

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

TARIFF FILING OF GALLATIN COUNTY WATER	)	CASE NO.
DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A FEE FOR THE	)	2018-00410
EYE ON WATER APPLICATION	)	

ORDER

On November 13, 2018, Gallatin County Water District (Gallatin District), filed a revised tariff, to add a new fee for the Eye on Water Application (Application).<sup>1</sup> Gallatin District proposed an effective date of January 1, 2019, for the revision. On December 18, 2018, the Commission issued an Order finding that further proceedings were necessary to determine the reasonableness of the proposed tariff and suspended the proposed revision until May 31, 2019, pursuant to KRS 278.190(2). Commission Staff issued two requests for information. There are no intervenors in this proceeding, and the matter now stands submitted to the Commission for a decision.

In 2018, Gallatin District replaced all of its manually read water meters with new Badger Cellular read meters that allows Gallatin District to monitor customer water usage on a monthly, daily, and even an hourly basis. It also enables Gallatin District to monitor for potential water leaks within the system. Badger Meters charges Gallatin District a fee of \$0.89 per meter per month to access this data.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> TFS2018-00518 (Ky. PSC Nov. 13, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Application at 3.

Gallatin District proposes to give its customers access to certain water usage information through the Application. Under the proposal, Gallatin District would charge each customer who chooses to access the information a fee of \$0.89 per month to cover the cost to Gallatin District.

According to information provided by Badger Meter, the new system provides certain benefits to both Gallatin District and its customers. It would allow Gallatin District to minimize meter re-reads, reduce human error in meter reading, monitor and detect leaks, and reduce water loss by finding water leaks sooner. Customers would benefit by being able to monitor their water use on a real-time basis, watch for potential leaks and high water usage, get email and text alerts for high water use or potential leaks, and set a water budget.<sup>3</sup>

Gallatin District states that customers who want to sign up for the Application, would have to contact Gallatin District to request access to the information through the smartphone app. If customers wanted to discontinue use of the Application in the future, they would have to notify Gallatin District that they no longer want to pay for the service.<sup>4</sup>

In reviewing Gallatin District's proposed non-recurring charge, the Commission found that while Gallatin District is already paying the \$0.89 per customer per month charge to access the customer data on their end, there is no additional cost for allowing the customers to view this same data through the Application.<sup>5</sup> The customers of Gallatin District are currently paying for this information through water service rates. Therefore,

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<sup>3</sup> Appendix to Commission Order Issued on December 18, 2018, at pages 8–9.

<sup>4</sup> Responses to Commission Staff's First Request for Information (Staff's First Request), Item 3.

<sup>5</sup> Tariff Filing of Gallatin County Water District at 3.

the Commission finds that if Gallatin District wishes to grant its customers access to the Application it should do so at no additional cost to its customers.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The proposed tariff revision and the non-recurring charge are denied.
2. This case is hereby closed and will be removed from the Commission's docket.

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By the Commission

ENTERED  
MAY 28 2019  
KENTUCKY PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

Case No. 2018-00410

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Sparta, KY 41086

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