COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

JAMES L. FLOYD

COMPLAINANT

v.

CASE NO. 2001-070

)

)

WESTERN PULASKI COUNTY WATER DISTRICT DEFENDANT

ORDER TO SATISFY OR ANSWER

Western Pulaski County Water District ("Western Pulaski") is hereby notified that it has been named as Defendant in a formal complaint filed on March 24, 2001, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 12, Western Pulaski should, therefore, satisfy the matters complained of or file a written answer to the complaint within 10 days from the date of this Order.

On the face of the complaint, Mr. Floyd alleges unreasonable service and also claims Western Pulaski's actions led to certain damage to his property. The Commission is, however, without jurisdiction to grant damages.

KRS Chapter 278 does not delegate to the Commission any authority to adjudicate claims arising out of a utility's negligence. KRS 278.260 grants the Commission only "original jurisdiction over complaints as to rates or service of any utility." <u>See also KRS 278.420(2)</u>. No reference to tortious conduct claims is made; nor

can the authority to adjudicate such claims be reasonably inferred consistent with the Kentucky Constitution. <u>See</u> Kentucky Constitution § 14; <u>Carr v. Cincinnati Bell, Inc.</u>, Ky. App., 651 S.W.2d 126 (1983). Accordingly, the Commission is without the authority to adjudicate the Complainant's claim for damages resulting from the Defendant's alleged negligence, but maintains jurisdiction over Complainant's other claims.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, Western Pulaski shall satisfy the matters complained of or file a written answer to the complaint.

2. Any documents filed with the Commission during the course of this proceeding shall also be served on all parties of record.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 2nd day of April.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Executive Director

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2001-070 DATED 4/2/2001

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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KY PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.



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Formal Complaint



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(Name and address of attorney, if any)