FILED

JUN 26 2019

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION S. PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION

CANTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

**DOCKET NO. 2016-UN-253** 

**DOCKET NO. 2016-UN-254** 

DOCKET NO. 2016-UN-255

IN RE:

NOTICE OF INTENT OF CANTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR RATES PREVIOUSLY LEVIED FOR GAS, WATER AND SEWER SERVICES WITHIN ITS CERTIFICATED

AREA IN MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

#### ORDER

THIS DAY before the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission"), *sua sponte*, is the matter of additional information required in the above-styled dockets in order to facilitate the timely and efficient administration of said dockets and to aid the Commission in issuing a final decision in each.<sup>1</sup> The Commission finds that certain data and calculations have not been filed in these dockets, and that the public interest requires the Commission to consider said missing information, described in greater detail below.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Canton Municipal Utilities ("CMU") provide the Commission with testimony and evidence that addresses the following questions on or before August 30, 2019:

1) The Commission last approved a CMU tariff for gas service on February 7, 1994. However, CMU raised rates for its gas service customers without Commission approval effective August 4, 2009, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-37. The Commission granted temporary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Commission consolidated these dockets for purposes of scheduling via order entered on January 30, 2017.

approval to CMU's increased rates for gas service customers on January 30, 2017. Therefore, CMU is ordered to provide a detailed accounting of the total amount of unapproved rates charged to CMU gas customers who fall under the Commission's rate jurisdiction for the period of August 4, 2009 until January 30, 2017.

- 2) CMU routinely transferred surplus revenues in its utility fund generated by the unapproved rates charged to the Commission's jurisdictional customers to the City of Canton's general municipal fund for non-utility services as well as the Canton Redevelopment Authority. The Commission orders CMU to provide a detailed accounting of the total amount of transfers generated from CMU gas rate collections to the City of Canton or the Canton Redevelopment Authority. The Commission further orders CMU to provide a detailed accounting of the percentage of said transfers attributable to the total amount of unapproved rates charged to CMU gas customers who fall under the Commission's rate jurisdiction for the period of August 4, 2009 until January 30, 2017.
- The Commission last approved a CMU tariff for water service on February 7, 1994. However, CMU raised rates for its water service customers without Commission approval effective October 1, 2012, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-37. The Commission granted temporary approval to CMU's increased rates for water service customers on January 30, 2107. Therefore, CMU is ordered to provide a detailed accounting of the total amount of unapproved rates charged to CMU water customers who fall under the Commission's rate jurisdiction for the period of October 1, 2012 until January 30, 2017.
- 4) CMU routinely transferred surplus revenues in its utility fund generated by the unapproved rates charged to the Commission's jurisdictional customers to the City of Canton's general municipal fund for non-utility services as well as the Canton Redevelopment Authority. The

Commission orders CMU to provide a detailed accounting of the total amount of transfers generated from CMU water rate collections to the City of Canton or the Canton Redevelopment Authority. The Commission further orders CMU to provide a detailed accounting of the percentage of said transfers attributable to the total amount of unapproved rates charged to CMU water customers who fall under the Commission's rate jurisdiction for the period of October 1, 2012 until January 30, 2017.

5) The Commission further orders CMU to provide a detailed accounting of the total amount of transfers generated from CMU sewer rate collections to the City of Canton or the Canton Redevelopment Authority, and the percentage of said transfers attributable to the total amount of rates charged to CMU water customers who fall under the Commission's rate jurisdiction.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the above-detailed questions be fully answered, in writing, with supporting testimony and evidence, on or before **August 30, 2019**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall be effective upon issuance. The Executive Secretary of the Commission is hereby instructed to serve a copy of this order on the parties.

SO ORDERED, this the Z6<sup>±</sup> day of June, 2019.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cecil Brown

Vice-Chairman and Hearing Examiner<sup>2</sup>

KATHERINE COLLIER

**Executive Secretary** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The full Commission appointed Vice-Chairman Cecil Brown Hearing Examiner in each of the above referenced dockets on January 24, 2017.

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