

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC SOUTH HOPKINS WATER)	
DISTRICT UNACCOUNTED-FOR WATER LOSS)	CASE NO.
REDUCTION PLAN, SURCHARGE AND)	2023-00018
MONITORING)	

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIFTH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO SOUTH HOPKINS WATER DISTRICT

South Hopkins Water District (South Hopkins 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 21, 2025. The Commission directs South Hopkins District to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ 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 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

¹ 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).

response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

South Hopkins District shall make timely amendment to any prior response if South Hopkins 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 South Hopkins District fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, South Hopkins 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, South Hopkins 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 South Hopkins District's February 12, 2025 Request to Use Surcharge Funds to Purchase a DJI Mavic 3T Enterprise Drone.

a. State if South Hopkins District has sought quotes from or determined if there are any contractors who could provide drone-based leak detection. If so, provide the estimated cost. If South Hopkins District has not sought quotes from contractors for this service, explain why.

b. State if South Hopkins District will be required to apply for any licenses, certifications or permits for drone operations and provide any associated costs.

c. State if the drone will be limited to a single operator.

d. State if South Hopkins District will be required to acquire a pilot certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for each drone operator.

e. Provide any expected costs savings derived from purchasing and having South Hopkins District employees use the drone verses contracting for the same or substantially similar drone services as well as over other leak detection methods.

f. Provide a statement from a Kentucky licensed attorney that states if South Hopkins District will be subject to any federal statutes or regulations relating to the operation of a drone, with particular focus on 14 CFR Part 107.

g. State if South Hopkins District will be exempted from FAA requirements to utilize a certified remote pilot to operate the drone and register or license the drone, and if so, explain the exception.

h. If the drone, or use of the drone, requires a license, certification, registration, or other operating requirements, provide the estimated cost of acquiring and maintaining the license, registration, or other operating requirements.

2. Refer to the South Hopkins District's letter dated August 9, 2024,² where it requested to use surcharge funds to replace 200 meters at first and gradually purchase meters for the entirety of the district.

² South Hopkins District's Request to Use Funds (filed Aug. 16, 2024).

a. Provide a copy of any current estimates South Hopkins District has received for the purchase and installation of the proposed replacement cellular water meters.

b. Explain if South Hopkins District has applied for, or obtained any, funding from Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, or any other source for its on-going or future water meter replacements.

c. Explain whether South Hopkins District plans to use further water loss surcharge funds toward the meter replacement project.

3. Refer to the South Hopkins District's letter dated August 9, 2024, requesting to use water loss surcharge funds to purchase necessary materials to repair leaks.

a. Provide a list of the specific materials proposed for purchase.

b. Explain whether South Hopkins District currently has the requested materials in inventory or regularly purchases these materials for the district's normal operations.

4. Provide a copy of any estimates or invoices for the proposed materials for which South Hopkins District requested to use water loss surcharge funds.

5. Explain how South Hopkins District intends to fund replacement of the inventory material as the material is utilized.



Linda C. Bridwell, PE
Executive Director
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

DATED MAY 09 2025

cc: Parties of Record

Case No. 2023-00018

*South Hopkins Water District
129 South Main Street
P. O. Box 487
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

*Kayla Goodaker
Office Manager
South Hopkins Water District
129 South Main Street
P. O. Box 487
Dawson Springs, KY 42408