COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION )
INTO THE MEASURING, )
RECORDING, AND REPORTING OF ) CASE NO. 2018-00394
WATER LOSS BY KENTUCKY’S )
JURISDICTIONAL WATER )
UTILITIES )

RESPONSE OF

SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

TO

COMMISSION’S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

DATED DECEMBER 18, 2018

FILED: January 14, 2019
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION
INTO THE MEASURING,
RECORDING, AND REPORTING OF
WATER LOSS BY KENTUCKY’S
JURISDICTIONAL WATER
UTILITIES

CASE NO. 2018-00394

CERTIFICATION OF RESPONSE OF SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION TO COMMISSION’S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This is to certify that I have supervised the preparation of Southeastern Water Association’s Response to the Commission’s Request for Information. The response submitted on behalf of Southeastern Water Association is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Date: 1/14/2019

Morris Vaughn, Manager
Southeastern Water Association
SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2018-00394

Response to Commission’s Request for Information

Question No. 1

Responding Witness: Morris Vaughn

Q-1. Explain in detail the manner in which you measure, calculate, and track water loss, and:
   
a. Identify whether you use any manual form (including Excel spreadsheet) or electronic or mechanized system to calculate and track water loss.

b. Provide a copy of any form used (including Excel spreadsheet).

c. Identify the source of any form or system used.

A-1. Southeastern Water Association is a distribution system only. We purchase all our water from Somerset City Water. We measure monthly purchased water by reading our master meters daily. From these readings we calculate the overall water loss by subtracting (a) the number of gallons sold to residential, commercial, and industry customers (as provided by our billing software), (b) gallons of water used for system flushing and fire department use, (c) any other water used (such as customer leak adjustments, tank overflows, line leaks and any other approved usages).

   a. We currently use a monthly water loss spreadsheet.

   b. A copy of the aforementioned spreadsheet is attached to the end of this document.
c. The spreadsheet was provided by Kentucky Rural Water Association.
SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2018-00394

Response to Commission’s Request for Information

Question No. 2

Responding Witness: Morris Vaughn

Q-2. Explain in detail your understanding of the information to be provided in each of the categories on the Water Statistics page (reference page 30) of the annual report required of jurisdictional water utilities, accessed through the Commission’s website.

A-2. The water statistics page requires entries in thousands of gallons for annual totals. Our understanding of each line is as follows:

1. N/A

2. N/A

3. Water purchased from City of Somerset.

4. Total water purchased from City of Somerset.

6. Header

7. Residential (total water sold to residential customers)

8. Commercial (total water sold to commercial customers)

9. Industrial (total water sold to industrial customers)

10. N/A

11. Resale (water sold to Burnside City)

12. N/A

13. Total water sales (total of all water sold)
15. N/A
16. N/A
17. N/A
18. System flushing (all water used for system flushing including stage II rule)
19. Fire department use (all water used by fire departments)
20. N/A
21. Total other water used (total of 17 and 18)
23. Water loss header
24. Tank overflows (water lost due to malfunctioning telemetry and valve failure)
25. Line breaks (leaks due to aging infrastructure)
26. Line leaks (known leaks undetected due to non-surfacing)
27. Other (leaks due to construction or other loss due to line damage)
28. Total line loss (lines 23 through 27)
32. Water loss percentage (divide total line loss by total water purchased)
33. Line 28 divided by line 4
Q-3. State any questions you have regarding how to use the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order.

A-3. No questions.
SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2018-00394

Response to Commission’s Request for Information

Question No. 4

Responding Witness: Morris Vaughn

Q-4. State any suggestions or improvements you have for the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order.

A-4. No improvements detected.
SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2018-00394

Response to Commission’s Request for Information

Question No. 5

Responding Witness: Morris Vaughn

Q-5. State any questions you have regarding how the information in the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order is to be incorporated into annual reports.

A-5. No questions.
Q-6. State any concerns you have regarding the use of the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order.

A-6. I feel that a one size fits all 15% water loss standard for the entire state is very questionable considering the topographical difference. I feel that a case by case basis could justify water loss in some areas to be higher than 15% and others in the lower category.
SOUTHEASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. 2018-00394

Response to Commission’s Request for Information

Question No. 7

Responding Witness: Morris Vaughn

Q-7. State whether you believe it is reasonable, proper, and appropriate for the Commission to require jurisdictional water utilities to maintain and use the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order. Fully explain your answer.

A-7. We believe it is reasonable, proper, and appropriate for the Commission to require jurisdictional water utilities to maintain and use the updated Commission Form described and attached as Appendix A to this Order. However, we would ask the Commission to consider the water loss on a regional basis rather than a one fits all sole decision.
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8, I certify that Southeastern Water Association’s electronic filing of this Response is a true and accurate copy of the same document being filed in paper medium; that the electronic filing was transmitted to the Public Service Commission on January 14, 2019; that there are currently no parties that the Public Service Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding; and that an original paper medium of this Response will be delivered to the Public Service Commission within two business days.

Morris Vaughn
Monthly Water Loss Report

Water Company: TOTAL
For the Month of: Year:

Water Produced this month: 
gallons
Water Purchased this month: 
gallons

A: Total Water Produced and Purchased = 0 gallons

Sold: Residential 
gallons
Commercial 
gallons
BURNSIDE 
gallons

Total Sold = 0 gallons

B: Difference: (Produced+Purchased) - Sold = 0 gallons

% Difference = #DIV/0! % total water loss

Gallons of Water Accounted For:
- Breaks (Estimated Total) 
gallons
- Hydrant Flushing 
gallons
- Storage Tank Overflow 
gallons
- Water Treatment Plant Use 
gallons
- BURNSIDE 
gallons
- Fire Department Use 
gallons
- Net Computer Adjustment + / - 
gallons
- Other 
gallons

C: Total Gallons Accounted For = 0 gallons

Loss: Unaccounted-for Water: (B-C) = 0 gallons
% Loss: Unaccounted-for Water: (B-C)/A %=
#DIV/0! % unaccounted - for loss

Gallons / Day Loss = 
#DIV/0! gallons/day
Gallons / Minute Loss = 
#DIV/0! gallons/min.

This spreadsheet is a product of the Technical Assistance Center for Water Quality at Western Kentucky University and the Kentucky Rural Water Association. Feel free to contact us at (270) 745-5948 or at http://water.wku.edu/.
This spreadsheet may be freely distributed. Please let us know if you use it, like it, or have suggestions for improvement!