Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA), National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC)

#### **Regulatory Partnership Program**



Sponsored by US Agency for International Development (USAID)

October 28, 2004 14:00 Wess Henderson **Filing A Rate Case How A Rate Case Proceeds** • An example of how a RATE CASE will be conducted • Utility company files for a new tariff (general rate case)

- Utility's filing package must meet minimum filing requirements of the PSC
- Commission and Staff can not discuss filing
- Suspension order and notice given
- Presiding officer of a rate proceeding will be an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Regulatory Law Judge (RLJ), or hearing examiner
  - Presides over the entire hearing
  - Develops a record of the hearing for the Commission
  - May possibly submit a recommended decision to the Commission

• Intervention date is established

Company files direct testimony

Proposed procedural schedule

Scope of proceedings/grouping issues

Direct testimony (staff and other intervenors)

• Pre-hearing conference

All parties rebuttal testimony and schedules
Stipulation and agreement OR

THE HEARING BEGINS!

Formal evidentiary hearings are usually the format for rate proceedings

Trial type hearing
Discovery
Cross-examination

Initial briefs

• Reply briefs

Entire record reviewed by Commission

• Order is issued

• Operation of law date is set

Tariff filing due

#### **O**ptions

- Utility or other parties may accept order
- Utility or other parties may ask for partial rehearing of the rate case
- Commission may or may not grant rehearing
- Utility or other parties may appeal order to the courts
- Commission order may stand or it may be remanded back to the Commission by the courts

## Actions to Avoid

#### Prejudgment by Commissioners

• Ex parte communications