BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

Zachary Beauford and Cassandra Beauford,	)	
	)	
Complainants,	)	
	)	
v.	)	**Case No. WC-2026-0370**
	)	
Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW Respondent Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC ("Liberty" or "Company"), by and through counsel, and for its *Status* Report, respectfully states as follows.

1. This matter arose when Complainants Zachary and Cassandra Beauford requested that their newly-constructed duplex in Noel, Missouri, be connected to the Company's water system and were advised that a fee of $325 would be required for a hydraulic study to determine whether the system has enough pressure to add the duplex.

2. Complainants filed their *Formal Complaint* on June 23, 2026, requesting that the Commission "force Liberty to abide by the Tariff and supply water to my property . . . using the existing service connection and without charging me $325 for them to study their water system."[1] The Commission directed its Staff to investigate and to file a report by August 10, 2026. After an extension, Staff's *Report* was filed on October 9, 2026.

3. During the pendency of this case, other issues arose. The Company raised concerns about providing service from an existing meter pit near the Beauford property

[1] Formal Complaint, p. 2.

because it is not clear that the meter pit actually is located on Complainants' property. Additionally, due to the configuration of Complainants' property and their plan to construct a parking lot, the Company believed that any service line installed between that pit and Complainants' duplex would violate Rule 5.(K) of Liberty's tariff.

4. In its *Report,* Staff did not agree that the service line path proposed by Complainants would violate Rule 5.(K) of Liberty's tariff. But Staff did find that the proposed fee for the hydraulic study was appropriate. Staff also concluded that Liberty had not violated any tariffs, statutes, rules, regulations or Commission orders.

5. A Prehearing Conference was held on November 3, 2026. In its response to Staff's report, Liberty indicated that it is willing to serve the Beauford property from the existing meter pit on the condition that Complainants install the service line as described to Staff; that is, perpendicular to the main for 35' and then turning a right angle and running straight to the duplex. The Company believes that the area in which the service line will be installed will need to be cleared of trees, the gulley backfilled and possibly require the construction of drainage control measures to ensure backfill material is protected from erosion. The service line must not be covered by the proposed parking lot. The Company will need to inspect the service line once installed and before the pipe is covered. In addition, Liberty has determined that it cannot currently serve the Beauford property because the existing system lacks sufficient pressure and capacity to add the duplex. Connection will require improvement to the system, which will likely not be completed before the first or second quarter of 2027. The fee previously requested is no longer required because the capacity of the system has been determined.

6. At the Prehearing Conference, the Beaufords requested that temporary service

be provided to the duplex from another main. The Company advises that temporary service from another main is not feasible because capacity and pressure constraints on the system prevent adding demand to the system for new customers without impacting or limiting service to existing customers. Liberty is undertaking plans to address the pressure and capacity issues, including developing a long-term solution to increase capacity. Liberty is reviewing a proposal to develop the plan to replace and upsize the necessary mains. Due to timing and weather issues, Liberty believes that project will not be reviewed, engineered and constructed until Q1/Q2 2027

7. At the Prehearing Conference, the Company was directed to file a status report by November 17.

8. The Company advises the Commission and the parties that no hearing appears to be required at this time and that the *Complaint* should be dismissed because the parties are no longer in dispute. Liberty will serve the duplex as soon as it is able to do so and as soon as the Beaufords construct an acceptable service line as noted.

WHEREFORE, Liberty respectfully requests that the Commission accept its *Status Report,* dismiss the *Complaint* and grant such other and further relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND, P.C.

By: /s/ Kevin A. Thompson
Kevin A. Thompson, Mo. Bar No. 36288
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456
Telephone (573) 635-7166
Email: kthompson@brydonlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR LIBERTY UTILITIES (MISSOURI WATER) LLC D/B/A LIBERTY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent by electronic mail to all parties of record this 17th day of November, 2026.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson