## In the Matter of:

## **CHARLES HARTER**

V.

# MISSOURI-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

## WC-2018-0124 VOL. 1

January 16, 2018



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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	Prehearing Conference
6	January 16, 2018
7	Jefferson City, Missouri
8	Volume 1
9	
10	Charles Harter, )
11	Complainant, )
12	vs. ) File No. WC-2018-0124
13	Missouri-American Water Company,)
14	Respondent. )
15	
16	JOHN T. CLARK, Presiding, REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
17	REGULTION LINW CODGE.
18	
19	
20	
21	REPORTED BY:
22	Chevon D. McFadden, CVR, CCR NO. 1399 TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC
23	TIGHT COOK! KHI OK!!NO, HEC
24	
25	

1		APPEARANCES:
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20	FOR	THE COMPLAINANT:
21		MR. CHARLES A. HARTER (Appearing via telephone)
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23		St. Louis, Missouri 63126
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE CLARK: We're going to go on the record
3	now and we're going to address this more formally on
4	the record. So I'm going to say, Today's January
5	the 16th, 2018. The current time is 10:04 a.m. We're
6	in room 305 of the Governor's Office Building.
7	The Commission has set aside this time for a
8	Procedural Conference in the case captioned as: Charles
9	Harter, Complainant vs. Missouri-American Water
10	Company, Respondent in File No. WC-2018-0124.
11	My name is John Clark. I'm the Regulatory
12	Law Judge in this matter. I'm going to begin by asking
13	the attorneys to enter their appearance starting with
14	Staff.
15	MS. KLAUS: Good morning, Judge. My name is
16	Alexandra Klaus. I'm here for the Staff of the
17	Missouri Public Service Commission and my information
18	has been provided to the court reporter.
19	JUDGE CLARK: Missouri-American.
20	MS. CARTER: Diana Carter with Brydon,
21	Swearengen & England, PC. for Missouri-American Water
22	Company, and the court reporter has my contact
23	information.
24	JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Harter, you're an
25	attorney, you indicated, and you're representing

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yourself; is that correct?
 1
               MR. HARTER: That's correct. Charles Harter.
 2
     I'm on the phone; I'm not in the room. And my Bar No.
 3
     is 28059, and I am the Complainant and I am an
 4
 5
     attorney.
 6
               JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Is there anybody else
 7
    here from the Office of Public Counsel or any other
 8
    party that wishes to enter onto the record?
 9
               Not having heard anyone, I'm going to ask if
10
     there are any preliminary matters or pending motions?
11
               And by way of a preliminary matter, I'll
12
     indicate that off the record prior to the hearing, Mr.
13
    Harter, you indicated that you were un-- while you did
14
    receive Staff's report, you did not receive the
15
     confidential portion of that; is that correct?
16
               MR. HARTER: I didn't receive it. I just
17
    went to the site. I went to the --
18
               JUDGE CLARK: You were unable to access it;
     is that correct?
19
20
               MR. HARTER: Right. I'm -- I am at present
21
    on -- on the site. I did receive a notice that it had
22
    been filed, but I cannot raise the confidential part of
23
     it, that is true.
24
               JUDGE CLARK:
                             Okay. And I assume,
25
    Mr. Harter, that you are going to be -- at this point,
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you would be unable to answer any questions I have with
 1
 2
    regard to when you'll be ready for a hearing without
    having reviewed that document; is that correct?
 3
               MR. HARTER: That is true. Although --
 5
               JUDGE CLARK: Let me explain it another --
               MR. HARTER: -- if I had an idea of what was
 6
 7
     in it, then I -- I -- I would like to move it along. I
 8
    have some thoughts. I'd be glad to respond to it with
 9
     those, if you'd like.
10
               JUDGE CLARK: I don't know how you can
11
    respond to a document you haven't read.
12
               MR. HARTER: No. I respond to your
13
    question -- whether I'm ready to proceed to trial or
14
    not.
15
               JUDGE CLARK: Well, this is a -- this is a --
16
    a small complaint --
17
               MR. HARTER: Right.
               JUDGE CLARK: -- and under the small
18
19
     complaint, there's roughly 100 days to get this done --
20
               MR. HARTER:
                            Okay.
21
               JUDGE CLARK: -- from the time that you
22
     initial file, which I believe we are pretty much
23
    running out of time on.
24
               MR. HARTER: Well, I -- I'd be happy if
25
    you -- to respond to you as to whether I'm ready for
```

trial. As I see it, and not having seen the report but have seen the conclusion of the report and -- and understanding that I'm -- I'm not speaking with any knowledge of what's in the report.

But as I see it, there are two aspects of the complaint. One concerns the payment plan and the other concerns robotic calls, which don't allow the consumer to respond and I consider harassment.

As to the first issue, the passage of time is muted if there may be a penalty still at issue that would result from a nonpayment that I would dispute. I don't know if that's worth a trial at the PSC. But I think I've caught up and as long as they promise not to disconnect me, I think when I make my 113 tomorrow, I'm even or close.

The second issue I would like litigate and I would be ready for trial if I could receive from the PSC and from the responding utility answers to three questions. Depending on how you want to limit it, either August 16th or the month of August or something -- how many robotic calls went out, how many each day, and how many service personnel or customer service personnel were available to answer those calls.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Well, these sound like factual issues for an evidentiary hearing. And, so, I

guess, what we need to do at some point is schedule an 1 2 evidentiary hearing. MR. HARTER: But those are my only questions, 3 4 and if they would provide that, we don't -- I -- I would waive the hearing and submit it on those 5 6 stipulated facts. Those are my only questions. 7 think that my position as stated in the complaint, if I 8 could submit it on that without further testimony --9 JUDGE CLARK: Well, it --MR. HARTER: -- before the -- before the 10 11 Commission. That's -- that's my position on it, not 12 knowing what the report says. But --JUDGE CLARK: Well, I'd think I'd --13 MR. HARTER: -- that's my thoughts. 14 15 JUDGE CLARK: I think I would like you to 16 know what the report says before we move on in regards 17 to this. I think what I'm going to do at this time 18 is -- it sounds like there is going to need to be some 19 additional time allotted to allow you time to look at 20 that confidential report and make any response that you 21 want to make, okay, Mr. Harter? 22 MR. HARTER: Okay. 23 JUDGE CLARK: -- because that's going to take 24 additional time. And because we are bumping up against 2.5 the 100 days as prescribed by the Rule, I'm going to

1	ask, Does anybody have an objection to me running a
2	hearing past that 100-day time period?
3	MR. HARTER: May I waive that?
4	JUDGE CLARK: Hold on. Staff?
5	MS. KLAUS: No, Judge.
6	JUDGE CLARK: Missouri-American?
7	MS. CARTER: No objection.
8	JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Harter, do you have
9	any objection to me extending that 100-day time
10	period
11	MR. HARTER: No.
12	JUDGE CLARK: or waiving it entirely for
13	the purpose of holding a hearing further down the road
14	and giving you an opportunity to look at the
15	confidential report?
16	MR. HARTER: No, I would waive for the
17	purposes of looking at that.
18	JUDGE CLARK: In that case, I will find good
19	cause on the record to extend the time limitation
20	beyond the 100 days, so we are no longer behind that
21	time crunch.
22	In regard to that in regard to that,
23	Mr. Harter, how much time do you think you would need
24	to look at the confidential report in order to respond?
25	MR. HARTER: I don't know if they're going to

mail it to me or email it to me. There's -- I -- I 1 2 could respond with -- certainly within a week of 3 receiving it. JUDGE CLARK: Well, let me ask you this, 5 Mr. Harter: Would you have any objection to going 6 ahead and setting a hearing date out in the future for 7 an evidentiary hearing date for this provided that 8 all -- all outstanding issues are not resolved? 9 MR. HARTER: Not if you think that, based on what I said earlier, a hearing is needed. 10 JUDGE CLARK: Well, I will take up written 11 12 responses as I receive them. If I receive a -- if you 13 receive the -- the Staff report and have a chance to 14 look it over and you decide that you wish to submit 15 your case in writing, I will certainly take a look at that and decide at that time whether there needs to be 16 17 an evidentiary hearing. I will tell you, my preference 18 tends to be for an evidentiary hearing. Because this 19 is a small complaint, that would not mean that you 20 would need to come to Jefferson City for the hearing. 21 The hearing would be held at our St. Louis office close 22 to you. 23 MR. HARTER: Are interrogatories allowed in a 24 small hearing? 2.5 JUDGE CLARK: I don't know that answer right

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off. Does Staff or --
 1
 2
               MS. KLAUS: I think so.
               MS. CARTER: Yes.
 3
               JUDGE CLARK: Yes. Apparently,
 4
 5
     interrogatories are allowed.
 6
               MR. HARTER: Okay. Well, I will put what I
 7
     said into two interrogatories and submit them. And I
    don't know that -- I guess the -- the response time is
 8
 9
     the same as in circuit court. Then that would be the
10
     time in which the hearing could proceed.
11
               MS. CARTER: And, Mr. Harter --
12
               MR. HARTER: Yes.
               MS. CARTER: -- this is Diana Carter.
13
14
    have a option of moving things a little quicker in
15
     terms of response time at the Commission. You can do
16
    what's called a Data Request.
17
               MR. HARTER:
                            Okay.
18
               MS. CARTER: If you look in the Commissions
19
    Rules, Chapter 2, I believe, will have the general
20
    process on Data Request. It's just a little more -- a
21
     little less formal than discovery in circuit court --
22
               MR. HARTER: Uh-huh.
23
               MS. CARTER: -- and it has a 20-day response
24
     time.
2.5
               MR. HARTER: Okay. What did you say, Rule 2?
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```
MS. CARTER: I believe it's Chapter 2.
 1
 2
     they're called Data Requests.
 3
               MR. HARTER:
                           Okay.
               MS. CARTER: And it's a Commission-specific
 4
     procedure, which will just move it a little faster than
 5
 6
     traditional discovery.
 7
               MR. HARTER: Does that work, like, as
 8
     discovery or does it need to go formally through
     Commission?
 9
10
               MS. CARTER: It works just like discovery.
11
     You can just send me an email with those two questions.
12
     And I've written those questions down, but if I get
13
     them from you formally, that way we have a set response
     time and there's no misunderstanding over what your
14
15
     questions are.
16
               MR. HARTER: Okay. And I'd be happy, as I
     said, to -- I can ask the question and the Commission
17
18
     can limit it in time as it sees fit.
19
               JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I'm going to ask -- I'm
20
     going to ask a few quick questions --
21
               MR. HARTER: Yes.
22
               JUDGE CLARK: -- and then -- Ms. Klaus?
23
               MS. KLAUS: Yes, Judge.
24
               JUDGE CLARK: How long is it going to take to
     get Mr. Harter a copy of the confidential portion of
25
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the Staff report?
 1
 2
               MS. KLAUS: Based on his indication that he
     is willing to receive it by email, we can email it
 3
             I would ask that he confirm his email address.
 4
     today.
               JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
 5
 6
               MR. HARTER: Harleycharter@sbcqlobal.net.
               MS. KLAUS: Harleycharter@s--
 7
 8
               MR. HARTER: Yes.
                                  Sbc.
               MS. KLAUS: P, as in Peter?
 9
10
               MR. HARTER: No.
11
               JUDGE CLARK: B, as in Boy?
12
               MR. HARTER: Yeah.
13
               MS. KLAUS: Sbcglobal.net. Mr. Harter, we
    will email --
14
15
               MR. HARTER: Yeah. Sb -- Southwestern Bell
16
    Company, sbc.
17
               MS. KLAUS: Thank you. We will email that to
    you today. We will also send it by mail with your
18
19
    permission?
               MR. HARTER: Sure, that would be great.
20
21
               MS. KLAUS: We will do both ways, then, sir.
22
               MR. HARTER: Okay.
23
               JUDGE CLARK:
                             Okay. Mr. Harter, I'm going to
24
    give you until Monday, January 29th to file any
25
    response you wanted to file in regard to that.
```

1 MR. HARTER: Okay.

JUDGE CLARK: And I'm going to say at this time, obviously, there's been a complaint. The Company has made an answer. Staff has filed a report, though Mr. Harter has not had an opportunity to examine all of that yet. Unless there is anything else of a procedural matter to take up, what I'm going to ask the parties to do is to come up with a proposed procedural schedule. I'm going to ask Staff to file that schedule.

MS. KLAUS: Yes, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to ask that that schedule contain all the usual case events. It should also include any stipulation of non-disputed material facts -- I've printed off a calendar for the Staff and Company -- and to discuss with Mr. Harter -- to look at from -- with dates from the adjudication calendar from now through, I believe, the middle of May, and that should give you plenty of time to pick dates in there for the procedural schedule.

As I said before, I want everybody to bear in mind that any evidentiary hearing will be held at the Commission St. Louis office.

And I'd like to take up at this time prefiled testimony. And because this is a Small Complaint case,

1	it's my discretion as to whether to dispense with
2	prefiled testimony or not. Do the parties have any
3	preference?
4	MS. KLAUS: No strong preference here, Judge.
5	JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Carter?
6	MS. CARTER: No. I think there's a
7	possibility we can have a stipulation of facts on all
8	material facts and then refeed, perhaps, and not have a
9	hearing once Mr. Harter has an opportunity to review
10	the Staff report and see answers to his questions, sir.
11	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. And that may be the
12	case. And like I said, I'll take any I'll take any
13	written motions as they come in or any requests to
14	submit on the briefs as they come in. And if that's
15	the case, I'll I'll hold for right now in regard to
16	any prefiled testimony.
17	I'd like you to go ahead and put a prefiled
18	testimony deadline somewhere. You can put it a little
19	further down because this is a Small Complaint, and I
20	can't anticipate a large number of witnesses.
21	MR. HARTER: If the Data Request is
22	successful, I could see that it could be resolved with
23	stipulations and prefiled testimony.
24	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Harter, do you have
25	any any preference in regard to whether you want to

ı	
1	do prefiled testimony or whether you just want to
2	testify at the hearing itself?
3	MR. HARTER: I think the prefiled sounds very
4	attractive, depending on what what's in the
5	report
6	JUDGE CLARK: Okay.
7	MR. HARTER: and whether or not the Data
8	Request works.
9	JUDGE CLARK: Well, given that the
10	Complainant is reluctant to want to dispense with any
11	prefiled testimony, put in a prefiled testimony date
12	and we'll just count on doing prefiled testimony.
13	Okay. As I indicated before, Mr. Harter,
14	you'll have until January 29th at the end of the day to
15	respond to to Staff's investigation and report
16	provided that you receive that today, which I assume
17	you will.
18	Are there any other issues or matters that
19	need to be addressed by the Commission at this time?
20	Staff?
21	MR. HARTER: Is there any
22	JUDGE CLARK: Staff?
23	MS. KLAUS: No, Judge.
24	JUDGE CLARK: Missouri-America?
25	MS. CARTER: No, thank you.
	1

1	JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Harter?
2	MR. HARTER: Is there any way I could have my
3	status corrected on the EFIS site so that I could view
4	the report or is that just not going to ever work?
5	JUDGE CLARK: I don't know. But what I will
6	do is I will talk to the electronic filing center and
7	see if they can do that and possibly have them contact
8	you in regard to that. Okay?
9	MR. HARTER: Yeah. My my suspicion is
10	that I'm just marked as a public.
11	JUDGE CLARK: Now, I'm going to ask yes.
12	And I understand that and so we'll see if we can get
13	that cleared up so that you can see the confidential
14	stuff that you need to see in order to properly prepare
15	your case. Okay, Mr. Harter?
16	MR. HARTER: Yes, thank you.
17	JUDGE CLARK: If there's nothing else, I'm
18	going to ask, Is there any reason that the parties and
19	Mr. Harter wanted to discuss at this time among
20	themselves while I have the phone bridge open and after
21	the hearing or after the prehearing conference is
22	concluded?
23	MS. CARTER: I don't think there's anything
24	else. Mr. Harter, you check your email regularly; is
25	that correct?

1	MR. HARTER: Yes.
2	MS. CARTER: I think Staff Counsel will put
3	together maybe a proposed procedural schedule for you
4	and me to look at, and that usually can go a lot faster
5	if we email with each other about dates.
6	MR. HARTER: Okay.
7	JUDGE CLARK: Any other questions,
8	Mr. Harter?
9	MR. HARTER: The trial date you're going
10	to send something or I have to I'm I'm unclear on
11	that.
12	JUDGE CLARK: Okay.
13	MR. HARTER: I'm going to get something to
14	respond to?
15	JUDGE CLARK: It sounds like that Staff is
16	going to talk to the Commission Staff is going to
17	talk to Missouri-American Water Company and they're
18	going to talk to you
19	MR. HARTER: Okay.
20	JUDGE CLARK: and they're going to see if
21	they can come up with dates for the various parts of
22	the procedural schedule that work for both you and the
23	Company and for the Staff of the Commission.
24	MR. HARTER: That's what I thought. So do
25	nothing until they talk to me. I can do that.

1	JUDGE CLARK: Well, not do nothing. Because
2	remember, I've given you a deadline of the 29th to
3	respond to the to respond to the Staff report
4	MR. HARTER: Yeah.
5	JUDGE CLARK: and investigation. Okay?
6	MR. HARTER: In terms of selecting a trial
7	date, yes. I'll wait.
8	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. If you have a response
9	that you want to file to the Staff report and
10	investigation, you you have to have it filed by the
11	29th. If you don't have a response filed at that time,
12	I'll assume you don't have one or that you're holding
13	any response you would have until trial
14	MR. HARTER: Thank you.
15	JUDGE CLARK: or hearing. Okay?
16	MR. HARTER: Thank you.
17	JUDGE CLARK: Is there anything else from
18	any from any party? Staff?
19	MS. KLAUS: No, Judge. Thank you.
20	JUDGE CLARK: Missouri-American?
21	MS. CARTER: Judge, did you give us a date
22	for submitting the proposed procedural schedule?
23	JUDGE CLARK: I did not, Ms. Carter. Thank
24	you very much. Would Staff be requesting any
25	particular amount of time? How long do you think it's

1	going to take to get this done?
2	MS. KLAUS: Not sure, Judge. I would request
3	after the 29th, so that Mr. Harter has time to review
4	the complaint and gets some calibration of interest
5	going.
6	JUDGE CLARK: Well, since we're not under
7	the 100 days anymore, why don't we go an even month,
8	and I will make the procedural schedule due on February
9	the 16th.
10	And in regards to both the January 29th
11	responses from Mr. Harter and the due date for the
12	procedural schedule, I will try and get something I
13	will try and get an order issued today in regard to
14	both of those.
15	Okay. Mr. Harter, is there anything else?
16	Any other questions you have?
17	MR. HARTER: Where would I find Chapter 2 on
18	the EFIS site?
19	JUDGE CLARK: You would find Chapter 2 in the
20	Code of State Regulations
21	MR. HARTER: Oh, I'm sorry.
22	JUDGE CLARK: I believe what they are
23	referring to is Title 4, Division 240, Public Service
24	Commission Chapter 2, Practice and Procedure.
25	MR. HARTER: Okay. I gotcha. Didn't see it.

1	Sorry.
2	JUDGE CLARK: Yes, correct.
3	MR. HARTER: I thought it was something else.
4	Thank you.
5	JUDGE CLARK: Okay. If there's nothing else,
6	which it sounds like there's nothing at this time, at
7	this time we will conclude this hearing and we will go
8	off the record.
9	(Record was closed at 10:23 a.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	I, Chevon D. McFadden, a Certified Verbatim
3	Reporter, Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 1399, do
4	hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding had in the
5	above-entitled cause was taken by me to the best of my
6	ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
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8	nor employed by any of the parties to the action in
9	which this proceeding was taken, and further, that I am
10	not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
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12	otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.
13	
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15	
16	Chevon D Mcfadden
17	Chevon D. McFadden, CVR, CCR No. 1399
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