THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners:	Mark Sievers, Cha Thomas E. Wright Shari Feist Albrech		
In the Matter of the Wheatland Electric Coop Approval to Make Certai Charges for Water Service	erative, Inc. for n Changes in Its)))	Docket No. 14-WHLW-218-RTS
Meats, Inc.)	

ORDER GRANTING TYSON FRESH MEATS, INC.'S MOTION FOR INTERVENTION AND THE SETTING OF A PREHEARING CONFERENCE

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and determination. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

1. Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland) has four separate applications pending with the Commission relating to water service rates with each of its customers. First, Docket No. 14-WHLW-157-CON is an application for special contract approval between Wheatland and Finney County Rural Water District No. 1 (Finney RWD #1). Second, Docket No. 14-WHLW-176-CON is an application for special contract approval between Wheatland and the City of Garden City, Kansas (Garden City). Third, Docket No. 14-WHLW-217-CON is an application for special contract approval between Wheatland and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower). Lastly, Docket No. 14-WHLW-218-RTS is an application for tariff rates between Wheatland and Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc. (Tyson).

¹ Docket No. 14-WHLW-157-CON, Application (October 7, 2013).

² Docket No. 14-WHLW-176-CON, Application (October 15, 2013).

³ Docket No. 14-WHLW-217-CON, Application (November 13, 2013).

⁴ Docket No. 14-WHLW-218-RTS, Application (November 13, 2013).

- 2. On December 3, 2013, the Commission consolidated Wheatland's dockets into Docket No. 14-WHLW-218-RTS because each docket requires common findings of fact concerning Wheatland's cost of service.⁵ Also on December 3, 2013, the Commission issued a Suspension Order,⁶ Order Designating Prehearing Officer, Protective Order, Discovery Order, and Procedural Order.⁷
- 3. On December 6, 2013, Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc. (Tyson) filed its Motion to Intervene and for the Convening of a Prehearing Conference (Motion).⁸ In its Motion, Tyson states it is an industrial water customer of Wheatland at its Finney County Plant in Holcomb, Kansas.⁹ Tyson needs a reliable and reasonably priced supply of water because it uses significant amounts of water in operating its plant.¹⁰ Wheatland's Application proposes a rate increase of 94%; an increase of over \$900,000 a year.¹¹ As such, Tyson has a substantial interest in this matter which cannot be adequately represented by another party.¹² Additionally, Tyson requests the Commission order a prehearing conference for the purpose of establishing a procedural schedule.¹³
- 4. The Commission has broad discretion to grant a petition for intervention if it is in the interest of justice, if the intervention will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings, and if the party has stated facts demonstrating its legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceeding.¹⁴

⁶ *Id.* (deferring any decision in this docket until July 11, 2014).

⁵ Docket No. 14-WHLW-218-RTS, Order Consolidating Dockets, Suspension Order, (December 3, 2013).

⁷ Order Designating Prehearing Officer, Protective Order, Discovery Order, Procedural Order, (December 3, 2013).

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⁸ Motion of Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc. to Intervene and for the Convening of a Prehearing Conference, (December 6, 2013).

⁹ *Id.* at $\P 2$.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id*.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.* at ¶ 3.

¹⁴ K.S.A. 77-521; K.A.R. 82-1-225.

Furthermore, at any time during a proceeding, the Commission may impose limitations on an intervenor's participation.¹⁵

- 5. The Commission finds that Tyson has a significant interest in the outcome of this docket because the 94% proposed rate increase could have a substantial effect upon Tyson's operations. Therefore, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521, the Commission grants Tyson intervention in all proceedings relevant to this docket. The Commission also finds that the Prehearing Officer should set a prehearing conference for the purpose of establishing a procedural schedule.
- 6. Tyson will be added to the official service list. Service of pleadings, communications, and correspondence should be delivered to counsel of record as follows:

Martin J. Bregman, Ks. Sup. Ct. #12618 Sarah Toevs Sullivan, Ks. Sup. Ct. #20041 STINSON MORRISON HECKER, LLP 1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2900 Kansas City, Missouri 64106 (816) 691-3195 Phone (816) 691-3495 Fax mbregman@stinson.com ssullian@stinson.com

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

- A. The Commission grants Tyson intervention pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521.
- B. The Prehearing Officer shall set a prehearing conference for the purpose of establishing a procedural schedule.
- C. The parties have fifteen days, plus three days if service of this order is by mail, from the date this Order was served in which to petition the Commission for reconsideration.¹⁶
- D. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it deems necessary.

¹⁵ K.S.A. 77-521(c).

¹⁶ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 77-529(a)(1).

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Sievers, Cha	airman; wright, Commission	er; Albrecht, Commissioner
Dated:	DEC 1 9 2013	
		ORDER MAILED DEC 1 9 2013
		Kim Christiansen
		Executive Director
MIC		

MLS

PLEASE FORWARD THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT (S) ISSUED IN THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCKET TO THE FOLLOWING:

NO. CERT. COPIES NO. PLAIN COPIES

NAME AND ADDRESS

MICHAEL MUIRHEAD, DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES CITY OF GARDEN CITY 301 N 8TH ST PO BOX 998 GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

LYNN FREESE, PRESIDENT FINNEY COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #1 101 MAIN ST PO BOX 230 SCOTT CITY, KS 67871

SAMUEL FEATHER, LITIGATION COUNSEL KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027 ***Hand Delivered***

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STUART LOWRY, PRESIDENT AND CEO SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION 301 W. 13TH PO BOX 1020 (67601-1020) HAYS, KS 67601

ORDER MAILED DEC 1 9 2013

The Docket Room hereby certified that on this day of , 20 , it caused a true and correct copy of the attached ORDER to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the above persons.

PLEASE FORWARD THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT (S) ISSUED IN THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCKET TO THE FOLLOWING:

NO. CERT. COPIES NO. PLAIN COPIES

NAME AND ADDRESS

WILL HIGGINBOTHOM, CORPORATE COUNSEL TYSON FOODS, INC. 2200 W DON TYSON PKWY SPRINGDALE, AR 72762

KEEN K. BRANTLEY, ATTORNEY WALLACE, BRANTLEY & SHIRLEY 325 MAIN ST PO BOX 605 SCOTT CITY, KS 67871

ORDER MAILED DEC 1 9 2013