

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1769

In the Matter of

MOUNTAIN HOME WATER  
DISTRICT,

Application to Abandon Water Service  
and Abandon Water Utility.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
MEMORANDUM

On May 11, 2016, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Mountain Home Water District (Mountain Home) and Commission Staff. Mel and Connie Kroker appeared on their own behalf.

**Petitions to Intervene**

Before the conference, petitions to intervene were filed by Elizabeth Kelley and Mel and Connie Kroker. No party attending the conference objected to the petitions. Upon review of the petitions, I find that Ms. Kelley and the Krokero have sufficient interest in the proceedings to participate and that their participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings.<sup>1</sup> The petitions to intervene are therefore granted.

**Procedure**

The parties agreed to convene an informational meeting at a time and location of their convenience. I asked that counsel for the company provide notice to each of the customers regarding the time and place of the meeting.

Within five days after their meeting, Staff shall submit a report summarizing the meeting and making a recommendation as to how to proceed. Within two days after Staff submits its report, any party may file comments on Staff's report. I will then issue a ruling regarding further proceedings.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2016, at Salem, Oregon.



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Patrick Power  
Administrative Law Judge

Attachment: Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures

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<sup>1</sup> See OAR 860-001-0300.

## NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

Oregon law requires state agencies to provide parties written notice of contested case rights and procedures. Under ORS 183.413, you are entitled to be informed of the following:

**Hearing:** The time and place of any hearing held in these proceedings will be noticed separately. The Commission will hold the hearing under its general authority set forth in ORS 756.040 and use procedures set forth in ORS 756.518 through 756.610 and OAR Chapter 860, Division 001. Copies of these statutes and rules may be accessed via the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.or.us](http://www.puc.state.or.us). The Commission will hear issues as identified by the parties.

**Right to Attorney:** As a party to these proceedings, you may be represented by counsel. Should you desire counsel but cannot afford one, legal aid may be able to assist you; parties are ordinarily represented by counsel. The Commission Staff, if participating as a party in the case, will be represented by the Department of Justice. Generally, once a hearing has begun, you will not be allowed to postpone the hearing to obtain counsel.

**Administrative Law Judge:** The Commission has delegated the authority to preside over hearings to Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). The scope of an ALJ's authority is defined in OAR 860-001-0090. The ALJs make evidentiary and other procedural rulings, analyze the contested issues, and present legal and policy recommendations to the Commission.

**Hearing Rights:** You have the right to respond to all issues identified and present evidence and witnesses on those issues. *See* OAR 860-001-0450 through OAR 860-001-0490. You may obtain discovery from other parties through depositions, subpoenas, and data requests. *See* ORS 756.538 and 756.543; OAR 860-001-0500 through 860-001-0540.

**Evidence:** Evidence is generally admissible if it is of a type relied upon by reasonable persons in the conduct of their serious affairs. *See* OAR 860-001-0450. Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be made at the time the evidence is offered. Objections are generally made on grounds that the evidence is unreliable, irrelevant, repetitious, or because its probative value is outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or undue delay. The order of presenting evidence is determined by the ALJ. The burden of presenting evidence to support an allegation rests with the person raising the allegation. Generally, once a hearing is completed, the ALJ will not allow the introduction of additional evidence without good cause.

**Record:** The hearing will be recorded, either by a court reporter or by audio digital recording, to preserve the testimony and other evidence presented. Parties may contact the court reporter about ordering a transcript or request, if available, a copy of the audio recording from the Commission for a fee set forth in OAR 860-001-0060. The hearing record will be made part of the evidentiary record that serves as the basis for the Commission's decision and, if necessary, the record on any judicial appeal.

**Final Order and Appeal:** After the hearing, the ALJ will prepare a draft order resolving all issues and present it to the Commission. The draft order is not open to party comment. The Commission will make the final decision in the case and may adopt, modify, or reject the ALJ's recommendation. If you disagree with the Commission's decision, you may request reconsideration of the final order within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.561 and OAR 860-001-0720. You may also file a petition for review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.610.