

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE FILING OF WEBSTER COUNTY)	
WATER DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A)	CASE NO.
SELF-READ METER READING POLICY)	2002-00082
FOR A TWELVE-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD)	

FIRST DATA REQUEST OF COMMISSION STAFF
TO WEBSTER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Webster County Water District (Webster District) has filed with the Commission a proposed tariff, which initiates a Self-Read Meter Reading pilot program. This pilot program, as proposed, is for 1 year and is to apply only to those customers on the New Hopewell and White Oak Projects. Further, only those customers with 5/8-inch x 3/4-inch meters in those areas would participate in the pilot program. The program is designed to encourage those affected customers to read their own water meters in a timely manner. A meter-reading credit is proposed for those customers who timely submit their meter readings to Webster District. However, Webster District proposes to assess a service charge on those customers who do not timely submit each monthly reading.

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Webster District should file with the Commission the original and six copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due on or before May 20, 2002. Each copy of the data requested should be placed in a bound volume with each item tabbed. When a number of sheets are required for an item, each sheet should be appropriately indexed,

for example, Item 1(a), Sheet 2 of 6. Include with each response the name of the person who will be responsible for responding to questions relating to the information provided. Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When information requested herein has been previously provided, in the format requested herein, reference may be made to the specific location of said information in responding to this information request. When applicable, the information requested herein should be provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations, separately.

1. In the proposed pilot program, Webster District will apply the self-read meter reading policy to the New Hopewell and White Oak Projects.

a. Why were the New Hopewell and White Oak Projects selected for this pilot program?

b. How many customers will this pilot program affect?

c. Have these customers been notified of the proposed pilot program by a customer survey to see if they are in favor of this program?

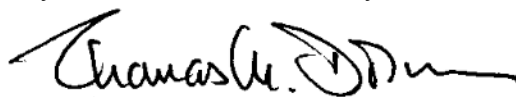
d. Has this policy been publicized in the local media with a request for customer comment?

2. Explain why the proposed pilot program for the customers of the New Hopewell and White Oak Projects is mandatory rather than optional.

3. Is it correct that the cost of meter reading is built into the current rates of Webster District?

4. If a savings to Webster District is realized from the operation of the pilot program, how will these savings be passed on to the customers now and in the future?

5. Does Webster District plan to ask for a rate decrease?
6. Has Webster District prepared an estimate of the amount of money it could save with the self-reading meter policy versus the amount of money it could lose through fraud and meter tampering? If yes, explain in detail.
7. In the current tariff of Webster District, there is a \$15 service charge for a meter re-check. Justify the proposed \$20 service charge to read the meter of a customer who is included in this pilot program.
8. Has Webster District investigated the option of contracting with a private company specializing in meter reading? If yes, why was this option not chosen?
9. Refer to Step 2(#1) of the Meter Reading Instructions to be provided to each customer in the pilot.
 - a. Explain Webster District's policy if a customer is unable to remove the lid to read the meter or is unable to have someone else read it during a particular month due to unforeseeable circumstances such as inclement weather.
 - b. What if a customer discovers a harmful insect or other creature in the meter box?
10. Refer to Step 2(#2) of the Meter Reading Instructions to be provided to each customer in the pilot. Explain Webster District's policy when a customer is unable to read his own meter due to illness, infirmity, or other extraordinary reasons.



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DATED April 26, 2002

cc: All Parties