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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Prehearing Conference

October 14, 2003
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 2

In the Matter of a Sewer Tariff) Case No. ST-2003-0562
Filing Made by Osage Water Company)

In the Matter of a Water Tariff) Case No. WT-2003-0563
Filing Made by Osage Water Company)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding,
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

REPORTED BY:

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good afternoon, everyone.

3 We're here for a prehearing conference in Case No.

4 ST-2003-0562 and Case No. WT-2003-0563. Both concern

5 tariffs filed by Osage Water Company.

6 We'll begin today by taking entries of

7 appearance, beginning with Osage Water Company.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Gregory Williams, P.O. Box 431,

9 Sunrise Beach, Missouri 65079, for Osage Water Company.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And for Staff?

11 MR. BATES: Bruce H. Bates, Post Office

12 Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, for the Staff of

13 the Missouri Public Service Commission.

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And for Public

15 Counsel?

16 MS. O'NEILL: Good afternoon. Ruth O'Neill

17 for the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800,

18 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

20 I asked you all to come in today because I was

21 just looking for an update from you-all about what's

22 happening in this case, and also to make plans for a local

23 public hearing if that's necessary.

24 And in particular, I understand that there has

25 been discussions at least of a possible sale of Osage Water

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1 Company to another company, and I understand that's -- some
2 negotiations are going on in the other case, and I don't
3 need to know the details of all of that. I just want to
4 know how that's going to affect this case. I'll ask you,
5 Mr. Williams.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't believe it will have a
7 material impact on this case. It appears the rate increase
8 will be needed.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: So even if the company is
10 sold, the rate case will still be needed?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm so advised, yes.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Bates, anything you want
13 to add?

14 MR. BATES: Your Honor, I'm sorry. I don't
15 have any information I can add to that.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ms. O'Neill?

17 MS. O'NEILL: I think probably at this point
18 anyway we need to keep on with the procedural schedule that
19 we had set up.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, that answers
21 that question, then. Mr. Williams?

22 MR. WILLIAMS: For the record, your Honor,
23 there was a stipulation filed in the circuit court case.
24 Neither the Office of the Public Counsel nor the Staff of
25 the Commission met the time deadlines that were set out in

1 that stipulation for provision of information to the
2 company. That has materially delayed sale negotiations.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for that
4 information.

5 Then the other thing we need to discuss today
6 is the local public hearing, and I believe that was
7 scheduled in January in the procedural schedule, but we
8 didn't set a specific time for it or a specific location.
9 Let me ask you first, do you have any suggestions on a
10 location for a public hearing down there at the Lake? I'll
11 take it from anybody.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, the bulk of the
13 company's customers would be scattered throughout Camden
14 County. I believe in the last rate case the Commission
15 utilized the Tan-Tar-A Lodge facility. That would not be
16 any more inconvenient for anyone in the county than any
17 other particular place.

18 There is a community center in Sunrise Beach.
19 There are a number of customers in proximity to that area
20 also. I believe it's available somewhere in the vicinity of
21 \$50 for a night, large meeting building with folding chairs,
22 things of that sort available.

23 A third alternative would be the Mid-County
24 Fire Protection District building, which is in Camdenton,
25 which is perhaps the most centrally located of all possible

1 facilities, and that has been used recently for other public
2 meetings.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. Any
4 comments from Public Counsel or Staff?

5 MS. O'NEILL: I don't know exactly where the
6 Sunrise Beach Community Center is, but it doesn't sound like
7 that would be a problem. I know where those other two
8 things are located, and I think those are fairly centrally
9 located. I think any of those would be acceptable.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Then we'll need to
11 have a notice drafted, notice to customers, and I believe
12 the practice in other cases has been for the company to
13 prepare something and Public Counsel and Staff to give their
14 approval of it. Is that your understanding of how this
15 should work?

16 MS. O'NEILL: Yes, I believe so, your Honor.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you draft that in a week?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure, if you give me a time and
19 a place.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. I will find a time and
21 place for you, and I'll just issue a notice about the time
22 and place. And then how quickly would we need to get the
23 notice out? I assume it can go in bill inserts.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: The bills are postcards, so
25 it's going to be a special mailing no matter how we do it,

1 unless it's stuck on the back of the bill, which would be
2 pretty small. Assuming it's a fairly lengthy mail type
3 notice, any time would be the same as any other time
4 cost-wise. No cost savings to be had there.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Let me check the --
6 I'm checking the date that we set for that. January 13th.
7 I will go ahead and find out an exact time and location for
8 it, finalize that. I'll issue a notice in the case for you
9 so that you'll all be aware of that. And then I'll ask for
10 the final notice two weeks from today, which I believe would
11 be the 28th. I don't have a calendar in front of me.

12 All right. Any other matters anyone wants to
13 bring up while we're on the record?

14 MS. O'NEILL: No, your Honor.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. With that, then,
16 the on-the-record portion of the prehearing conference is
17 concluded, and you can discuss these matters further amongst
18 yourself if you wish. Thank you.

19 WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the
20 prehearing conference was concluded.

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