

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

ADJUSTMENT OF RATES OF KENTUCKY-) CASE NO. 2007-00143
AMERICAN WATER COMPANY)

**LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY
GOVERNMENT'S PRE-FILED TESTIMONY**

Comes now the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (the "LFUCG"), by counsel and pursuant to the Public Service Commission's Scheduling Order of May 18, 2007 and files the following verified direct testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 26, 2007, a true and accurate copy of the following testimony was electronically transmitted to the Public Service Commission; that the Public Service Commission and other parties participating by electronic means were notified of such electronic transmission; that the original and one (1) copy in paper medium was served by first class U.S. Mail delivery, postage prepaid, to Beth O'Donnell, Executive Director, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615; and that one (1) copy in paper medium was served by first class U.S. Mail delivery, postage prepaid, on the following:

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CHIEF ROBERT HENDRICKS,
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DIVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

1 **1. Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 A. Robert G. Hendricks, Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services,
3 219 East Third Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508.

4 **2. Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am currently employed as the Fire Chief of the Lexington-Fayette Urban
6 County Government's Division of Fire and Emergency Services [Lexington Fire
7 Department], a position I have held since February 3, 2003.

8 **3. Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY FILED TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS**
9 **COMMISSION?**

10 A. No.

11 **4. Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL**
12 **BACKGROUND.**

13 A. I received a BS in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology from Eastern
14 Kentucky University in 1984. My fire service career began in 1971 as a
15 volunteer firefighter with the Russell Fire Department in the City of Russell,
16 Kentucky. At the time of my separation (due to a permanent change in
17 residence) from that department several years later, I held the rank of Assistant
18 Chief. I have been a full time firefighter for over 30 years. I served in Lexington
19 from 1977 until 1997, holding the positions of Firefighter, Fire Lieutenant, Fire
20 Captain, and retiring as a District Fire Major. I then was employed by the City of
21 Georgetown, Kentucky as Chief of the career Georgetown Fire Department from
22 1997 until 2003. I returned to Lexington in 2003 and have served as Chief of the
23 Fire Department from that time until the present.

1 **5. Q. WHAT ARE YOUR DUTIES AS FIRE CHIEF?**

2 A. As the Chief of Department, I am responsible for the delivery of service to
3 280,000 citizens living in the 282 square miles of metropolitan Lexington-Fayette
4 County. As such, I lead a “full service” fire department composed of 558
5 uniformed fire and emergency service personnel and 30 civilians from 23 Fire
6 Stations. We are privileged to provide activities and services which include but
7 are not limited to fire prevention, public fire education, response to fires of all
8 types, response to all types of accidents and medical emergencies, rescue
9 services of all types, and hazardous material response and mitigation.

10 **6. Q. WHAT WILL YOUR TESTIMONY ADDRESS?**

11 A. My testimony will primarily address the expectations and needs that the
12 Lexington Fire Department has for fire hydrants.

13 **7. Q. WHAT IS THE BASIS OR STANDARD THAT THE LEXINGTON FIRE**
14 **DEPARTMENT ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW WITH RESPECT TO FIRE**
15 **HYDRANTS?**

16 A. As with most areas of fire protection, the Fire Department follows the
17 requirements enacted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky that are referred to as
18 the Kentucky Standards of Safety. These standards include a listing of adopted
19 NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) codes, and serve as the basis for
20 which this department works to direct its operations. The chief focus of a hydrant
21 monitoring program is to verify the availability and functionality of all hydrants in
22 Fayette County. By adhering to state adopted guidelines that establish inspection
23 and testing frequencies, as well as record keeping requirements, we believe that

1 we will better provide for the safety of the community that we serve. The primary
2 NFPA code pertaining to hydrant systems is NFPA 25, which covers the
3 maintenance and testing frequencies of water based fire protection systems.
4 There are also additional standards, such as NFPA 24 (the standard for the
5 installation of private fire service mains and their appurtenances), and NFPA 291
6 (color coded painting of fire hydrants).

7 **8. Q. WHAT MEASURES OR ACTIONS DOES THE LEXINGTON FIRE**
8 **DEPARTMENT TAKE WITH RESPECT TO TRACKING OR MONITORING**
9 **FIRE HYDRANTS?**

10 A. We are in the process of completing an electronic hydrant tracking
11 system, which when populated with accurate and up-to-date hydrant flow data,
12 will allow our department to monitor all hydrants and have a reasonable idea of
13 how well each hydrant will function when it is used in fire fighting, as well as
14 assist us in planning and in meeting our record keeping requirements.
15 Concurrently, all hydrants that are installed in Fayette County are also cataloged
16 using a GPS mapping program that is maintained by another division of the
17 Urban County Government. In addition to electronic tracking, the Fire
18 Department also has an established water control office. This office works
19 towards achieving compliance with state requirements as well as dealing with
20 local issues affecting hydrant distribution and maintenance.

1 **9. Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT IN**
2 **ASSISTING THE LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN FULFILLING ITS**
3 **DUTIES?**

4 A. Yes. In order for the Fire Department to provide the public with the best
5 service and protection possible, it needs all fire hydrants to function on an
6 appropriate and expected level.

7 **10. Q. DOES THE LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT RELY ON KENTUCKY-**
8 **AMERICAN WATER COMPANY IN FULFILLING THESE DUTIES?**

9 A. Yes. Under current practices and procedures, the Fire Department is
10 largely reliant on the water company when it comes to all fire hydrants in Fayette
11 County. As I understand it, Kentucky-American currently takes responsibility for
12 all maintenance, testing, inspecting, and painting of all public and private fire
13 hydrants. As a result, the Fire Department relies almost entirely on the company
14 in this area.

15 **11. Q. WHY DOES THE LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT WANT HYDRANTS**
16 **PAINTED IN A SPECIFIC COLOR SCHEME?**

17 A. The color scheme required by the NFPA is based upon the flow testing of
18 each hydrant. The hydrant is to be painted based upon the results so that the
19 Fire Department knows how the hydrant is expected to perform when it is used in
20 firefighting. The hydrants need to be painted in a consistent and accurate
21 manner pursuant to the NFPA standards so that firefighters can timely assess
22 the flow capacity and fire fighting ability of each hydrant when they respond at
23 the scene, and so that we can adequately plan for future fire events.

1 **12. Q. WHAT EXPECTATIONS AND NEEDS DOES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**
2 **HAVE OF KENTUCKY-AMERICAN AS TO FIRE HYDRANTS?**

3 A. I think the Fire Department has the same expectations that anyone else in
4 a public safety position would have - that the hydrants are maintained, inspected,
5 and tested in an adequate manner and that this information is shared with us on
6 a timely basis, and that the hydrants operate properly and supply the needed
7 flows for the property they protect.

8 **13. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS RELATED TO PRIVATELY-OWNED**
9 **HYDRANTS?**

10 A. Yes. In particular, with respect to the older privately-owned hydrants, it
11 appears that there are a significant number that are not adequately maintained or
12 tested.

13 **14. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING**
14 **FIRE HYDRANTS?**

15 A. Yes. First, Kentucky-American should ultimately move toward full
16 compliance with the applicable NFPA standards with respect to fire hydrants.
17 This would include maintenance, testing, and painting. With respect to painting,
18 the company should also paint the hydrants (based on their flow and
19 performance) within a reasonable time of the flow testing. Second, Kentucky-
20 American should in a timely manner provide to the Fire Department all
21 information related to fire hydrants in Fayette County as it is updated. This
22 should be done on at least a monthly, if not immediate basis. When possible,
23 Kentucky-American should move toward an updated and or electronic process

1 rather than the existing process of using hand-written log or data entry books.
2 Finally, Kentucky-American should work toward developing standards or
3 requirements that will better ensure the proper functioning and operation of all
4 privately-owned fire hydrants. It should be noted that our requests are not
5 intended to increase the cost of service to Kentucky-American or the citizens
6 they serve. All our requests have referred to future hydrant maintenance, testing,
7 painting, and record keeping, and the color changes should be done on their
8 regular maintenance schedule to avoid additional costs.

9 **14. Q. IS ADDRESSING THESE CONCERNS IMPORTANT TO THE FIRE**
10 **DEPARTMENT?**

11 A. It is extremely important. Without accurate and reliable information that is
12 based upon appropriate standards we cannot always provide the best level of fire
13 protection services possible.

14 **15. Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

15 A. Yes it does.

