up against your five minutes, but could you kind of
21 summarize for us?

22 MR. STIPP: I just have two more real
23 quick.

24 JUDGE SEYER: Sure.

25 MR. STIPP: Okay. I'll try to make them

1 quick. Loss of current water and -- and the sewer
2 department jobs, you know, if the City were to sell,
3 those City jobs would go away. I think there's a good
4 opportunity for the Missouri Water group to hire those
5 people. I've understood that that would be an
6 initiative that they would try to do.

7 And then finally, you know, the City did
8 a long and -- and very in-depth study and
9 investigation as what would be the best thing -- track
10 for them to go. They spent a lot of money on it and
11 they investigated it. And they, themselves, have said
12 this is the best thing that we can do for our
13 citizens, you know. And I believe that.

14 And so I -- I want to say that I'm in
15 favor of this transaction. Thank you very much.

16 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you,
17 Mr. Stipp. Can you -- can you stay put for a second?

18 MR. STIPP: Okay.

19 JUDGE SEYER: Looks like Mister -- or
20 Commissioner Coleman [sic] has a question.

21 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes. I really
22 don't have a question, but I want to thank you for
23 your comments. They were very well put and -- and
24 prepared and a lot of really good points, so thank
25 you.

1 MR. STIPP: Thank you, sir.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Are there any questions
3 from the other Commissioners? Any from the attorneys?
4 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Stipp.

5 MR. STIPP: Thank you.

6 JUDGE SEYER: Next on the list is
7 Christopher Williams. Mr. Williams, would you raise
8 your right hand, please?

9 (Christopher Williams sworn.)

10 JUDGE SEYER: Could you state and spell
11 your name, please?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Christopher
13 Williams, C-h-r-i-s-t-o-p-h-e-r W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

14 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. Go ahead with
15 your comments.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. I've
17 been a Neosho resident about eight years. I've
18 recently been doing some research, and I was very
19 uninformed and now I'm trying to become not
20 misinformed. So I'd just like to read some facts I
21 came up with.

22 American Water is an investor-owned
23 utility company comprised of 77.9 per- -- 97 percent
24 institutional investors with large business interests
25 Vanguard and BlackRock, among others.

1 American Water's recent Q3 year-to-date
2 2025 highlights state its 2025 year-to-date earnings
3 per share of \$4.47 was driven by high revenue on
4 increased rate base and rate case outcomes.

5 Joplin, Missouri, a neighboring
6 community, has 83 public google reviews of
7 Missouri-American Water. Sixty-eight of the
8 83 reviews are one star, as of 12/2/25. That's an
9 approximate 82 percent one star rating regarding
10 questionable billing, customer service, and timeliness
11 of water connection and disconnects. Excuse me.

12 In October 2024, American Water disclosed
13 a cybersecurity incident, unauthorized network
14 activity, causing them to shut down their customer
15 portal, My Water, and pause billing.

16 They recently merged with Essential
17 Utilities, further consolidating power and generating
18 monopolistic concerns.

19 The per capita income of a Neosho,
20 Missouri resident is about 30,000 per year. I'm
21 fortunate and grateful to have a career with income
22 that exceeds this statistic; however, many low-income
23 and fixed-income residents in my community struggle to
24 keep up with general infra- -- inflationary pressures
25 and rate adjustments from other investor-owned utility

1 companies. We've heard about that from Liberty
2 Utilities tonight.

3 I will admit that improvements are needed
4 and that the wastewater loss of greater than
5 50 percent since 2011 is unsustainable. But I am
6 concerned for my fellow residents of what's possible
7 to come: A monopolistic presence that's beholden to
8 shareholder profits, continual quarterly growth.

9 I think the key is balance between the
10 reality of income per Neosho residents and the needs
11 of water and wastewater treatment in this community.

12 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you,
13 Mr. Williams. Early in your comments I believe you
14 were mentioning organizations or companies that were
15 investors in American Water Company. And was it
16 BlackRock? Was that one of the -- one of them?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

18 JUDGE SEYER: All right. I'm -- I'm only
19 asking for the sake of the court reporter. Okay.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that's correct.
21 Vanguard and BlackRock comprise approximately
22 25 percent.

23 JUDGE SEYER: Okay. Do any of the
24 Commissioners have questions?

25 All right. Thank you.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Next is Richard
3 Davidson. Would you raise your right hand, please?

4 (Richard Davidson sworn.)

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right.

6 MR. DAVIDSON: My name's Richard
7 Davidson. That's R-i-c-h-a-r-d D-a-v-i-d-s-o-n. I
8 currently serve as the Mayor of the City of Neosho.

9 And for years the City has worked to
10 maintain a reliable utility system for our residents.
11 But our community is now facing infrastructure demand
12 and financial requirements that have out-paced the
13 capacity of our small municipal operation. That
14 system serves our people well today, but it is aging.
15 It requires major capital investment and those needs
16 will only continue to grow.

17 As a council, we had five fundamental
18 questions we asked as we worked through this process.
19 I wanted to review those questions with you and give
20 you a little insight as to the council's thoughts.

21 The first question is: Are we capable of
22 operating and sustaining a system at this level?
23 Knowing that the system -- it's aged -- some of the
24 infrastructure goes back to the World War II era --
25 and that we have a current water loss issue that's

1 been plaguing us for over 20 years.

2 Can we afford to address all these
3 issues? And what burden does that put on the users of
4 the system? We recently raised rates to cover a
5 \$27 million investment in our wastewater plant.
6 That -- that resulted in a sewer rate increase of over
7 40 percent.

8 We also had an operating loss that
9 required us to raise water rates 20 percent. And
10 despite that raise, we still do not have money to
11 address the aging of our filtration plant, we have no
12 dedicated funding for ongoing line replacement and we
13 have no money budgeted for proactive expansion west of
14 I-49 where we see the growth of Neosho occurring.

15 The third question is, can we actually
16 staff a department to properly operate this system and
17 what would that cost? In a city our age, we face
18 recruitment from bigger utilities, private companies.
19 And for a small town like ours, recruiting and
20 retaining that level of expertise is difficult, if not
21 impossible.

22 And fourthly, quite honestly, do the
23 elected officials have the appetite and the confidence
24 to impose the rates necessary? I've been on this
25 council 14 years. Every year I suggest we raise

1 rates. But there were many years that we didn't,
2 thinking it was helping our community. And delaying
3 those rate increases only pushed more costs into the
4 future that all ratepayers are playing [as said].

5 But big -- the biggest question is how
6 does Missouri American benefit? How does this sale
7 benefit us? That was the most important question we
8 had to answer.

9 We found that Missouri American brought
10 an expertise and resources, a focus of a dedicated
11 utility provider; something that the city of Neosho
12 simply cannot match. They have a technical depth to
13 address aging infrastructure, long-standing water loss
14 issues.

15 Their engineers, licensed operators,
16 compliance specialists work with systems every day
17 that are far more complex than we have. They also
18 have advanced monitoring tools and technology that
19 would be difficult, if not impossible, for a small
20 municipality to acquire and maintain.

21 They offer a level of staffing and
22 strength, a bench -- bench strength that we simply
23 cannot provide. And a small city like ours cannot
24 match that level of redundancy and response capability
25 and it's a critical factor to ensuring reliable

1 service.

2 Ultimately, we believe that while rate
3 increases will continue to rise over time, as they do
4 with every utility system, the overall costs to Neosho
5 citizens will be lower with Missouri American
6 operating the system.

7 Their buying power, their ability to
8 spread costs and their capacity to execute on projects
9 more efficiently all work together to reduce the
10 long-term financial burden to our residents.

11 The answers made it clear that the status
12 quo was no longer sustainable. And asking Neosho
13 residents to bear the full costs of reinvestment, the
14 modernization, staffing, compliance and the like was
15 going to be a long-term, too heavy burden. That's why
16 the council voted unanimously to pursue this sale.

17 And I want to close by saying that this
18 is both a personal and a professional decision. Every
19 member of our council cares deeply about our
20 community. Many of us grew up here, built our
21 families here. I have four generations of my family
22 in Neosho. That connection is real and it shaped the
23 seriousness to which we approached this decision.

24 **A personal connection alone is not enough
25 to lead. Leadership requires facing hard truths and**

1 making decisions that stand the test of time. And
2 when we examine the real costs of maintaining and
3 modernizing the system, when we evaluated the risks,
4 the long-term needs and the burden it would place on
5 our residents, it became clear that the current path
6 was not sustainable.

7 Each of us reached this conclusion
8 independently and all of us reached the same answer.
9 We made this choice because it was the responsible
10 choice. It protects our citizens from unsustainable
11 costs. It ensures reliable service for decades to
12 come and it positions Neosho to grow without placing
13 impossible burdens on future taxpayers. Thank you.

14 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Commissioner
15 Coleman [sic].

16 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Yes. Thank you,
17 Mr. Mayor --

18 MR. DAVIDSON: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: -- for your
20 comments. Very good. What's the population of
21 Neosho, approximately?

22 MR. DAVIDSON: Well, I -- I'd tell you
23 around 12,000 and growing.

24 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Okay. How many
25 connections -- water connections do you have?

1 MR. DAVIDSON: We talked about that in
2 the public hearing. I want to say -- David? Four,
3 five thousand? Something like that?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About 5,000.

5 MR. DAVIDSON: About 5,000, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: About five,
7 okay. Thank you. And do you serve only inside of the
8 city limits or do you go outside?

9 MR. DAVIDSON: We go outside the city.
10 We have some TCE contamination from the Rocketdyne
11 plant from the '60s that contaminated wells primarily
12 out east of town. So we do run some water -- not so
13 much sewer, but water out to that area.

14 And we do allow people that are adjacent
15 to the city, if there's water there, to tap onto water
16 or sewer and they just pay a higher rate.

17 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Okay. Thank you
18 for your comments. They were very helpful.

19 MR. DAVIDSON: Thank you.

20 JUDGE SEYER: Are there any other
21 questions? All right. Thank you.

22 MR. DAVIDSON: Thank you, sir.

23 JUDGE SEYER: Next on the list is Kent
24 Farnsworth.

25 MR. FARNSWORTH: Let me get my glasses on

1 and you can swear me in. Thank you.

2 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. You do have
3 your right hand raised, for the sake of the record.

4 (Kent Farnsworth sworn.)

5 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you. And
6 you -- if you'll go ahead and state and spell your
7 name, please?

8 MR. FARNSWORTH: My name is Kent
9 Farnsworth, K-e-n-t F-a-r-n-s-w-o-r-t-h.

10 JUDGE SEYER: All right. Go ahead with
11 your comments then.

12 MR. FARNSWORTH: Good evening. Thanks
13 very much for the opportunity to address you this
14 evening.

15 My wife and I have been residents of
16 Neosho for the last 40 years. And during that time,
17 we've seen one council after another, very capable
18 councils, deal with this issue of an aging water and
19 sewer system and the increasing losses in the water
20 that is produced.

21 And so when it was announced that they
22 were considering a change -- and we had hoped that at
23 some point the councils would choose not to continue
24 to just kick this down the road, but -- but make some
25 tough decisions about it -- we decided we would attend

1 the public hearings and see what the City had to say
2 and try to make a judgment about it.

3 And we came away from those hearings
4 convinced that the time had come for the City to sell
5 the system and discontinue the time of trying to
6 operate a system that was too expensive for the City
7 and unmanageable.

8 Several people at those hearings said
9 that they were hesitant to see the City give up the
10 system because we would be losing control of it as a
11 community.

12 Our sense from listening to what -- the
13 testimony was made at those hearings, was that the
14 City had lost control of it quite some time ago. And
15 that it wasn't a matter of maintaining control, but of
16 turning it over to somebody who could gain control of
17 it for us and manage it well for the City.

18 There were several things said at that
19 hearing that convinced us of that. (Glitch in WebEx
20 connection, lost audio momentarily) -- about water.
21 It's been, as we said, since 2011 above 50 percent.

22 One of the things that was noted at the
23 hearing was that the City recently replaced a thousand
24 feet of sewer pipe at the expense of \$800,000. And
25 this city is sitting on -- let me see what -- what the

1 number was -- 153 miles of sewer pipe. And if they
2 were to have to replace all of that at \$800,000 per
3 10,000 feet -- for a thousand feet, they'd have a
4 liability of about \$650 million that the City is
5 sitting on in terms of an infrastructure that dates
6 back to World War II.

7 There are 113 miles of water pipe under
8 the city that age to about the same time. And so the
9 potential is there for a catastrophic failure that
10 would cost the City far more than we could ever
11 manage.

12 We see this sale as like buying
13 insurance. It spreads the risk for the City. People
14 have complained that it may raise rates for us, which
15 I'm sure is going to be the case. They've complained
16 that we may be paying for some losses that are
17 happening elsewhere in the American Water system,
18 which may be the case also.

19 But the other subscribers elsewhere would
20 be paying rates that would help us in case we had a
21 huge loss down the road. And I think that's well
22 worth the expense for us.

23 I'm also convinced from listening to
24 those who presented for the City, that they can't
25 manage these problems that we face without substantial

1 | increases in rates at the city level.

16 And so American Water has said they will
17 take the water to wherever the city limits are. And
18 their commitment to us is that they would take water
19 to the west side of I-49 if the city limits are
20 expanded to that side of the city.

1 serve the part of the community that that tower
2 provided water for. I see that kind of an issue
3 getting worse over time.

4 American Water provides us with the
5 opportunity of bringing water down from Stockton Lake.
6 They're planning a reservoir between here and Joplin
7 that would provide another additional source of water.
8 And I think eventually the City will be going to them,
9 whether we sell it to them or not.

10 And so the wise decision for us at this
11 time, I think, is to bite the bullet, make the
12 commitment to -- to sell the system and secure water
13 for Neosho into the future. Thanks very much for the
14 opportunity to visit.

15 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you, Mr. Farnsworth.
16 Are there any questions? All right. Thank you.

17 Mr. Farnsworth's name is the last one on
18 my list. Is there anyone who did not sign up who
19 would like to testify tonight?

20 All right. If any -- if any of you here
21 tonight or who may be watching online have comments
22 after the hearing and you would like to submit written
23 comments, you may submit them via the Commission's
24 website at PSC.MO.gov.

25 On the home page there is a link entitled

1 Submit Comments. If you'll click on that link, you
2 can write your comments there. And all I would ask is
3 that you reference this case number, which is again
4 WA-2026-0072.

5 If you have any questions or comments for
6 the Office of Public Counsel, you can e-mail them to
7 MOPCO@OPC.MO.gov, g-o-v, correct? Okay. Thank you.

8 All right. Commissioner Coleman [sic],
9 would you like to make any closing remarks?

10 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Thank you,
11 Judge.

12 Again, I want to thank you for coming out
13 this evening. We heard a lot of really good comments,
14 especially the Mayor. You know, when your Mayor gets
15 up and says the things that he said, it goes a long
16 way. Appreciate everybody's comments.

17 And here again, this is the first step
18 and there will be other hearings down the road. We'll
19 hear from the Company and -- and what have you. So
20 again, thank you for coming out. Have a good evening.

21 JUDGE SEYER: Thank you. This hearing is
22 now adjourned and we are off the record.

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at
24 7:06 p.m.)

25

1

2 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3

4 I, Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR No. 939, within the
5 State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the
6 testimony appearing in the foregoing matter was duly
7 sworn by me; that the testimony of said witnesses was
8 taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter
9 reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am
10 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
11 of the parties to the action in which this matter was
12 taken, and further, that I am not a relative or
13 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
14 parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise
15 interested in the outcome of the action.

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Tracy Thorpe Taylor

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Tracy Thorpe Taylor, CCR, RPR

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