

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

May 23, 2016

Montgomery City, Missouri

Volume 1

In the Matter of Roy-L Utilities) Inc.  
Request for Increase in Annual S)wer And  
Water Service System Operating R)venues

File Nos. WR-2016-0109  
SR-2016-0110

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding  
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

DANIEL Y. HALL, CHAIRMAN,  
STEPHEN M. STOLL,  
WILLIAM P. KENNEY,  
SCOTT T. RUPP,  
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,  
COMMISSIONERS

Reported by:

Brenda L. Schmelz, CVR-M, CCR 1267



ORIGINAL

PSC PUBLIC MEETING

JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good evening. We are on the record. This is the local public hearing in File Nos. WR-2016-0109 and SR-2016-0110. I am Ron Pridgin. I am the regulatory law judge assigned to preside over this meeting. It's being held in the Montgomery City Public Library, 6:00 in the evening, and the date is May 23, 2016.

And I have with me Commissioner Coleman. She is one of the five commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commissioners also employ a staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in the field of utility regulation.

This is an official hearing of the Commission. Statements and testimony of the witnesses will be recorded by the court reporter and must be given either under oath or under affirmation, and all the commissioners will have a chance to read any witness's remarks.

If you do not wish to give an oath, please

1 let me know. I will ask your testimony be  
2 affirmed instead.

3 Does anyone have any questions about  
4 tonight's procedure?

5 Commissioner Coleman, any opening  
6 statements?

7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I would like to say  
8 welcome. Thank you for being here. I  
9 understand you are our lone customer here  
10 tonight, but it is always good to exercise, I  
11 think, your rights and your curiosity. So I  
12 appreciate you being here.

13 As the judge mentioned, there are five  
14 commissioners and the other four will have an  
15 opportunity to read any comments that you make  
16 tonight and any public testimony. So thank you  
17 and thank everyone else for being here also.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you.

19 Entry of appearance, please, for the  
20 General Counsel's office?

21 MS. PAYNE: Staff Counsel?

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Staff Counsel, excuse me.  
23 I'm sorry; you're right.

24 MS. PAYNE: Whitney Payne on behalf of  
25 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Payne, thank you.

2 On behalf of Public Counsel?

3 MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge. On behalf of  
4 the Office of Public Counsel, I'm Tim Opitz. My  
5 address is P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City,  
6 Missouri 65102.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Opitz, thank you.

8 Anyone else wishing to make an entry of  
9 appearance?

10 All right. I believe we have one customer  
11 who wishes to testify.

12 Ma'am, if you would please come forward to  
13 be sworn. And you can stand or sit, however  
14 you're comfortable. It's up to you. If you'll  
15 raise your right hand to be sworn, please.

16 Do you swear that the evidence you are  
17 about to give will be the truth, the whole truth  
18 and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

19 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If  
21 you would, please state and spell your name for  
22 the court reporter.

23 MS. DAVIS: Terrie Davis, T-E-R-R-I-E; last  
24 name Davis, D-A-V-I-S.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you a customer of



1 Roy-L Utilities?

2 MS. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. You can make  
4 your statement. When you're done, the  
5 Commissioner may have questions or I may have  
6 questions, so if you'll please keep your seat  
7 until we make sure if we have any questions.

8 MS. DAVIS: Okay.

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Is there anything you want  
10 to tell the commissioners?

11 MS. DAVIS: Okay. I do realize that we  
12 have actually had very cheap rates for years.  
13 And because of that, I realize the company has  
14 been neglecting the sewer and water, what needs  
15 to be done, because they don't have the funds to  
16 do it.

17 The rates do keep increasing substantially  
18 every other year. I think the rates now are --  
19 after -- I thought they were extremely high, but  
20 after I researched local companies -- which I  
21 realize that doesn't matter now, because there's  
22 no comparison to High Hill city water to a local  
23 small company, but she -- the new rates are a  
24 little higher than what those companies are, and  
25 I'm hoping that they will have enough money now

1 to get the water and sewer up to where it's safe  
2 to use. Because, unfortunately, there is  
3 several -- a lot of people out there that are  
4 retired on fixed incomes, and this is really  
5 hard on them. And I'm hoping that there is not  
6 going to be another large increase in a couple  
7 years. I think it's fair what she's doing. I  
8 don't -- I think that she has improved the  
9 company a lot. Marie has done well. We're not  
10 out of water like we used to be, but I'm hoping  
11 for the sake of the fixed income retired people  
12 that the increase is not going to be so  
13 substantial in the future.

14 That's all I wanted to say.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Davis, thank you.

16 Commissioner Coleman, any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Ms. Davis, where do  
18 you live?

19 MS. DAVIS: On -- do you want my address?

20 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, no, your  
21 general --

22 MS. DAVIS: On the Golden Eagle side. The  
23 Golden Eagle side. There's a Ranch Royal side  
24 and a Golden Eagle side. I live out at the  
25 lake.

1 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. I do know  
2 where the lake area is.

3 MS. DAVIS: Right.

4 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you. I  
5 appreciate you being here.

6 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I don't have any questions.  
8 Anything from counsel?

9 MR. OPITZ: No, Judge.

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, Ms.  
11 Davis, very much for your testimony.

12 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Let me double check. I  
14 don't think we have any other customers here.  
15 Is there anyone else who wishes to testify?  
16 Going once, going twice. All right.

17 Commissioner Coleman, any closing remarks?

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No. I enjoy these  
19 very long hearings that I drive an hour and a  
20 half to get to, fresh air and all that good  
21 stuff.

22 Thank you all very much for the opportunity  
23 for you to voice your opinion.

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Anything further from  
25 counsel before we close?

1 MS. PAYNE: No, Judge.

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Hearing nothing, we will go  
3 off the record. That concludes the local public  
4 hearing in WR-2016-0109 and SR-2016-0110. Thank  
5 you. We're off the record.  
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