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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH	
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MOUNTAIN SEWER CORPORATION FOR GENERAL RATE INCREASE	Docket No. 11-097-03 Prefiled Direct Testimony of Mitch Winegar

Mountain Sewer Corporation (“**Mountain Sewer**”) hereby submits the Prefiled Direct
Testimony of Mitch Winegar in this docket.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2012

/s/ Richard K. Rathbun
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH	
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MOUNTAIN SEWER CORPORATION FOR GENERAL RATE INCREASE	Docket Nos. 11-097-01 through -03 Certificate of Service of Prefiled Direct Testimony of Mitch Winegar

I hereby certify that the **Prefiled Direct Testimony of Mitch Winegar** was served on the following on July 26, 2012 as follows:

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Direct Testimony of

Mitch Winegar

on behalf of

Mountain Sewer Corporation

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MOUNTAIN SEWER
CORPORATION FOR GENERAL RATE INCREASE**

Docket Nos. 11-097-01 through -03

July 26, 2012

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name, and present position.**

3 A. Mitch Winegar. Manager, consultant, technician

4 **Q: How long have you been providing services to Mountain Sewer?**

5 A: I have been providing services to Mountain Sewer off and on for almost 30 years.

6 I have been involved with the system essentially from the beginning.

7 **Q: How much have your bills to Mountain Sewer totaled each year?**

8 A: The amounts that I have billed to Mountain Sewer have varied greatly. A few

9 years were as low as \$500.00 and some years were around \$60,000.00 or so.

10 **Q: Describe the timeliness and completeness of payments to you from Mountain Sewer**
11 **when Ron Catanzaro owned the company.**

12 A: Mountain Sewer owed me about \$80,000.00 (depending on penalties and interest)

13 when Ray Bowden and Valley Utility took ownership.

14 **MOUNTAIN SEWER OPERATIONS**

15 **Q: Describe the range of services that you typically perform for Mountain Sewer.**

16 A: Keep pumps, blowers, alarms, force main, etc. working.

17 **Q: Describe the condition of the Mountain Sewer system at the time ownership was**
18 **transferred to Valley Utility.**

19 A: The system was generally in need of upgrades. The pumps and force main were

20 always clogging due to illegal debris in the system. We were making service calls

21 sometimes twice weekly to unclog these items and get the pumps going again.

22 **Q: Describe recommendations you have made to Mountain Sewer regarding system**
23 **maintenance and improvements.**

24 A: I generated lists of proposed upgrades to controls, alarm system, pumps, force
25 mains, blowers, screens, etc. and provided estimated costs for each.

26 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
27 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
28 **funding through a special assessment for “Stainless Steel Screen” for \$14,500.**
29 **Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing this work.**

30 A: The screen referred to is a filtration device. Sewer customers have historically
31 flushed debris or rags into the sewer system. This screen is a filtration system that will
32 collect and debris or rags before they reach the pump in the lift station. If such debris
33 reaches the pumps, the pumps will need to be shut down and cleaned out manually. Also,
34 the debris or rags can jam the pump and cause it to burn out. Replacing a burned out
35 pump costs approximately \$8,000.

36 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
37 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
38 **funding through a special assessment for “Replace discharge flanges in sump” for**
39 **\$13,000. Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing**
40 **this work.**

41 A: Although this is listed in the “remaining items,” this has actually already been
42 completed. We replaced the flanges and also installed new shutoff valves and backflow
43 prevention devices. This was done for about \$11,000 total—less than initially
44 estimated—paid to Bachman Plumbing and Mitch Winegar. Mitch provided the
45 discharge flanges and Bachman provided valves, 90s and backflow preventers. However,
46 problems arose on the fit on the east pump, the pump had to be pulled and the slide rail

47 assembly modified and machined resulting in charges of about \$1,700.00 that are still
48 outstanding.

49 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
50 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
51 **funding through a special assessment to “Upgrade alarm system” for \$6,400. Please**
52 **describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing this work.**

53 A: The alarm system currently installed is old and outdated. The purpose of the
54 alarm system is to alert the system operator if any of the pumps in the lift stations are
55 malfunctioning. Currently, the alarm system works probably 90% of the time which
56 necessitates the twice-daily checks by Mark Greene. Upgrading the alarm system is
57 absolutely necessary based on the system design and geography of the service area.
58 Since effluent must be pumped uphill to the lagoons, any failure of the lift stations can
59 cause flooding or other problems.

60 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
61 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
62 **funding through a special assessment to “Rebuild Blowers” for \$4,500. Please**
63 **describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing this work.**

64 A: The blowers need to be rebuilt for both ponds. If the blowers are not functioning,
65 the ponds do not get aerated and the system capacity is reduced.

66 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
67 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
68 **funding through a special assessment to “Rebuild Damage Blower Control Panel”**

69 **for \$1,156. Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of**
70 **performing this work.**

71 A: The panel that controls the blowers needs to be repaired to allow the system to
72 function normally.

73 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
74 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
75 **funding through a special assessment to “Replace or repair airline valve” for \$1,200.**
76 **Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing this work.**

77 A: The airline valve is part of the blower system and needs to be repaired for the
78 system to function properly.

79 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
80 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
81 **funding through a special assessment to “Drain upper pond, repair blowers” for**
82 **\$4,500. Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing**
83 **this work.**

84 A: This applies to the bubblers in the ponds. The blowers force compressed air into
85 the supply system, the air ‘bubbles’ out through orifices and diffusers in the ponds.

86 These orifices and diffusers are in need of repair

87 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
88 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
89 **funding through a special assessment to “Refurbish old Flygt pumps” for \$790.**
90 **Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of performing this work.**

91 A: These original pumps need to be serviced and partially rebuilt to be ready as
92 backups for the pumps now in service.

93 **Q: In Exhibit G7 (Special Assessment) to the Application for a General Rate Increase,**
94 **Mountain Sewer, under the heading “Remaining items to be done/paid”, seeks**
95 **funding through a special assessment to “Reroute storm water drainage manhole”**
96 **for \$1,000. Please describe the work to be performed and the necessity of**
97 **performing this work.**

98 A: This is the area that caused the flooding of the condos previously. The manhole
99 will be sealed with a permanent watertight lid and the water will be rerouted. This needs
100 to be done in order to prevent storm water intrusion into the sewer system.

101 **Q: Mountain Sewer wrote Check No. 1057, \$4200, dated 1/13/2012, to you for contract**
102 **labor. Describe the work performed for the payment and the necessity of this work.**

103 A: This was payment for new discharge / slide rail flange assemblies (mentioned
104 above) for the lift station.

105 **Q: Mountain Sewer wrote Check No. 1074, \$1075, dated 4/4/2012, to you for contract**
106 **labor. Describe the work performed for the payment and the necessity of this work.**

107 A: This was payment for eight service calls for various problems with the lift pumps
108 during March 2012. A complete description (dates, problem, services performed, rates
109 etc.) was supplied with invoice #10579.

110 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

111 A: Yes, it does.