

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

In the Matter of a Request for Increases)	
in Annual Sewer and Water System)	File No. SR-2013-0258
Operating Revenues.)	

In the Matter of a Request for Increases)	
in Annual Sewer and Water System)	File No. WR-2013-0259
Operating Revenues.)	

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REQUEST
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Request for Local Public Hearing states as follows:

1. On November 2, 2012, Gladlo Water & Sewer Company, Inc. (Gladlo), through its court-appointed receiver, Heartland Utilities, LLC, initiated small company rate increase proceedings with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting an increase of \$5,281 in its annual sewer system operating revenues and an increase of \$9,186 in its annual water system operating revenues.
2. On April 3, 2013, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a *Notice of Company/Staff Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Company Rate Increase Request* (Company/Staff Agreement) in each of the above stated cases indicating agreement between Staff and Gladlo for a proposed increase of \$9,690 (68.11%) in operating revenues for the sewer system and a proposed increase of \$4,749 (25.50%) in operating revenues for the water system. Public Counsel did not join in the agreements.

3. Revised tariff sheets reflecting the proposed rates agreed to in the Company/Staff Agreements were filed by Gladlo on April 8, 2013, bearing an effective date of May 24, 2013.
4. As the Company/Staff Agreements were executed by only Gladlo and Staff, 4 CSR 240-3.050(15) requires Public Counsel to file a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff Agreements and the related tariff revisions, or requesting a local public hearing or an evidentiary hearing no later than five (5) working days after the end of the comment period for the written customer notice contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14).
5. Affording customers the opportunity to speak to the Commission at a hearing is a critical part of the ratemaking process. The amount of increase proposed in the Company/Staff Agreements is quite significant for the customer given the current economic times. Customers should have the opportunity to voice their comments and concerns regarding these proposed increases to the Commission at a local public hearing.
6. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission scheduling the hearing promptly, as long as customers are given sufficient notice.
7. Section 393.150 RSMo provides that the Commission may suspend tariff sheets for a maximum period of 120 days plus six months. Scheduling and providing notice of a local public hearing in this case would require additional time beyond the May 24, 2013, effective date of the proposed tariff revisions. Therefore, Public Counsel requests that the Commission suspend the proposed revised tariff sheets for a sufficient period to allow adequate time for a local public hearing and subsequent case disposition as appropriate.
8. As stated above, 4 CSR 240-3.050(14) requires a written notice of the proposed tariff revisions no later than five (5) working days after the utility makes its tariff filing. To prevent the unnecessary duplicative costs of mailing a customer notice and a separate notice of local

public hearing at a later date, Public Counsel is making its request for a local public hearing promptly and without delay. It is Public Counsel's hope that a combined notice will be sent to the customers of Gladlo which notifies the customers of the proposed increases and provides information regarding an upcoming local public hearing where comments on the proposed increases may be provided directly to the Commission.

9. Consequently, in order to allow for the mailing of a combined proposed tariff notice and local public hearing notice, Public Counsel requests a waiver of the requirement that the written notice of the proposed tariff revisions be mailed no later than five (5) working days after the utility makes its tariff filing as contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14).

10. Therefore, in compliance with 4 CSR 240.3-050(15), Public Counsel requests that the Commission schedule a local public hearing in these matters. Public Counsel also requests that the Commission suspend the proposed revised tariff sheets for a sufficient period to allow adequate time for a local public hearing and subsequent case disposition as appropriate. Additionally, Public Counsel requests a waiver of the requirement that the written notice of the proposed tariff revisions be mailed no later than five (5) working days after the utility makes its tariff filing as contemplated in 4 CSR 240-3.050(14).

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully submits its request.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 8th day of April 2013:

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