## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

| THE APPLICATION OF MARTIN COUNTY    | ) |            |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|
| WATER DISTRICT FOR ALTERNATIVE RATE | ) | CASE NO.   |
| ADJUSTMENT                          | ) | 2018-00017 |

## ORDER

On January 16, 2018, Martin County Water District ("Martin District") filed its application for an Alternative Rate Adjustment ("Application") pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076. Martin District proposed to increase its current water service rates by approximately 49.6 percent.<sup>1</sup> A hearing was held January 26, 2018, to take evidence on Martin District's "dire financial situation," and its request that an "emergency rate" be approved while the Commission completed its review of Martin District's rate application.<sup>2</sup>

For the Commission to consider granting Martin District's request for emergency rates, the Commission finds that a second formal hearing should be held to to take additional evidence on that request.

The Commission takes note of Martin District's scheduled hearing set for 9:00 a.m. on February 28, 2018, in Case No. 2016-00142,<sup>3</sup> an ongoing investigation of the operating capacity of Martin District. Because many of Martin District's representatives and witnesses will be at the Commission's offices for that proceeding, and in order to expedite

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Application, Attachment 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Id. Cover letter (filed Jan. 16, 2018).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Case No. 2016-00142, *Investigation of the Operating Capacity of Martin County Water District Pursuant to KRS 278.280* (Ky. PSC Apr. 11, 2016).

this matter, the Commission finds that the hearing in this matter should be held on the same day. Representatives of Martin District's Board of Commissioners, including its Chairman and Treasurer, and Martin District's accountant, should appear at a formal hearing on February 28, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the Commission's offices.

Additionally, 807 KAR 5:076, Section 17, provides that, upon showing of good cause, the Commission may permit deviations from its administrative regulations. The Commission finds that Martin District should make a good faith effort to give notice of the hearing to the public, including publication by means of posting on a website or social media account. The emergency nature of Martin District's request for interim rates is good cause to deviate from the publication frequency requirements of 807 KAR 5:076, Section 12(3) and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(2)(b).

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- 1. Martin District, including its Chair and Treasurer of its Board of Commissioners, and Martin District's accountant, shall appear at a formal hearing scheduled for February 28, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- 2. Martin District shall give notice of the hearing by any means available to it in the intervening time, including posting on its webpage or social media account. In addition, the notice of hearing shall include the following statement: "This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov." At the time the notice is mailed, publication is requested, or is posted on a website or social media platform, Martin District shall forward a duplicate of the notice, request, or posting to the Commission.

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| 3.             | Pursuant to KRS 278.360 and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(9), a digital video |
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| transcript sha | all be made of the hearing.  |
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## By the Commission

ENTERED

FEB 1 9 2018

KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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\*Joe Hammond Manager Martin County Water District 387 East Main Street, Suite 140 Inez, KY 41224

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