COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER 2008-00502

IN THE MATTER OF:		RECEIVED
JULIA LYNN JOHNSTONE COMPLAINANT VS.)	DEC 2 4 2008
)	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT DEFENDANT)	

ANSWER

Comes Defendant, South Anderson Water District, by and through counsel and hereby responds to the Complaint of Julie Lynn Johnstone, as follows:

- There is attached hereto and incorporated herein the letter of Shawn Cook, Operations Manager for the District addressing the Complaint of Complainant.
- 2. The District also attached to Mr. Cook's letter other attachments which are made a part hereof.
- 3. The District believes that due to Complainants action that the District should be paid the sum of \$421.03 for the repair of the damage.

WHEREFORE, Comes the District and requests the Public Service Commission to enter an Order directing Complainant to cease and desist from entering, damaging, uncovering or otherwise coming in contact with the District's equipment pursuant to the District's tariff and for an additional Order directing the Complainant to pay the cost of repair to the District in the sum of \$421.03 and for any other relief to which the District is entitled.

HON/RAY EDELMAN 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342

(502) 839-5111 (502) 839-3834

Attorney for Defendant, South Anderson Water District

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing was served upon the following on this the 23 day of December, 2008.

Stephanie Stumbo ExecutiveDirector Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Ky 40602-0615

Julia Lynn Johnstone P.O. Box 464 Lawrenceburg, Ky 40342

RAY/ZDELMAN

SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT

142 SOUTH MAIN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342

Telephone 502-839-6919 Fax 502-859-0424

December 15, 2008

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shawn Cook, I am the operations manager for the South Anderson Water District in Anderson county. I have been employed by the district since 1993. This correspondence will address the facts surrounding PSC case # 2008-00502 filed by Julie Johnstone, a customer of the district, regarding an amount billed to her account for damages caused to metering equipment. I have enclosed with this correspondence a "chain of events log" as well as other documents pertaining to this case.

On December 8th, 2008 the district received notice from the Kentucky Public Service Commission that a complaint had been filed against the district by Julie Johnstone, a customer that receives service off Hwy 44 (Glensboro Road). In Ms. Johnstone's written complaint to the commission she clearly admits to entering the meter box to turn water service on and off at her discretion. She also states in paragraph 2 that "there is no other place to shut off the water" which is in direct violation of tariff sheet #36 paragraph 5 which states that the customer must have a shut off valve on the outlet side of the water meter. Ms. Johnstone also states that after repairs were made by the district that it looked as if nothing had been done inside the meter box. In explanation to this, repairs were made on the damaged inlet side of the meter (caused by turning service on and off multiple times) and a new service feed was installed to the meter. The meter box, meter, and service yoke were not replaced due to no damage to this equipment.

In the written complaint to the commission, Ms. Johnstone also states that her actions and intent were to repair an "emergency" water leak. Upon further review of the customers account file it was discovered that Ms. Johnstone had received a "high-usage" note February 18th, 2008 and also on March 31st, 2008 regarding abnormal usage at her service location . (copies enclosed) A "high-usage"note is generated by meter reading personnel in the field while recording monthly meter readings or upon review of the customer usage amounts prior to billing. This is a customer service provided by the district to inform our customers of abnormal usage on their account.

Ms. Johnstones statement that her intent was to repair an "emergency" water leak is misleading to the commission. Ms. Johnstone had received notice from the district and had knowledge of a possible problem with her service for over 4 months prior to the damage caused by her negligence. I have also spoken to the meter reader and was informed that it appears that she is still entering the meter box at her discretion which creates the possibility that she could cause additional damage to the equipment in the future. This "emergency" as stated is clearly not a high priority emergency to Ms. Johnstone as it has been over 9 months since she was first notified by the district of a problem and no repairs have been made to my knowledge.

In conclusion, after reviewing the facts of this case I believe the commission will agree that Ms. Johnstone has violated the districts recorded tariff and is responsible for the billed damages. If you have any questions or comments regarding this correspondence feel free to contact me M-F 8-4:30 at the number listed above.

Yours truly,

Shawn Cook

Operations Manager

December 18, 2008

CHAIN OF EVENTS LOG

Re:

Account #: 03-270-02

Account Name: Julie Johnstone

Service Address: Hwy 44 PSC Case # 2008-00502

RECORDED BY: Shawn Cook, Operations Manager

07-03-2008

At approximately 4 p.m. the district office was contacted and Informed by Ms. Johnstone that water was leaking at the Location of her meter and wanted the district to investigate. Ms. Johnson also informed office personnel that her private Service line had a leak, she had been entering the meter box And using the districts valve to turn her service on and off To water horses. Ms. Johnstone also stated that when she Turned water off this time that water continued to run in the Meter box (copy of work order enclosed)

07-03-2008

Ms. Johnstone was informed by office personnel that she was Not allowed to enter the meter box and tamper in any way with Districts equipment. She was also informed that she would be Responsible for any expenses to repair damages caused by this Practice.

07-03-2008

work order was executed, upon investigation by district Personnel it was determined that the feed line had been Damaged to Ms. Johnstones meter from turning service on And off repeatedly. Due to 4th of July holiday, minimal water Loss, and Ms. Johnstone still able to receive water for livestock Repairs were scheduled for a later date. (a \$25 fee was Assessed for this service call/investigation, copy of tariff Fee schedule enclosed)

07-07-2008	office personnel were informed of results of Investigation and directed to send Ms. Johnstone A utility tampering letter and a copy of the districts Tariff sheet # 40, informing her of her responsibility For charges to repair this damage. Office personnel Were also instructed to contact 811 services for Utility marking in area of repairs. (copy of utility Tampering letter and tariff sheet #40 enclosed) (.25 hour office labor was charged for this service)
07-14-2008	Damaged area was repaired by district personnel and Contracted equipment and labor
07-15-2008	An invoice was prepared that reflected district costs Of contracted equipment, district labor and equipment, And costs of materials used in repair. (copy of Itemized invoice enclosed)
07-17-2008	Invoice was mailed to Ms. Johnstone for \$421.03 (\$383.30 labor/equipment, \$37.73 materials) (copy Of mailed invoice enclosed)
09-02-2008	A second notice invoice was mailed after no contact Was received from initial mailing. (copy of 2 nd notice Enclosed)
10-07-2008	after no response from 2 invoices the amount due was added To the account
11-05-2008	account was disconnected for outstanding balance
11-10-2008	account was re-activated due to call from PSC stating that Ms. Johnstone was disputing the charges for repairs

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

- A. Original 07-03-2008 work order
- B. Tariff sheet #7 non-recurring charges
- C. Tampering letter
- D. Tariff sheet #40
- E. itemized invoice
- F. mailed invoice
- G. 2nd notice of amount due
- H. tariff sheet #36

South Anderson Water District

WORK ORDER

498

Order Date

Account #

0003-00270-002

Name

Status

7/3/2008

Today

Johnstone, Julie 07/07/08 04:08 PM Scheduled Address Hwy 44 Lawrenceburg, KY 40342 **Customer Complaint** (502) 859-4437 Order Type Telephone **READING IN / OUT** READING **LOCATOR TAG** METER# **ERT/INTERNAL ID#** WT 33342714

SHE HAS BEEN TURNING WATER OFF AND ON AT METER TO FIX A LEAK Description WATER IS NOW RUNNING IN METER BOX-SHE HAS TURN THE METER OFF-STILL RUNNING Comment Completed By Assigned To Maintenance Requested By joyce Completed Date 7/3/8 Time : Time ___: ___ Start Date / / Multiplier ____ Make _____ Size/Type Notes

PLEASE CHECK ONE_ OFF ON LOCKED

Date Previous Reading_____ Usage

Date _____ Present Reading Usage ____

Todays Reading Date Usage_____

()OTHER

Field Notes (helped, has become our connection, sent Tamporing" letter and appropriate where she is responsible for repairs regions of, schooled

DATE ENTERED IN SYSTEM BY



		unty, Kentucky nunity, Town or City
	P.S.C. KY. NO.	
•	Original SHEE	Г NO,7
South Anderson Water District	CANCELING P.S.C. KY. NO	
(Name of Utility)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	T NO.
RULES AND R	EGULATIONS	В
D. SPECIAL NON-RECURRING CHARGES:		The state of the s
Connection/Turn-on Charge		25.00
Connection/Turn-on Charge (After Hours)		50.00*
Field Collection Charge		25.00
Late Payment Penalty		10%
Meter Relocation Charge		Actual Cost
Damage to Meter Setting or Lid (Field visit p	lus equipment replaced)	Actual Cost
Meter Re-read Charge		25.00
Meter Re-read Charge (After hours)		50.00
Meter Test Charge	•	50.00
Re-connection Charge		50.00
Re-connection Charge (After Hours)		75.00*
Returned Check Charge		25.00
Service Call/Investigation		25.00
Service Call/Investigation (After Hours)	w. The second	50.00*
*NOTE—Regular working hours for the uti and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. excluding holidays. Up Maintenance Staff, services may be performed out Maintenance Staff who are called in after hours are g	on customer request, and side regular working hours	subject to availability of sat the after hours rate.
DATE OF ISSUE		
Month / Date / Year DATE EFFECTIVE	PUBLIC SERV	/ICE COMMISSION
ISSUED BY BOLL (Signature of Officer)	OF K EF 5/ PURSUANT	ENTUCKY FECTIVE '28/2005 TO 807 KAR 5:011 ETION 9 (1)
BY AUTHORITY OF ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMI	001UN NUIGO	

Executive Director

IN CASE NO. 2004-00525 DATED

SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT

142 MAIN STREET/P.O. BOX 17, LAWRENCEBURG, KY. 40342 PHONE: 502-839-6919 FAX: 502-859-0424

DATE: 7/7/08

Julie Johnstone.
P.D. BOX 464

Lawrenceburg, Ky 40342

THIS IS TO LET YOU KNOW:

YOU ARE **NOT** ALLOWED TO TAMPER WITH THE METER OR METER BOX.

ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF THE KRS 514.060 THAT STATES YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED. IF ANY DAMAGE IS DONE TO THE METER OR METER BOX, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY EXPENSE INCURRED.

SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT

THEFT OF SERVICES KRS 514.060

- 1. A person is guilty of theft of service when:
 - (a) The person intentionally obtains services by deception or threat or by false token or other means to avoid payment for the service which he knows are available only for compensation.
- 2. Prosecution for theft of gas, water, electricity, or other public service, where the utility supplying the service had installed a meter or other device to record the amount of service supplied Proof that:
 - (a) The meter or other device has been altered, tampered with, or by-passed in a manner so as to prevent or reduced the recording thereof; or
 - (b) Service has been (after having been disconnected by the utility supply service), reconnected without authorization of the utility.

Shall be prima facie evidence of the intent to commit theft of service by person or persons obligated to pay for service supplied through the meter or other device.

3. Theft of service is a Class A misdemeanor unless the value of service is three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or more, in which case it is a Class D felony.

	FOR Anderson County, Kentucky
	Community, Town or City
	P.S.C. KY. NO.
	Original SHEET NO. 40
South Anderson Water District	CANCELING P.S.C. KY. NO.
(Name of Utility)	SHEET NO.
RU	LES AND REGULATIONS
Z. <u>Legal Disclaimers</u> .	
system failure or interruption of	held responsible for any claims made against it for reasons of of service. No persons shall be entitled to damages nor for any for any system failure or interruption of service which in the I necessary.
deface, or tamper with any s utility's water system. Any	willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, structure appurtenance or equipment which is a part of the person violating this provision will be subject to all legal and/or discontinuance of water service and shall pay the cost ility's facilities.
or property is caused by or rembers of his/her household	roperty of the utility or any accident or other injury to persons esults from the negligence or wrongful action of a customer, i, his/her agent or employee, the cost of necessary repairs or the customer of the utility and any liability otherwise resulting
cannot guarantee a water supported vary depending upon other water or other circumstances. The	n, including any customer's fire protection system, the utility oly at any particular flow rate or pressure. The fire flow may atter demands on the system, various water facility limitations, customer will indemnify and hold harmless the utility and its all claims, damages, losses, and expenses incurred as a result of ficient system facilities.
DATE OF ISSUE Month/Date/Ye	
DATE EFFECTIVE	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ISSUED BY 3 of Signature of Offi	OF KENTUCKY EFFECTIVE 5/28/2005
TITLE Chairman	PURSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:011 SECTION 9 (1)

IN CASE NO. 2004-00525

BY AUTHORITY OF ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

_DATED

Executive Director

INVOICE

Julie Johnstone Glensboro Road

7/3/2008

District Service Charge

\$25.00

7/7/2008

Office labor charge (.25 hour)

4.19

7/14/2008

Hyatt Plumbing

\$2500

2 district vehicles @\$25

\$50.00

1.5 hour Shawn

31.29

Estimated water loss 12K gallons @\$2.15/1000

1.5 hour Shannon

22-82/8

\$25.80

Brass CTS Repair Coupling

\$9.44

3/4 PVC repair coupling

\$249

MAL \$ 421-03

MERIAL

F



SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT 142 SOUTH MAIN STREET

LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342

Telephone 502-839-6919

Fax 502-859-0424

INVOICE

July 17, 2008

Ms. Julie Johnstone P.O. Box 464 Glensboro Road Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342

Repair and replace damaged meter box and metering equipment:

 Labor & Equipment
 \$ 383.30

 Materials
 \$ 37.73

 Total due
 \$ 421.03

Total due upon receipt, if not paid within 90 days the invoice amount will be added to your water bill.

SOUTH ANDERSON WATER DISTRICT

142 SOUTH MAIN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY

40342

Telephone 502-839-6919

Fax 502-859-0424

INVOICE

July 17, 2008

Ms. Julie Johnstone P.O. Box 464 Glensboro Road Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342 SECOND NOTICE DATE: 9/2/08

Repair and replace damaged meter box and metering equipment:

7/14/08 Bobby Hyatt

Labor & Equipment \$ 383.30

Materials <u>\$ 37.73</u>

Total due \$ 421.03

Total due upon receipt, if not paid within 90 days the invoice amount will be added to your water bill.

	FOR Anderson County, Kentucky Community, Town or City
	P.S.C. KY. NO.
	Original SHEET NO. 36
South Anderson Water District	CANCELING P.S.C. KY. NO.
(Name of Utility)	SHEET NO.
And the second s	RULES AND REGULATIONS
point of service will be loc most accessible to the uti system does not follow st customer's property line a	ation system follows well-defined streets and roads, the customer's rated at that point on or near the street right-of-way or property line lity from its distribution system. In areas where the distribution treets and roads, the point of service will be located as near the as practicable. Prior to installation of the meter the utility will r as to the most practical location. If possible meters will be

his closest to the existing water main.

3. Depth of service line. All service lines must be laid at a sufficient depth (a minimum of 24 inches) to prevent freezing during the coldest weather normally experienced except where services are not intended for use during freezing weather and are actually drained during such periods.

installed within 5 feet of the existing water main or the applicant's property at a point which

- 4. A plumbing permit from the appropriate regulatory agency is required before the utility can establish service.
- 5. The applicant/customer must furnish and lay the necessary pipe to make the connection from the point of service to the point of usage and be financially responsible for all costs associated with the installation and maintenance of his/her service line plumbing, including a shut-off valve and one-way check valve, installed on his/her property beginning at the outlet side of the water meter. The service line must be kept in good repair and in accordance with utility and Public Service Commission rules and regulations.
- 6. The installation and maintenance of the water service line must be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Health.
- 7. A cross-connection of the utility's system with any other source is strictly prohibited.

DATE OF ISSUE	_
Month / Date / Year	
ISSUED BY Chairman Month / Date / Year (Signature of Officer)	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY EFFECTIVE 5/28/2005 PURSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:011 SECTION 9 (1)
BY AUTHORITY OF ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO	By Executive Director