

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF MONROE COUNTY WATER)	CASE NO.
DISTRICT FOR AN ALTERNATIVE RATE)	2019-00293
ADJUSTMENT)	

ORDER

On March 18, 2020, the Commission issued a final Order in this matter setting new water rates for Monroe County Water District (Monroe District) to be effective April 1, 2020. The Commission in the March 18, 2020 Order, *inter alia*, rejected Monroe District’s proposal to implement its rates in three phases, and ordered Monroe District to increase its rates April 1, 2020, to the rates that Commission Staff had calculate. In denying Monroe District’s proposed phase-in, the Commission cited to the shortfall from retail revenue of approximately \$640,924 if the rates were phased in, and expressed concern that the lost revenue would impair Monroe District’s operations.¹

On March 24, 2020, Monroe District, in Case No 2020-00085,² filed a document titled “Emergency Motion to Reconsider the Order entered March 18, 2020 in Case No. 2019-00293” (Emergency Motion). In the Emergency Motion, Monroe District requests emergency relief due to the “exceptional circumstance that our Nation now faces due to the COVID-19 crisis . . .”³ and, citing that steep increase in rates required in the March

¹ Case No. 2019-00293, *Application of Monroe County Water District for an Alternative Rate Adjustment* (Ky. PSC Mar. 18, 2020) at 5.

² Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19*, (Ky. PSC Mar. 16, 2020).

³ Emergency Motion at 1.

18, 2020 Order, requests that the Commission allow Monroe District to implement the rate increase in the originally proposed three phases.

The Commission, although Monroe District filed the Emergency Motion in Case No. 2020-00085, will treat the Emergency Motion as a timely request for rehearing, pursuant to KRS 278.400, filed in Case No. 2019-00293. Regardless, for the same reasons cited in our March 18, 2020 Order in this matter, namely the impairment of Monroe District's operations due to a significant revenue shortfall, we find Monroe District's motion should be denied.

We do acknowledge the financial difficulties of many Kentuckians caused by the current state of emergency, therefore, we find that it is reasonable to allow Monroe District to extend the effective date of its rates for three months, until July 1, 2020. Monroe District, if it chooses to extend the effective date of the rates, should notify the Commission by the end of the day April 1, 2020, that Monroe District will delay putting its rates into effect until July 1, 2020. Absent such a notification, Monroe District's rates will become effective on April 1, 2020.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Monroe District's Emergency Motion is denied.
2. Monroe District may extend the effective date of its new rates to July 1, 2020, provided that Monroe District notify the Commission in writing by the end of the day April 1, 2020, that Monroe District accepts the extension of the effective date.
3. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

By the Commission

ENTERED
MAR 31 2020 rCS
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Case No. 2019-00293

*Monroe County Water District
205 Capp Harlan Road
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

*Robert Capps
Manager
Monroe County Water District
205 Capp Harlan Road
Tompkinsville, KY 42167