

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 12th day
of April, 2011.

In the Matter of a Voluntary Docket to)
Study the Benefits of and to Encourage)
Utilities' Efforts to Procure Goods and)
Services from Diverse Suppliers)

File No. AO-2011-0332

ORDER OPENING REPOSITORY FILE

Issue Date: April 12, 2011

Effective Date: April 12, 2011

Missouri's regulated, investor-owned utilities provide essential services throughout the state to the majority of Missouri's citizens. The customers that receive these essential services are a diverse group of citizens, including women, minorities, small businesses and others that may be overlooked when utilities seek out vendors and contractors.

The Missouri Public Service Commission is interested in gathering information concerning the benefits Missouri's regulated utilities might reap, and the concerns they might face, when seeking to procure goods and services from diverse suppliers. Toward this end, the Commission is opening this file to receive information and documents from potentially interested entities.

Although not exhaustive, the Commission notes that the following considerations may aid in understanding efforts with regard to utilities seeking to procure goods and services from diverse suppliers:

- How should "diverse suppliers" be defined;
- What goods and services do utilities procure from outside suppliers;
- Who are the diverse suppliers in the state of Missouri that could serve Missouri's utilities;
- Which utilities already have supplier diversity programs in place;
- Among those utilities that have a supplier diversity programs in place, how is success measured;
- What incentives might encourage utilities to procure goods and services from diverse suppliers;
- What barriers exist that might discourage utilities from procuring goods and services from diverse suppliers;
- What barriers exist for diverse suppliers seeking to work with regulated utilities;
- How do utilities currently seek vendors and do current selection methods tend to create barriers for diverse suppliers;
- Are there "best practices" that can be adopted to facilitate and encourage procurement of services from diverse suppliers.

This file shall serve as a repository for documents and comments. Any person or entity with an interest in this matter may view documents and may submit comments or documents without counsel. Accordingly, intervention requests are unnecessary.

The public is welcome to submit comments by forwarding electronic communications through the electronic and information system (EFIS) or by mailing documents or written comments. Electronic comments and information will be

submitted at the Commission's website at <http://www.psc.mo.gov>. (Click on the EFIS/Case filings on the left side of the page. Scroll down and click on the public comments link. Please refer to this file number.) Mail will be sent to: Secretary, Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 and should also reference this file number.

A date for the filing of documents and comments is set out below, in the ordered paragraphs. At some point in the near future, the Commission will hold discussions. The ordered filing date is therefore set to facilitate progress toward that discussion and is not a date to prohibit filings made thereafter.

The Commission will direct the Data Center of the Commission to send this order to all utilities in the State of Missouri. Additionally, the Commission will direct the Public Information Office to make notice of this order available to all members of the General Assembly and the media. Finally, the Commission will direct the Data Center to notify all entities included on the attached service list.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. This file is established as a repository for documents and comments regarding Missouri's regulated utilities' procurement of goods and services from diverse suppliers.
2. Documents and Comments shall be filed in this case by May 13, 2010.
3. The Data Center and Public Information Office of the Commission shall send notice as set out in the body of this order.

4. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Gunn, Chm., Clayton, Jarrett,
and Kenney, CC., concur.
Davis,, C., concurs, with separate
concurring opinion to follow.

Jones, Senior Regulatory Law Judge