

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

In the Matter of the Application of Ozark)	
Meadows, Aqua Development Company,)	
dba Aqua Missouri, Inc. Request for)	Case No. SR-2010-0023
Increase in Annual Sewer System)	
Operating Revenues MPC Sewer Utility)	
Small Company Rate Increase Procedures.)	

In the Matter of Aqua RU, Inc. dba Aqua)	
Missouri Request for Increase in Annual)	
Water System Operating Revenues MPSC)	Case No. WR-2010-0025
Water Utility Small Company Rate)	
Increase.)	

In the Matter of Aqua Missouri, Inc (CU))	
Request for Increase in Annual Sewer)	
System Operating Revenue MPSC Sewer)	Case No. SR-2010-0026
Utility Small Company Rate Increase)	
Procedures.)	

In the Matter of Aqua Missouri, Inc (CU))	
Request for an Increase in the Annual)	
Water System Operating Revenues MPSC)	Case No. WR-2010-0027
Water Utility Small Company Rate)	
Increase Procedures.)	

**THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REQUEST
FOR RESERVATION OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING DATES**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (Public Counsel) and for its Request for Reservation of Evidentiary Hearing Dates states as follows:

1. On July 15, 2009, Aqua Development Company, dba Aqua Missouri, Inc.; Aqua RU, Inc., dba Aqua Missouri; and Aqua Missouri, Inc. (CU) (collectively referred to as “Aqua”) filed the above stated small company rate increase requests, seeking increases in the water and sewer rates for various service territories.

2. On November 24, 2009, the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) issued its *Notice Regarding Timelines* in which the parties were put on notice that, should evidentiary hearings be requested, the hearings must be complete, the evidence closed, and the transcripts and briefs submitted to the Commission no later than April 15, 2010. The Commission also required that the parties plan any suggestions for procedural schedules accordingly.

3. On December 16, 2009, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Notice of Agreement Regarding Disposition of Small Company Revenue Increase Request in each of the above stated cases (Company/Staff Agreements) indicating agreements between Staff and Aqua. Public Counsel did not join in the agreements, resulting in a real possibility that these matters will become contested and evidentiary hearings in the above stated cases will be requested.

4. Given the requirement that the entire case must be submitted to the Commission no later than April 15, 2010, Public Counsel estimates that the evidentiary hearings must be completed by the end of March 2010. Public Counsel also estimates that a combined evidentiary hearing covering all four of the above stated cases would require at least a week to complete.

5. Looking at the Commission's hearings calendar, Public Counsel notes that hearings in other cases have already been scheduled for March 15, 2010 to April 2, 2010. At this time, the only March 2010 dates open for evidentiary hearings in the above stated cases are March 1, 2010 through March 12, 2010.

6. Given the large number of cases pending before the Commission, Public Counsel believes it would be prudent for the Commission to tentatively reserve evidentiary hearing dates for the above stated cases between March 1, 2010 and March 12, 2010, before these dates also

become unavailable. If evidentiary hearings are determined to be unnecessary, these dates could then be opened for scheduling other matters.

7. Therefore, Public Counsel requests that the Commission tentatively reserve dates for evidentiary hearings in the above stated cases between March 1, 2010 and March 12, 2010.

8. Public Counsel believes that no party will be prejudiced by this request.

WHEREFORE, Public Counsel respectfully submits its request to tentatively reserve dates for evidentiary hearings in the above stated cases between March 1, 2010 and March 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

/s/ Christina L. Baker

By:_____

Christina L. Baker (#58303)

Senior Public Counsel

PO Box 2230

Jefferson City MO 65102

(573) 751-5565

(573) 751-5562 FAX

christina.baker@ded.mo.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to the following this 24th day of December 2010:

Office General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
PO Box 360
Jefferson City MO 65102
GenCounsel@psc.mo.gov

Eric Dearmont
Office General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
PO Box 360
Jefferson City MO 65102
eric.dearmont@psc.mo.gov

Aqua Missouri
Legal Department
PO Box 7017
Jefferson City MO 65102
KAJoyce@aquaamerica.com
JWKelley@aquaamerica.com

/s/ **Christina L. Baker**
