

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF THE WESTERN )	
MASON COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FOR THE )	
ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC )	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO )	CASE NO.
CONSTRUCT A WATER SYSTEM )	2024-00107
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND AN ORDER )	
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITIES )	
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF KRS )	
278.020, 278.300, AND 807 KAR 5:001 )	

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
TO WESTERN MASON COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Western Mason County Water District (Western Mason District), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, shall file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due on May 17, 2024. The Commission directs Western Mason District to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085<sup>1</sup> regarding filings with the Commission. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

Each response shall include the question to which the response is made and shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Western Mason District shall make timely amendment to any prior response if Western Mason District obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect or incomplete when made or, though correct or complete when made, is now incorrect or incomplete in any material respect.

For any request to which Western Mason District fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, Western Mason District shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall be given to copied and scanned material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations. When filing a paper containing personal information, Western Mason District shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

1. Refer to the Application, Exhibit A, describing the proposed waterline replacement and extensions.

a. State if Western Mason District considered using any material other than PVC, and if so, state what material was considered and why PVC was the least cost, reasonable alternative.

b. State how Western Mason District determined the appropriate diameter of pipe for each section of the project.

c. State the current age of the existing water lines that Western Mason District is seeking to replace.

d. State the cause of the deterioration of the current water lines that Western Mason District is seeking to replace.

2. State how Western Mason District determined that a new booster pump station was needed.

3. State if the land needed for the booster pump station is already owned or leased by Western Mason District or if land will need to be acquired.

4. State if Western Mason District considered alternatives to installing an above ground booster pump station and why the specific booster pump station was chosen.

5. State if Western Mason District considered any alternative locations for the booster pump station and why the location was chosen.

6. State if above ground booster pumps are currently in use and if so, state the age of any above ground booster pump stations.

7. State what system is currently in place to provide water to the southern part of the distribution system and why the pump station is now required.

8. Explain the approximate percentage of total customers that the installation of a new above ground pump station will benefit.
9. State the expected costs of operation and maintenance of the proposed pump station.
10. Provide a breakdown showing the number of each type of meter currently used on Western Mason District's system by make and model.
11. Explain what Western Mason District intends to do with the remaining undepreciated value of the older meters being replaced.
12. State what Western Mason District intends to do with the meters that will be replaced.
13. State whether Western Mason District currently uses an AMR or AMI system for meter reading, and if so, describe the type of system and identify those meters that Western Mason District currently uses that are compatible with that system.
14. State whether Western Mason District is seeking approval to only install the meters or whether Western Mason District is also seeking authorization to purchase the meters.
15. State whether Western Mason District already owns the 825 radio read meters, and if so, when the meters were purchased; the cost of purchasing the meters; and if Western Mason District sought a CPCN from the Commission for the purchase of the meters and if not why.
16. State the make and model of the meters that will be installed.

17. State why Western Mason District choose the particular make and model of meter, what alternatives were considered, and why the meters selected were chosen over the alternatives.

18. State if the installation of the radio read meters will also require the purchase and installation of equipment, computers, or software, to read the new meters, and if so, provide the estimated cost of that equipment and state how Western Mason District intends to pay for that equipment.

19. State the age of the current meters.

20. State the remaining expected useful life of the current meters.

21. State when the current meters were last tested.

22. State the expected service life for the proposed meters and provide any engineering reports or manufacturing data that support that expected service life.

23. State the expected cost of operation and maintenance of the new meters.

24. State the cost of operation and maintenance of the existing meters.

25. Provide any hydraulic analysis models, maps, or other documents relating to the booster pump station and the water lines that are to be replaced.

26. Refer to the Application, Exhibit B, Distribution-Major Construction documents, in which the right side of the text has been cut off, provide that document in its entirety by resubmitting the documents showing the entire page.

27. Refer to Application, Exhibit I. Provide a PDF or legible copy of the chart in Exhibit I, page 1.

28. Refer to the Motion to Expedite and the Application, and state whether Western Mason District is seeking approval for a loan from the Rural Water Financing Agency, or a loan issued by Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation.

29. State the terms of the loan, including, but not limited to, the term of the loan, the interest rate, and any service charges or fees.

30. Provide any documents including preliminary documents available from organization offering the loan.

31. Explain how bids were solicited for the proposed projects, whether through direct solicitation, publication, or another method. If solicited through publication, provide a copy of the publication and state that days on which it was published.

32. State which contractors bids Western Mason District has selected.

33. State what factors were taken into consideration in selecting a winning bid.

34. State whether Bluegrass Engineering made any recommendations regarding bid selection, and if so, provide a copy of those documents.

35. State if any other bids were received for the purchase and installation of 5/8" x 3/4" Radio Read Meters, specifically Contract 2, other than from Ferguson Water Works.

36. Refer to Application, Exhibit D, provide a detailed explanation for the Proposed Funding item titled "Local Contributions" in the amount of \$76,002.

37. Refer to Western Mason District's 2022 Annual Report in which it reports a total water loss of 8,223,000, approximately 11.4872 percent.<sup>2</sup> Explain how the proposed project will affect the water loss percentage.

38. Refer to the Application, Exhibit A, Public Necessity and Project Description. State who drafted that document.



Linda C. Bridwell, PE  
Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 615  
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DATED       MAY 09 2024      

cc: Parties of Record

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report of Western Mason District to the Public Service Commission for the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2022* at 57.

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