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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
PREHEARING CONFERENCE

In the Matter of the Petition)
of Missouri-American Water)
Company for Approval to) Case No.:
Establish a Water and Sewer) WR-2025-0345
Infrastructure Rate Adjustment)
(WSIRA))

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025
11:00 a.m.

VOLUME 1

KEN SEYER, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

1 THE COURT: Today is December 19th. It's
2 11:00 a.m. The Commission has set this time
3 for a pre-hearing conference in the case
4 captioned In the Matter of the Petition of
5 Missouri American Water Company for Approval
6 to Establish a Water and Sewer Infrastructure
7 Rate Adjustment or WSIRA. It's the
8 commission's case number WR-2025-0345.

9 My name is Ken Seyer. I'm the Regulatory
10 Law Judge that has been assigned to this case.
11 And at this time, I would like the attorneys
12 for the parties to enter their appearances,
13 beginning with the utility.

14 MS. NIEMEIER: Rachel Niemeier on behalf
15 of Missouri American Water Company today. The
16 court --

17 MR. COOPER: Dean --

18 MS. NIEMEIER: -- has our address.

19 Sorry, Dean.

20 MR. COOPER: Dean Cooper from Brydon
21 Swearngen & England, PC, also on behalf of
22 Missouri American Water Company.

23 THE COURT: All right. And on behalf of
24 the staff of the Commission?

25 MS. ASLIN: Casi Aslin for Commission

1 staff.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. And the Office of
3 the Public Counsel?

4 MS. VANGERPEN: Lindsay VanGerpen on
5 behalf of the OPC.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. So,
7 Mr. Cooper, you had requested a pre-hearing
8 conference. And basically, my understanding
9 is for the sake of trying to get the ball
10 rolling as far as a procedural schedule. Am I
11 correct about that?

12 MR. COOPER: That is correct, Your Honor.
13 And we kind of started that. I think this
14 will provide maybe the opportunity for a
15 little bit of discussion even after you go off
16 the record between the company and parties.

17 But yes, that's a kind of a relatively
18 quick timeline from here to the I guess sort
19 of the rough equivalent of an operational law
20 date as to a WSIRA filing.

21 And I'll tell you to kind of jump ahead a
22 little bit. One of the things that would be
23 helpful for us -- and I apologize, I may catch
24 you cold, and you may not be able to answer
25 that right away but -- is how much time you

1 think the commission needs kind of on the back
2 end.

3 I mean, once we brief the issue, do you
4 have a feel for how much time you will need
5 between that and I guess what I referred to as
6 the operational law date, but the March 2 date
7 to which have been currently suspended.

8 And again, I think we're going to have to
9 work back from that to our earlier steps. And
10 anything you could tell us would be helpful.

11 THE COURT: Well, I can tell you this,
12 that -- well, do you envision actual, I mean,
13 actual evidentiary hearing testimony, I
14 assume?

15 MR. COOPER: That's kind of where we're
16 starting anyway. Yeah.

17 THE COURT: Well, I took a quick look at
18 the calendar and really from February 2nd
19 through the 12th. And then if you want to
20 toss in the President's Day holiday of the
21 16th are all unavailable.

22 MR. COOPER: So, the way we were thinking
23 and I guess -- maybe it's right, maybe it's
24 wrong, but we were kind of backing up again
25 from March 2nd thinking that we probably need

1 an order that's effective as of then both as
2 to a substantive decision and as to tariff
3 sheets as well, presumably.

4 And if we back up 30 days from that, I
5 mean we're all the way back to the beginning
6 of February or the very end of January anyway.
7 And so in that sort of scenario, we're
8 probably talking about a hearing mid January
9 to give a little bit of time for the
10 transcript to come back and a little bit of
11 time for at least a single round of briefs to
12 then (indiscernible) over in time for the
13 commission to do something, whatever it may
14 do, and then for us to react to it kind of on
15 the back end.

16 But anyway, that's kind of the starting
17 point for our thought process anyway.

18 MS. VANGERPEN: And, Judge, this is
19 Lindsay for OPC. I would say we would
20 certainly want to talk more about that, the
21 possibility of a January hearing date. That's
22 quite expedited, we think. So I think that is
23 something the parties will still have to
24 discuss further.

25 MR. COOPER: And again, I mean if the

1 commission is able to work on a shorter
2 effective date than the 30-day effective date,
3 that probably influences some of that as well,
4 so.

5 THE COURT: I'm sorry. I'm trying to
6 picture the timeline in my head and of course,
7 I'm not privy to all the commissioners
8 calendars either. So I'm not sure --

9 MR. COOPER: Sure.

10 THE COURT: -- what they're looking like
11 mid January.

12 Would it be more productive for me to
13 drop off and let you all discuss it and then -
14 - whether it be a formal proposed procedural
15 schedule or whether you just want to contact
16 me via email and I can check availability?

17 MR. COOPER: We can. Yeah. My only
18 hesitation is like I said, that's kind of the
19 how much time the commission wants on the end
20 is sort of a starting place for us.

21 Again what we've so far kind of
22 circulated to the others and as Lindsay
23 indicated, we haven't had the opportunity to
24 discuss yet and that probably will be helpful
25 --

1 THE COURT: Are we talking this single
2 issue?

3 MR. COOPER: That's my belief, but others
4 probably ought to chime in.

5 MS. VANGERPEN: Judge Seyer, I think for
6 the OPC, it would just be that single issue.

7 MS. ASLIN: And staff would agree that
8 it's just one issue.

9 THE COURT: Let me see if I've got access
10 as to when the agendas are in February. So it
11 looks like February 19th. Would that even be
12 10 days? 19th to the second? Yeah. I guess
13 that would be the absolute latest for a
14 decision with a 10-day effective date if I'm
15 thinking about that correctly.

16 MR. COOPER: That seemed correct. Yeah.

17 THE COURT: And then the one the week
18 before is February 11th. Yeah. I don't know.
19 We're talking evidentiary hearing and then
20 initial briefs and second or reply briefs.

21 MR. COOPER: Again, this is subject to
22 discussion with the parties, but we may be --
23 given that it's a single issue, it may just be
24 one round of briefs, but --

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I wish I could

1 be more helpful to you all. I'm not sure how
2 much time they would need on to consider the
3 briefs and reach a decision.

4 MR. COOPER: Okay. Judge, it sounds like
5 from what you were saying that -- well, if the
6 commission would follow a process of
7 discussing and then issuing an order, they
8 probably are going to need the briefs
9 sufficiently ahead of February 11 anyway to
10 have that initial discussion. Is that fair to
11 say?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. COOPER: Okay.

14 MS. NIEMEIER: Judge at the Commission
15 now, what is the quickest that the transcript
16 can get turned around after a hearing?

17 THE COURT: I believe a week -- seven
18 days. Looks like Kayla is on. Kayla can
19 answer that as well.

20 MS. KLIETHERMES: We can expedite a
21 transcript if necessary and make it do within
22 a few days, ideally like three to five. But
23 there is a --

24 THE COURT: I was going to say wasn't --
25 I'm sorry, Kayla.

1 MS. KLIETHERMES: No, I was going to say
2 that there's additional cost, but yeah.

3 THE COURT: Yeah. Is it is like the
4 quickest three business days or something?

5 MS. KLIETHERMES: Yeah, I think we could
6 ideally get it as quick as like two, but
7 again, that would be very expensive, if that
8 matters. Standard turnaround time is between
9 5 to 10 business days.

10 MS. NIEMEIER: Thanks, Kayla.

11 THE COURT: So with all that in mind,
12 would you like to discuss amongst yourselves
13 without me present?

14 MR. COOPER: That'd probably be helpful.
15 Yeah.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Anything
17 further before we go off the record?

18 MS. ASLIN: No.

19 MS. NIEMEIER: Thank you, Judge, for your
20 time.

21 THE COURT: All right. No, it's no
22 problem. Thank you all.

23 MS. VANGERPEN: Thank you.

24 THE COURT: And I'll adjourn the
25 conference and we'll go off the record.

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(End of audio recording.)

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I, JOSEPH MWANGI, do hereby certify:

That said audio transcription is a true
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person.

I further certify that I am not
interested in the outcome of said action, nor
connected with, nor related to any of the
parties in said action, nor to their
respective counsel.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 24th day of December, 2025.



Joseph Mwangi

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