

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY

In the Matter of:

Joint Application of Corix Utilities (Illinois) )  
LLC; Hydro Star, LLC; Utilities, Inc.; ) Case No. 2012-00133  
and Water Service Corporation of Kentucky )  
for the Transfer and Acquisition )  
of Control Pursuant to KRS 278.020 )

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**MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF FORMAT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

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Water Service Corporation of Kentucky (“WSCK”), by counsel, respectfully moves this Commission for an order authorizing WSCK to hold public meetings virtually.

On August 13, 2012, the Commission approved WSCK’s application for transfer of control subject to a variety of conditions to which WSCK agreed. One of those conditions was that the Company “will host annual public meetings in Clinton and Middlesboro to provide a forum for customers to communicate with utility management.” For several months, WSCK has evaluated the opportunity to conduct public meetings in both localities while considering public and employee safety given the Covid-19 pandemic. Although Kentucky has seen recent improvement related to the pandemic, there were 8,603 new cases reported in Kentucky for the week ending October 31, 2021, and the average test positivity rate was 4.98%.<sup>1</sup>

Out of an abundance of caution, WSCK plans to hold its public meetings for Clinton and Middlesboro on a virtual platform during the second week of December. WSCK recognizes that this is not the ideal format of the public meetings, but it is confident that virtual meetings will

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, Office of the Governor (Nov. 1, 2021), available at <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=1036>

accomplish the original objective of providing a forum for customers to communicate with utility management. WSCK believes that the risk of holding an in-person meeting—however slight—outweighs the drawbacks of a virtual meeting because of the gravity of consequences that could occur if an in-person meeting fostered transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

WSCK does not anticipate that the virtual format of the meeting will result in a decrease in participation from prior public meetings. Since the meetings started, they have drawn an average of 5 members of the public per meeting. Although a public meeting can facilitate discussions between a utility and its customers, WSCK also encourages its customers to maintain communications throughout the year, via phone, fax, email, online, or the My Utility Connect app.

WSCK plans to hold two separate meetings—one for Clinton and one for Middlesboro—to ensure that local concerns can be addressed without unduly prolonging a single meeting. It will publish notice of the meeting approximately two weeks in advance of the meetings, informing the public on how they can participate in the virtual meeting. The notice will also remind the public on how they can communicate ideas and concerns to the utility outside of the public-meeting forum.

Accordingly, WSCK respectfully requests an order from the Commission approving the virtual format for WSCK's 2021 local public meetings. In order to ensure accurate information about the meeting is published, WSCK respectfully requests an order on this motion by **November 19, 2021**. Counsel for WSCK has contacted counsel in the Attorney General's Office of Rate Intervention, who indicated that the Office would not object to this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



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