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

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In the Matter of the Application
of Ozark Shores Water Company,
North Suburban Public Utility
Company and Camden County
Public Water Supply District
Number Four for an Order
Authorizing the Sale, Transfer
and Assignment Water Assets to
Camden County Public Water
Supply District Number Four
and in Connection therewith Certain
Other Related Transactions.

File No. WM-2015-0231

## MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF HIS APPLICATION TO INTERVENE OUT OF TIME

The Missouri Attorney General's Office seeks to intervene in this matter to aid in the consideration of the ultimate issue before Commission: whether the proposed transaction between Ozark Shores and the Public Water Supply District is to the benefit or the detriment of the public. The Attorney General is not asking the Commission grant any extra-judicial injunctive relief or exercise any power beyond the four corners of the present action—whether to approve this transaction. As such, granting the Attorney General leave to intervene is purely within the discretion of the Commission. If the Commission believes that the Attorney General's participation will aid in ascertaining the balance of interests surrounding this sale, the Commission should grant this motion to intervene.

## I. Granting this Request will not Cause any Hardship to the Parties

As an initial matter, Ozark Shores does not identify any specific hardship that it or its business partners will face by having the Attorney General intervene and participate in this hearing. That is because the Attorney General's participation does not demand any meaningful amount of additional resources or time. The only existing concern that Ozark Shores has identified has been to expedite this matter, due to a potential rise in bond rates. However, even this general concern is not implicated by the proposed intervention. The Attorney General does not ask that the Commission reset its existing schedule, defer pending deadlines, or grant additional burdensome discovery orders as part of his prayer for intervention. In no uncertain terms, the Attorney General assures the Commission that he is prepared to participate within all existing time restrictions.

II. Granting this Request will likely Aid in Resolving the Pending Issues in a More Timely Manner.

If anything, the Attorney General's participation may aid the Commission in resolving the outstanding issues identified in the Staff's Recommendation against Approval in a more prompt and timely manner. In that filing, the Staff explained that Ozark Shores had been unable to adequately demonstrate the proposed transaction was free of conflicts of interest within the compressed time frame of this expedited consideration. The Attorney

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General may aid in overcoming this bottleneck, by bringing to bear additional resources to help expedite these pending concerns raised by the staff. As stated in his initial filing, the Attorney General is charged with the responsibility to police governmental office holders, and thus may bring this expertise to bring this matter to a close in a more orderly manner.

Already, the Attorney General has engaged with all interested parties to this case. Although discussions are ongoing, the Attorney General believes that he may be able to secure assurances from the parties to the transaction sufficient to resolve, or at the very least adequately explore the essential concerns related to the proposed transaction. There is no reason for the Commission to cut this burgeoning assistance off prematurely.

The Commission should grant the Attorney General's Motion to Intervene Out of Time.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRIS KOSTER Attorney General

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the preceding motion was served electronically to all counsel of record this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2015.

/s/ Brian T. Bear

Brian T. Bear