

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

In the Matter of M.P.B., Inc.'s Request)	
for Increase in Annual Sewer System)	<u>File No. SR-2014-0067</u>
Operating Revenues.)	

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S POSITION STATEMENT
AND NOTICE OF AGREEMENT**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Position Statement and Notice of Agreement states as follows:

1. On September 9, 2013, M.P.B., Inc. (MPB), through its interim receiver Johansen Consulting Services, LLC (JCS), initiated a small company rate increase proceeding with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting an increase of 100% in its regular monthly customer rates.
2. On April 8, 2014, 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) indicating agreement between Staff and MPB for an increase in annual operating revenues of \$9,770 (269.81%) for the Lake Virginia service area and an increase of \$40,024 (146.21%) for the Villa Ridge service area. Public Counsel did not join in the agreement.
3. Revised tariff sheets reflecting the proposed rates agreed to in the Company/Staff Agreement were filed by MPB on April 15, 2014, bearing an effective date of June 1, 2014. The revised tariffs were subsequently suspended by the Commission until August 10, 2014, or until otherwise ordered by the Commission

4. Local public hearings were held on June 11 and 12, 2014, to provide customers the opportunity to comment on the proposed rate increase.
5. 4 CSR 240-3.050 (19) requires Public Counsel to file, no later than ten (10) working days after the local public hearing, a pleading stating its position regarding the Company/Staff Agreement and the related tariff revisions, or requesting that the Commission hold an evidentiary hearing, and providing the reasons for its position or request.
6. Pursuant to the requirements in 4 CSR 240-3.050 (19), Public Counsel now states that it objects to the Company/Staff Agreement and the related tariff revisions because it is Public Counsel's belief that the Company/Staff Agreement incorrectly states the just and reasonable revenue requirement of MPB.
7. However after discussions with MPB, Staff and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Public Counsel now states that it believes that a resolution to this matter has been reached and an agreement is forthcoming, negating the need for an evidentiary hearing.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully submits its Position and Notice of Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Christina L. Baker

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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 26th day of June 2014:

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