COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

VIRGINIA B. EDWARDS

COMPLAINANT

V.

NORTH MERCER WATER DISTRICT

DEFENDANT

CASE NO. 2023-00108

<u>ORDER</u>

On March 28, 2023, Virginia B. Edwards tendered a formal complaint with the Commission against North Mercer Water District (North Mercer District) alleging North Mercer District allowed a broken water pipe to freely flow and made no attempt to turn the water off or notify Ms. Edwards of the broken water pipe and the bill for the water used during the incident is now \$4,335.10.¹ For relief, Ms. Edwards requests to the Commission, "that the amount be wiped out and charge me what the City of Harrodsburg charged them (North Mercer District) for the water."²

Pursuant to Commission regulations in 807 KAR 5:001 Section 20(4)(a), upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Commission must determine whether the complaint establishes a prima facie case. A complaint establishes a prima facie case when, on its face, it states sufficient allegations that, if uncontradicted by other evidence, would entitle

¹ Virginia B. Edwards Formal Complaint (filed Mar. 28, 2023).

² Virginia B. Edwards Formal Complaint at 2.

the complainant to the requested relief. If a complaint fails to establish a prima facie case, it may be dismissed.

The Commission notes that, because a determination has not yet been made whether the complaint establishes a prima facie case, the complaint has not yet been accepted for filing and North Mercer District is not a party to the case at this time. However, North Mercer District should be in possession of records related to the basis for allegedly not monitoring Ms. Edwards' water and not timely turning Ms. Edwards' water off after an alleged pipe break. The allegations made by Ms. Edwards support further investigation into the merits of the complaint. The Commission finds that additional information is needed to assist the Commission in making a determination of whether the complaint establishes a prima facie case. Because the necessary information is in the possession of North Mercer District, the Commission finds that a copy of this Order should be served upon North Mercer District.

A copy of Ms. Edwards' complaint is attached to this Order as an Appendix to inform North Mercer District of the subject of the complaint and to assist in identifying Ms. Edwards' account.

North Mercer District, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, shall file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due within 20 days of service of this Order. The Commission directs North Mercer District to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085³ regarding filings with the Commission.

³ Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. North Mercer District shall respond to this request for documents within 20 days of service of this Order by providing the following:

a. The circumstances that caused the pipe(s) to break, if known to North Mercer District;

b. The date and time of the incident, if known to North Mercer District;

c. The date and time North Mercer District first learned of the incident;

d. A copy of the work order to shut off Ms. Edwards' water;

e. Any documentation of phone calls, emails, or letters between Ms. Edwards and North Mercer District regarding the incident.

f. Copies of any bills to Ms. Edwards regarding the alleged incident;

g. A summary of any in person or telephone conversations between North Mercer District and Ms. Edwards regarding the alleged incident.

2. A copy of this Order shall be served on North Mercer District for the sole purpose of requesting necessary documents to assist the Commission in determining whether the complaint establishes a prima facie case.

3. A copy of this Order shall be served on Ms. Edwards by U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested at 224 W. Factory Street, Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330.

4. North Mercer District shall serve a copy of its response on Ms. Edwards at 224 W. Factory Street, Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330.

5. North Mercer District shall respond to any additional requests for information propounded by Commission Staff, as provided in those requests.

6. Nothing contained in this Order shall prevent the Commission from entering further Orders in this matter.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Chairman Vice Chairman Commissioner



ATTEST:

sel <u>n</u> Executive Director

Case No. 2023-00108

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2023-00108 DATED SEP 08 2023

THREE PAGES TO FOLLOW

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

MAR 2 8 2023

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

In the matter of: Name COMPLAINANT VS. (Name of Utility) DEFENDANT COMPLAINT The complaint Erespectfully shows: (Your Full Nam <u>d</u>s (a) Ky 40330 ddress (b) ame of Utility 95 Lovisti 392 (Address of Utility) (c) That: 1/ (Describe here, attaching additional sheets if necessary, Final the specific act, fully and clearly, or facts that are the asis for the complaint.) Fucht PER

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An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D =

Formal Complaint

vs. North Mercer Water Dis Fdu

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nn Was act Wherefore, complainant asks Specifically state the relief desired.) 0 Kentucky, this _28 Dated at day (Your City) 2023 MA of (Month) our Signature (Name and address of attorney, if any)

*Complaints by corporations or associations, or any other organization having the right to file a complaint, must be signed by its attorney and show his post office address. No oral or unsigned complaints will be entertained or acted upon by the commission.

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Virginia B. Edwards North Mercer Water Distric Page 3 of 3 priority and # 4,154.91 whose the amount they demanded. But then that was anary 10, 2023 according to their reading Hebruary 15, 2023 \$ 717.00 Was read on the meter. Bringing the total \$ 4335.10 This is evidence that at no time dia They make any attempt to shut off the water. My contractor shut the water off January 12, 2023. I received a call from North Mercer employee Tanmy Holiday and wanted to Know who shut off the water. There is no evidence or information that they should have cut the meter off, and or, notified me about the situation.

Virginia B. Edwards 224 West Factory Street Harrodsburg, KENTUCKY 40330

*North Mercer Water District 4795 Louisville Road P. O. Box 79 Salvisa, KY 40372

*Mischell Lee North Mercer Water District P. O. Box 79 Salvisa, KY 40372