

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

In the Matter of a Working Case to)
Investigate solutions to Problems Facing)
Small Water and Sewer Public Utilities.)

File No. WW-2009-0386

STAFF'S NOTICE OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 1, 2009

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and submits its Notice of Stakeholder Meeting Set For October 1, 2009 to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) stating as follows:

1. On April 8, 2009, the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) filed its Petition to Open a Workshop Docket, designated file nos. WO-2009-0362 and SO-2009-0363, to allow stakeholders, interested entities, and the Commission to explore the problems facing Commission regulated small water and sewer companies and develop solutions.
2. On April 10, 2009, the Commission issued its order directing Staff to respond.
3. On April 13, 2009, Staff filed its response supporting such a workshop docket, stating that "eighteen (18) small water and sewer rate cases [were pending], in addition to application cases, formal complaints and other inspections and investigations." Staff noted that "the vast majority of the small water and sewer rate cases filed will be completed by the end of August 2009," and therefore requested a deferral of the workshop docket until August 20, 2009, to prepare, organize and hold the initial meeting.
4. On May 1, 2009, the Commission opened the above referenced working case to "invite the public and interested utilities to submit written comments describing the problems facing small water and sewer utilities, and offering possible solutions to those problems. After those comments are collected, the Commission may schedule a workshop at which interested persons can gather to discuss the identified problems and solutions."

5. Multiple small water and sewer utility comments have been filed in this case beginning June 10, 2009.

6. On June 5, 2009, the Commission held a Water Symposium to inform small water and sewer utilities of topics including the Missouri Department of Natural Resources new requirements and available programs, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's program and educational opportunities regarding asset management assistance.

7. On August 12, 2009, the Water and Sewer Department Staff held an internal meeting where an estimated twenty Staff members discussed what major issues seemed to be consistently arising in small water and sewer cases.

8. As of August 22, 2009, eighteen water and sewer rate increase cases were filed and closed pursuant to the newly effective Small Utility Rate Case Procedure 4 CSR 240-3.050, effective May 30, 2008.¹ Of these 18 cases, five rate increase request cases were withdrawn by the companies.

9. Further, as of the date of this filing, ten additional water and sewer rate increase cases have been filed under the Commission's new Small Utility Rate Case Procedure Rule, 3.050.

10. On September 1, 2009, OPC filed its request for the Commission to set a small water and sewer utility workshop.

11. As of September 3, 2009, Staff will send the letter attached hereto, labeled Attachment A, inviting companies to participate in an open forum discussion on October 1, 2009, regarding issues impacting small water and sewer utilities in Missouri. A similar letter will be sent to stakeholders and interested entities also on September 3, 2009. This October 1st date was chosen

¹ The Commission issued an Order Approving Tariff Filings in Compliance with Commission Order in four cases, with an issue date of August 31, 2009, and an effective date of September 12, 2009. Therefore, technically these four cases will close as of September 12, 2009.

to give sufficient notice for those interested to make arrangements to attend. Also, to begin the discussion, this letter highlights the major issues Staff identified in its internal meeting.

12. Due to the completion of eighteen rate increase cases, along with the ten currently pending small water and sewer cases filed under 3.050, this open forum should allow companies and interested entities to evaluate problems known and discovered through the rate case process and other cases; review creative solutions already proposed within the context of those cases, and any approved, through the rate case process; and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the small water and sewer rule itself and propose corrections.

13. Once this initial open forum is conducted, it should be clear what major issues should be the focus of workshops for entities to work toward resolution of the most problematic issues.

14. Staff believes it is not necessary at this time for the Commission to set a workshop date.

WHEREFORE, the Staff submits its Notice of Stakeholder Meeting Set For October 1, 2009, for the Commission's information and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shelley Syler Brueggemann

Shelley Syler Brueggemann

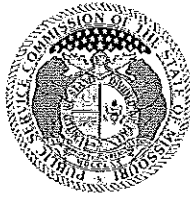
Missouri Bar No. 52173

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-7393 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
shelley.brueggemann@psc.mo.gov (e-mail)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 2nd day of September 2009.

/s/ Shelley Syler Brueggemann



Commissioners
ROBERT M. CLAYTON III
Chairman
JEFF DAVIS
TERRY M. JARRETT
KEVIN GUNN
ROBERT S. KENNEY

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
<http://www.psc.mo.gov>

WESS A. HENDERSON
Executive Director
DANA K. JOYCE
Director, Administration and
Regulatory Policy
ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services
NATELLE DIETRICH
Director, Utility Operations
STEVEN C. REED
Secretary/General Counsel
KEVIN A. THOMPSON
Chief Staff Counsel

September 3, 2009

RE: Case No. WW-2009-0386

Dear

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC) opened Case No. WW-2009-0386, *In the Matter of a Working Case to Investigate Solutions to Problems Facing Small Water and Sewer Public Utilities*, to specifically receive company, customer, and interested stakeholder insight and comments. In conjunction with this case, the Commission hosted a Water Symposium on June 5, 2009. Many of the regulated water and sewer companies participated in person or watched the presentations via the Commission's webcast of that event.

Now it is your turn to bring forward issues you want discussed. On **Thursday, October 1, 2009**, the Staff will host an open forum to discuss issues impacting small water and sewer utilities in the State of Missouri. This will be your opportunity to share thoughts on issues affecting you and your business as a regulated entity in the State of Missouri.

To get the discussion started the Staff of the MoPSC came up with various issues that seem to be impacting regulated small water and sewer companies. Those issues include, in no particular order of importance:

(1) PSC Assessments, (2) Small Company Rate Requests, (3) Succession Planning, (4) Mobile Home Parks and Submetering, (5) Ratemaking, (6) Access to Capital, (7) Benchmarking, and (8) Depreciation.

Please take this opportunity to express and discuss issues your company faces. Remember, your issue may also lead to discussions of other important issues that need to be resolved. Then, Staff will start setting up workshops in the near future to address these issues.

You can either come to Jefferson City for the meeting, or we will have a call-in number for you to use to participate in case you cannot attend in person.

Please RSVP to me at 573-751-7529, or via email at jim.busch@psc.mo.gov. When you RSVP, please let me know if you will need the call-in number. We are limited to the number of individuals that can call in, so we also ask that multiple individuals from the same location share a line. If we have more companies calling in, we will create a new date so we can accommodate everyone.

If you are unable to participate, but have some thoughts on issues affecting small water or sewer companies, either forward them to me, or you can submit a public comment into the case through the Commission's EFIS system.

We look forward to seeing, or hearing, you there.

Regards,

Jim Busch
Manager, Water and Sewer Department