

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ROBERT AND NETTIE SUTHERLAND)	
)	
COMPLAINANT)	
)	
VS.)	CASE NO. 93-389
)	
PLEASANT HILL WATER DISTRICT)	
)	
DEFENDANT)	

O R D E R

On October 19, 1993, Robert and Nettie Sutherland filed a complaint with the Public Service Commission ("Commission") against the Pleasant Hill Water District ("District"). The Sutherlands alleged that the District refused to provide water service to a trailer located on their property. The Sutherlands have been customers of the District since 1973. In the 1980's, to rectify a low pressure problem, the District constructed a pump station, which housed a small pump, a motor, and a pressure tank on the Sutherlands property to boost the water pressure above the minimum 30 psig required by Commission regulation. In late 1990, water service was extended to a mobile home on the Sutherlands' property. The existing pump station could not provide the necessary pressure. After the Sutherlands initiated an informal complaint with the Commission (#900093404), an additional pump station was built which raised the water pressure once again over 30 psig for both meters.

On April 27, 1993, the Sutherlands applied to the District for a third meter for an additional trailer on their property. By

letter dated September 20, 1993, the District stated it could not set a meter at an elevation above 1,165 feet and produce adequate pressure. The Sutherlands' home and the two trailers are above this elevation. The District gave the Sutherlands the option of having the deposit for the third meter refunded or extending service without adequate pressure. These options were not acceptable to the Sutherlands and on October 16, 1993 this complaint ensued.

An informal conference was ordered for March 30, 1994. The Sutherlands attended but the District did not. The Sutherlands were advised by Commission Staff to either renew their request for a hearing or to pay the tap-on fee to the District and seek the requested service on an expedited basis.

In April of 1994 the District set a water meter for the third site between the pump station and the second meter.

On May 3, 1994, a field investigation was made by K. Michael Newton of the Commission Staff in regard to this complaint. A pressure recorder was placed in the meter pit of the Sutherlands' son's trailer lot for a 7-day period to obtain water pressure recordings. The pressure recordings showed variations in water pressure between 50-80 psig during the test period.

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:066, Section 5(1), the District is required to provide a minimum pressure of 30 psig under normal circumstances to the customer's meter. The pressure chart revealed that the minimum pressure was being maintained at the two trailer

sites during the test period. The District is therefore meeting the minimum pressure requirements.

During the investigation, Staff determined that the water main serving the two trailers is a 3/4-inch P.V.C. water line extending roughly 200 feet until it dead ends. Section 10 of 807 KAR 5:066 requires the District to construct pipe line of adequate size to maintain the minimum pressure required by Section 5(1). The maximum length of any individual small pipe shall not extend further than that allowed in 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10(2)(a). The District has extended a 3/4 inch nominal size pipe approximately 200 feet (non-circulating) contrary to the express requirements of the regulation. The District is therefore not meeting the minimum pipe size requirements on this distribution system which is 1 1/2 inch pipe.

Where dead ends occur, 807 KAR 5:066, Section 8(2), requires the utility to provide a flushing device, sized to provide flows which will give a velocity of at least two and one-half (2.5) feet per second in the water main being flushed. The District does not have a flushing device on the dead end of the water main serving the two trailers and therefore does not meet the requirements of Section 8(2).

During the period the pressure recorder was in place two interruptions occurred. One failure was caused by the malfunction of the pump station's motor which feeds both meters. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:066, Section 4(3), the District shall have available standby pumps capable of providing the maximum daily pump demand of

the system for use when any pump is out of service. The District did not have a standby pump motor in stock when the interruption occurred and is therefore not in compliance with the cited regulation.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:


1. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, the District shall develop a construction schedule and financing plan to implement the necessary improvements to meet 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10(2)(a); 807 KAR 5:066, Section 8(2); and 807 KAR 5:066, Section 4(3).

2. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, the District shall file a schedule and the plan with the Commission.

3. The District shall provide the Commission with notice that all construction is completed and compliance is met.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 1st day of July, 1994.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director