COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT THE U.S. 41 TANK PROJECT	))))	CASE NO. 2026-00293

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST 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 November 16, 2026. The Commission directs South Hopkins District to the Commission's July 22, 2021, Order in Case No. 2020-00085[1] 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. State whether the U.S. 41 Water Storage Tank Project (Project) would result in any interruption of service to customers and, if so, explain how the district would minimize any interruption of water service related to the Project.

2. Refer to the Application, Attachment 3, Final Engineering Report, page 13, Section E Reserves, which indicates that, to be net revenue-neutral, the average

customer bill would need to increase by $4.99.[2] Refer also to South Hopkins District application for a rate increase in Case No. 2026-00193.[3]

a. Explain whether South Hopkins District has proposed to include any of the costs associated with the Project proposed herein in its proposed rate increase in Case No. 2026-00193.

b. If so, identify and explain what costs were included.

c. If not, explain when South Hopkins District anticipates that a future rate adjustment would be required to account for the increased incremental costs associated with the Project.

3. Refer to South Hopkins District's 2025 annual report in which it reports a total water loss of 194,907 gallons, approximately 42.86 percent.[4] State how much South Hopkins District expects that percentage will be improved by the proposed Project.

4. Refer to the Application, page 6. State the cost of the additional maintenance and refurbishment South Hopkins District's existing water storage tanks and existing booster pump stations will require in the future.

5. Provide the estimated useful life of the proposed 200,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and duplex booster pump station considering the potential addition of a prospective commercial or industrial customer with a moderately high demand for water.

6. Refer to the Application, page 27, paragraph 11 and Exhibit 10.

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[2] $54.43 2028 projected Average monthly customer bill – $49.44 current average Customer monthly Bill =$4.99

[3] Case No. 2026-00193, Electronic Application of South Hopkins Water District for a Rate Adjustment Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076.

[4] *Annual Report of South Hopkins District to the Public Service Commission for the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2025,* at 59.

a. Explain the criteria South Hopkins District used to evaluate each bid submitted.

b. Explain the basis for the acceptance of the bid of $3,487,000 from Caldwell Tanks Inc, other than the lowest cost.

7. Refer to the Application, page 12, paragraph 30. Provide a breakdown, by specific item and amount, of the estimated annual cost to operate the Project in Excel spreadsheet format with all columns, rows, and formulas unprotected and fully accessible.

8. Provide the expected annual depreciation expense associated with the Project, and its calculation using the ranges recommended by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in its 1979 publication: Depreciation for Small Utilities, in Excel spreadsheet format with all columns, rows, and formulas unprotected and fully accessible.

Justin McNeil RP

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DATED NOV 05 2026

cc: Parties of Record

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