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Fax to PSC # 502-564-9625  
Case No. 2007-00134  
From: Chris Schimmoecker  
660 Mt. Vernon Rd.  
Frankfort KY 40601

November 24, 2007

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Executive  
Director's Office

Dear Commissioners + Staff, Public Service Commission:

Since January of this year, I have been privileged to learn about this case and the issue of central Kentucky's water supply. While I don't own property along the route of the proposed Kentucky American Water (KAW) pipeline, I am a resident of northern Franklin County and my land would have been taken by the two northern routes that KAW floated before choosing the southern route.

In becoming educated about this pipeline and the larger issues it brings to the table, I have been impressed with the hard work of Commission members and staff and the years of work and dedication of Bluegrass Water Supply Commission (BWSC) members and the staff at the Attorney General's office. While I have not always agreed with their opinions, I respect the time and energy that has been spent on this issue.

Like many of my neighbors and fellow Citizens for Alternative Water Solutions (CAWS) members in Franklin and Scott counties, I love the forests and creeks and hills of the Elkhorn Creek Valley. The horror of imagining an industrial pipeline of this size in our beloved valley motivated me to help organize CAWS and attend countless meetings along with my newborn daughter, Sophie. Along the way, I have been impressed by the

(2)

passion, energy, intelligence, and commitment of my fellow CAWS members. Our shared journey to educate ourselves in the effort to defend our land and advocate for common sense public policy solutions has united us in common affection for each other and a fierce determination to see that a fair and equitable solution to central Kentucky's water needs is achieved.

While our group has focused on the Louisville pipeline as the antidote to the KAW proposal, we believe that there are other viable options to supply central KY, which I will list briefly here:

- ① Raise crest gates on the dam at Pool 9
- ② Increase treatment capacity at KAW's treatment plant in Lexington
- ③ Fix existing pipes. KAW's 18% water loss due to leaky pipes is unacceptable.
- ④ Conservation: Implement institutional and operational conservation measures in concert with individual conservation.
- ⑤ Build Louisville pipeline just to Frankfort and wheel water on from there in existing infrastructure.

Any one or combination of these measures has the potential to provide short or long term drought protection to central Kentucky. It would be remiss of the PSC to consider the KAW proposal as the only solution simply because it is the only case presently before the commission.

The environmental consequences of the KAW proposal have been enumerated before the commission during the public hearings and elsewhere. Compared to a

(3)

route along the I-64 corridor, KAW's cross country routing of the pipeline imposes a heavy toll on the environment, including but not limited to: crossing 8 creeks 20 times, destroying ~~forestland~~ forestland, steep slopes, and natural areas, including wetlands and rare species sites, disrupting groundwater flows, impacting springs, taking farmland, and irrevocably changing the ecological character and scenic integrity of the area.

The likelihood of piggyback ROW development and sprawl from large subdivision tractors, which KAW has admitted are possible, will create reverberating environmental and social impacts that have not been fully examined and which have the potential to permanently impair the ecological functions and rural character of the area.

Franklin County has invested much time and community effort in identifying and recognizing the value of its natural areas and historic places. Publicly through its Comprehensive Plan and privately through Woods & Waters Land Trust, Franklin County citizens have affirmed a vision of thriving compact towns, scenic rural areas, and protected natural features - a vision that the KAW pipeline threatens to derail.

I submit that the PSC must take Franklin County's community planning into consideration when issuing a decision on the case at hand.

As many have said before me and in greater detail, the pipeline from Louisville is cheaper and provides a redundant source of water. I urge the Commission to

(4)

exercise leadership and rule on this case in broad terms so that future direction is provided rather than just a yay or nay being handed to KAW.

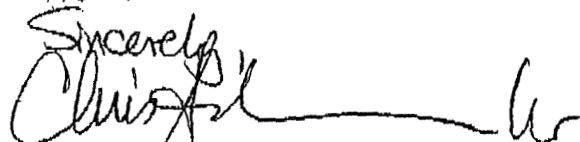
I strongly believe that when all factors, including KAW's corporate record, are taken into consideration, that KAW's proposal will not rise to the top.

The BWSC's continued support of the Pool 3/KAW "solution" via a 20% equity share represents a failure of leadership and imagination. That the BWSC chose to ally itself with KAW after KAW stole its idea, thereby gutting genuine regional partnership, is not the PSC's job to fix. Given the right leadership, the BWSC can reconfigure itself around a concept that involves true partnership and regional cooperation. Please do not support KAW's position simply because it fulfills the beleaguered vision of the BWSC.

The Attorney General's office's failure to weigh the consequences of a KAW-controlled water "solution" and its reliance on the fatally flawed testimony of its consultant, Mr. Rubin, weaken the Attorney General's opinion.

I hope that in deliberating this case you are fair-minded, willing to consider all impacts, and bold enough to support a Kentucky solution over a corporate-driven solution.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
  
Chris Schimmöeller  
11-26-07